

The Chicken and Egg Question: Satisfaction with Democracy and Voter Turnout

Filip Kostelka¹ and André Blais²

Electronic Appendix

Table 1 Region-Election Samples Used in the Analyses

Region	Election Type	Election Year	N	Electoral System
Canada				
British Columbia	National	2015	1,134	Majoritarian ¹
Ontario	National	2015	1,262	Majoritarian ¹
Ontario	Regional	2011	836	Majoritarian ¹
Quebec	National	2015	1,159	Majoritarian ¹
Quebec	Regional	2012	659	Majoritarian ¹
France				
Ile de France	Supranational	2014	738	Proportional
Ile de France (Paris)	Municipal	2017	793	Proportional
Ile de France	National	2012	701	Majoritarian ²
Provence	Supranational	2014	733	Proportional
Provence (Marseille)	Municipal	2014	481	Proportional
Provence	National	2012	676	Majoritarian ²
Germany				
Lower Saxony	Supranational	2014	693	Proportional
Lower Saxony	National	2013	698	Proportional ³
Lower Saxony	Regional	2013	741	Proportional ³
Spain				
Catalonia	Supranational	2014	770	Proportional
Catalonia	National	2011	756	Proportional
Catalonia	Regional	2012	758	Proportional
Madrid	Supranational	2014	746	Proportional
Madrid	National	2011	790	Proportional
Madrid	Regional	2015	746	Proportional
Switzerland				
Lucerne	National	2011	810	Proportional
Lucerne	Regional	2011	818	Proportional
Zurich	National	2011	788	Proportional
Zurich	Regional	2011	783	Proportional

Note: ¹ Plurality System. ² Two-Round System. ³ Mixed-Member Proportional System.

¹ filip.kostelka@gmail.com & filip.kostelka@umontreal.ca

² andre.blais@umontreal.ca

Table 2 Descriptive Statistics

Quantitative Variables					
Variable Name	Count	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Pre-Election Satisfaction	19,076	0.56	0.27	0	1
Post-Election Satisfaction	19,076	0.57	0.27	0	1
Age	19,076	48.17	14.67	18	111
Interest in politics	19,076	0.67	0.26	0	1
Political Knowledge	19,076	0.68	0.35	0	1
Dummy Variables					
Variable Name	Count	Frequency of yes (%)			
Voted	19,706	83.3			
Female	19,706	52.3			
Post-Secondary Education	19,706	53.1			
Duty to Vote	19,706	57.6			
Feel Close to a Pol. Party	19,706	55.6			
Majoritarian Electoral System	19,706	33.7			
Proportional Electoral System	19,706	66.7			
National Elections	19,706	46.2			
Subnational Elections	19,706	34.6			
Supranational Elections	19,706	19.3			
<i>Dummy Variables available for a subset of elections</i>					
Election Winner	8,463	40.7			
Election Loser	8,463	43.2			
Don't know & Abstainers	8,463	16.1			

Table 3 Regression Models Used for Figures 2-4

	(1) Election Type (Figure 2)	(2) Electoral System	(3) Election Type & Electoral System (Figure 3)	(4) Election Victory (Figure 4)
Voted	0.036 (0.008)***	0.021 (0.007)**	0.016 (0.012)	
Voted * Subnational Elections	-0.009 (0.011)		0.007 (0.015)	
Subnational Elections	0.005 (0.010)		0.005 (0.014)	0.041 (0.014)**
Voted * Supranational Elections	-0.039 (0.013)**			
Supranational Elections ¹	-0.030 (0.013)*			
Voted * Majoritarian El. System		0.029 (0.012)*	0.035 (0.016)*	
Majoritarian El. System ²		-0.005 (0.014)	0.001 (0.018)	0.116 (0.011)***
Voted * Subnational Elections * Majoritarian El. System			-0.029 (0.010)**	
Election Winner ³				0.080 (0.008)***
Election Loser ³				0.003 (0.008)
Pre-Election Satisfaction	-0.430 (0.008)***	-0.443 (0.009)***	-0.444 (0.009)***	-0.461 (0.012)***
Female	-0.007 (0.004)*	-0.007 (0.004)	-0.007 (0.004)	-0.007 (0.006)
Age	-0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)	0.001 (0.000)***
Post-secondary Education	0.015 (0.004)***	0.016 (0.004)***	0.015 (0.004)***	0.013 (0.006)*
Interest in Politics	0.039 (0.009)***	0.034 (0.010)***	0.034 (0.010)***	0.021 (0.013)
Political Knowledge	0.016 (0.007)*	0.021 (0.007)**	0.024 (0.008)**	0.020 (0.012)
Feel Close to a Pol. Party	0.014 (0.004)***	0.014 (0.004)**	0.014 (0.004)**	0.013 (0.006)*
Region Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Region-Election Dummies	No	No	No	Yes
_cons	0.217 (0.012)***	0.231 (0.012)***	0.229 (0.015)***	0.104 (0.016)***
<i>N</i>	19076	15396	15396	8463
<i>R</i> ²	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.30

Note: OLS Regression coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. The dependent variable is the pre-post change in satisfaction with democracy. Model 2, 3 and 4 exclude supranational elections. ¹ The reference category are national elections. ² The reference category are proportional electoral systems. ³ The reference category are voters who do not know whether their preferred party won or lost, and abstainers.

Table 4 Replication of Table 2 without Control Variables

	(1)
	CS
Voted (dummy, yes)	0.014 (0.006)*
Region-Election Dummy Variables	Yes
_cons	0.002 (0.009)
<i>N</i>	19076
<i>R</i> ²	0.02

Note: OLS Regression coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. The dependent variable is the pre-post change in satisfaction with democracy.