U.S. Party Platforms Data Codebook Policy Agendas Project 2016

Contact Information

Visit the Policy Agendas Project website or contact us at policyagendas@gmail.com. Data originally collected by Christina Wolbrecht, University of Notre Dame. Contact her at http://christinawolbrecht.com/ or wolbrecht.1@nd.edu

Citation

Wolbrecht, Christina, Brooke Shannon, E.J. Fagan, Jones, Bryan D., Frank R. Baumgartner, Sean M. Theriault, Derek A. Epp, Cheyenne Lee, Miranda E. Sullivan. 2023. Policy Agendas Project: Republican Party Platform.

Overview of the Dataset

This dataset includes U.S. major party platforms categorized according to the Policy Agendas Project topic system at the quasi-sentence level. Each new quasi-sentence begins after a period or semi-colon. The parties' platforms are housed in separate files to allow for the comparison of ideas between the parties across time and policy. Platforms were obtained from the American Presidency Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Data from 1948-2008 were originally collected and coded by Christina Wolbrecht at the University of Notre Dame. Beginning with the 2012 platforms, data were collected and coded by the Policy Agendas Project at the University of Texas at Austin.

Content Coding

Each quasi-sentence was coded by policy content with other variables of interest. We employed the standard Policy Agendas Project topic scheme in our policy content, and each entry was assigned one and only one content code at the subtopic level. This allows researchers to trace activity on a particular policy topic across the time period. The full description of our content categories may be found in the major topics codebook at http://www.policyagendas.org/page/topic-codebook.

Variable Names and Descriptions

keyID

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

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 Major Topics Codebook on the Policy Agendas Project website.

subtopic

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.

description

The text of the quasi-sentence.

year

1948-2008

The year that the platform was issued. Party platforms are approved at presidential nominating conventions every four years.

words

The number of words in each quasi-sentence.