Executive Orders Data Codebook

Policy Agendas Project
2014

Citation Guidelines

Overview of the Dataset

This dataset contains information on all issued Executive Orders since 1945. New observations are compiled from the Federal Register's Executive Orders "Disposition Tables Index" (located at http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition.html).

Content Coding

We have coded each entry by policy content, along with other variables of interest. We employed the standard Policy Agendas Project topic scheme in our policy content coding, and each entry was assigned one and only one content code. This allows researchers to trace activity on a particular topic across the period. The full description of our content categories may be found on the US page of the Comparative Agendas Project website (www.comparativeagendas.net).

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Variable Names and Descriptions

KeyID
This column records the unique identifier for each observation. It has no substantive application.

EONumber
This column displays the executive order number. To increase ease of use, letters have been converted to decimals. The letter A is coded ".1", B is coded ".2", and C is coded ".3".

President
This column lists the name of the president who issued the executive order.

PresParty
This column records the party of the president who issued the executive order; "100" denotes Democrat and "200" denotes Republican.

BegTerm
The Beginning of Term column denotes whether the executive order was issued at the start of a given presidential term. Those orders issued in the first 100 days of a new term are coded "1". Those not issued within the first 100 days of a new term are coded "0".

EndTerm
This column indicates whether the executive order was issued after November 1st of the final year of a presidential term. Those orders issued during this time are coded "1"; otherwise they are coded "0".

SignedDate

This column indicates the date (YYYYMMDD) on which the order was signed.

Year
This column records the year in which the executive order was issued.

Month
This column records the month in which the executive order was issued.

Day
This column records the day in which the executive order was issued.

Congress
This column denotes the Congress term in which the order was issued.

Divided
This indicates whether or not the government was divided at the time the executive order was issued. Divided party control of legislative and executive branches is coded "1"; "0" designates unified control.

Description
This column contains a short description of the executive order.

PAP_MajorTopic
This column records the Policy Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Topics Codebook on the Policy Agendas Project website.

PAP_subTopicCode
This column denotes the Policy Agendas Project's subtopic code that corresponds to the information found in the Description column. The codes and examples for this column are found in the Topics Codebook on the Policy Agendas Project website.

MajorTopic
This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's major topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website (www.comparativeagendas.net) for more information.

SubTopicCode
This column records the Comparative Agendas Project's subtopic topic code that corresponds to the existing Policy Agendas Project topic code. Please visit the Comparative Agendas Project website (www.comparativeagendas.net) for more information.