

## Online Appendix

### 1. Descriptive statistics of Variables Used in the Analysis

Table A1. Descriptive Statistics for Variables Used in the Gubernatorial Approval Estimations

Variable	Obs	Weighted n	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Gubernatorial Approval	277300	275748.8	1.90	1.45	0.00	4.00
Knowledge Index	277300	275748.8	1.66	1.13	0.00	3.00
Relative Unemployment	277300	275748.8	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.04
Knowledge x Relative Unemployment	277300	275748.8	0.00	0.03	0.17	0.13
National Unemployment	277300	275748.8	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.10
Governor/Respondent Same Ideology	277300	275748.8	3.08	0.99	1.00	5.00
Governor/Respondent Same Party	277300	275748.8	4.09	2.18	1.00	7.00
Presidential Approval	277300	275748.8	1.70	1.64	0.00	4.00
President/Governor Same Party	277300	275748.8	0.42	0.49	0.00	1.00
President/Governor Same Party x Presidential Approval	277300	275748.8	0.75	1.38	0.00	4.00

Table A2. Descriptive Statistics for Variables Used in the State Legislative Approval Estimations

Variable	Obs	Weight	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
State Legislative Approval	275,515	274003.13	1.73	1.24	0.00	4.00
Relative Unemployment	275,515	274003.13	0.00	0.01	-0.06	0.04
Knowledge Index	275,515	274003.13	1.66	1.13	0.00	3.00
Knowledge x Relative Unemployment	275,515	274003.13	0.00	0.03	-0.17	0.13
National Unemployment	275,515	274003.13	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.10
Legislature/Respondent Same Ideology	275,515	274003.13	3.12	0.98	1.00	5.00
Legislature/Respondent Same Party	275,515	274003.13	4.07	2.18	1.00	7.00
Presidential Approval	275,515	274003.13	1.70	1.64	0.00	4.00
President/Legislature Same Party	275,515	274003.13	0.34	0.47	0.00	1.00
President/ Legislature Same Party x Presidential Approval	275,515	274003.13	0.63	1.30	0.00	4.00
Gubernatorial Approval	275,515	274003.13	1.90	1.45	0.00	4.00
Governor/Legislature Same Party	275,515	274003.13	0.66	0.47	0.00	1.00
Governor/Legislature Same Party x Gubernatorial Approval	275,515	274003.13	1.24	1.48	0.00	4.00

Table A3. Alternative Estimations for Gubernatorial Approval, Ordered Logit and Regression

VARIABLES	(1) Gubernatorial Approval clustered on year, fixed effects on states ordered logit, Fixed effects not shown	(2) Gubernatorial Approval clustered on year, fixed effects states, regression, Fixed effects not shown	(3) Gubernatorial Approval clustered on year and state, regression
Knowledge	-0.04*** (0.01)	-0.03 (0.02)	-0.03*** (0.01)
Relative Unemployment	-13.96*** (3.85)	-12.59*** (2.72)	-9.46*** (1.41)
Knowledge x Relative Unemployment	-2.34 (1.33)	-1.30 (1.35)	-0.54 (1.01)
National Unemployment	-8.82*** (1.77)	-29.54 (46.55)	-5.92*** (1.17)
Governor-Respondent Same Ideology	0.29*** (0.02)	0.31*** (0.03)	0.21*** (0.01)
Governor-Respondent Same Party	0.18*** (0.01)	0.17*** (0.01)	0.12*** (0.01)
Presidential Approval	-0.17*** (0.04)	-0.16*** (0.04)	-0.11*** (0.02)
President-Governor Same Party	-1.02*** (0.16)	-0.99*** (0.10)	-0.66*** (0.07)
Pres. Approval x Pres.-Gov. Same Party	0.58*** (0.04)	0.56*** (0.04)	0.38*** (0.03)
/cut1	-0.79 (0.24)	-1.55 (2.22)	
/cut2	0.29 (0.21)	-0.48 (2.22)	
/cut3	0.76 (0.23)	-0.02 (2.22)	
/cut4	2.70 (0.20)	1.90 (2.22)	
Constant			1.41 (0.11)
Observations	327,969	327,969	327,969
R-squared			0.24
df_m	4	16	9
Log likelihood	-451206	-454307	-541393

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05

Table A4. Alternative Estimations for State Legislative Approval, Ordered Logit and Regression			
VARIABLES	(1) State Legislative Approval, Ordered Logit, State fixed Effects (not shown), Clustered on Year	(2) State Legislative Approval, Ordered Logit, Year fixed Effects (not shown), Clustered on State	(3) State Legislative Approval, Regression, Clustered on State-Year
Knowledge	-0.15*** (0.02)	-0.14*** (0.02)	-0.08*** (0.01)
Relative Unemployment	-1.84 (2.39)	-4.79 (2.60)	-3.29*** (1.17)
Knowledge x Relative Unemployment	-5.40*** (0.85)	-6.10*** (1.66)	-2.24*** (0.58)
National Unemployment	-6.54*** (1.55)	22.57 (19.76)	-3.27*** (0.68)
Legislature-Respondent Same Ideology	0.20*** (0.01)	0.22*** (0.02)	0.11*** (0.01)
Legislature-Respondent Same Party	0.06*** (0.00)	0.06*** (0.01)	0.03*** (0.00)
Presidential Approval	0.03** (0.01)	0.03** (0.02)	0.01 (0.01)
President-Legislature Same Party	-0.51*** (0.09)	-0.64*** (0.09)	-0.32*** (0.04)
Pres. Approval x Pres.-Legislature Same Party	0.23*** (0.06)	0.20*** (0.04)	0.10*** (0.02)
Gubernatorial Approval	0.96*** (0.08)	0.97*** (0.05)	0.47*** (0.01)
Governor-Legislature Same Party	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.00 (0.01)
Gov Approval x Gov.-Legis. Same Party	0.02* (0.01)	0.02*** (0.01)	0.01* (0.00)
/cut1	0.19 (0.20)	1.62 (0.96)	
/cut2	1.92 (0.26)	3.34 (0.96)	
/cut3	3.00 (0.22)	4.41 (0.96)	
/cut4	5.92 (0.31)	7.33 (0.97)	
Constant			0.73 (0.07)
Observations	277,265	277,265	277,265
R-squared			0.40
df	2	17	12
Log likelihood	-339105	-340528	-382585

Robust standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05

Table A5: Multilevel Model Estimations, using regression and ordered logit,  
3 levels with states nested within years

VARIABLES	(1) Gov., mixed regression	(2) St. Leg., mixed regression	(3) Gov., mixed ordered logit	(4) St. Leg., mixed ordered logit
Knowledge	-0.03* (0.01)	-0.09*** (0.01)	-0.04** (0.01)	-0.15*** (0.03)
Relative Unemployment	-9.65*** (1.70)	-2.38** (0.54)	-15.86*** (2.85)	-2.44 (1.83)
Knowledge x Relative Unemployment	-0.47 (0.77)	-1.58*** (0.29)	-0.57 (0.77)	-6.32*** (0.24)
National Unemployment	-5.70** (1.24)	-2.48*** (0.77)	-7.75*** (2.18)	-4.00** (1.86)
Legislature-Respondent Same Ideology		0.10*** (0.01)		0.20*** (0.02)
Legislature-Respondent Same Party		0.03*** (0.00)		0.06*** (0.01)
Presidential Approval	-0.11*** (0.03)	0.00 (0.01)	-0.20*** (0.04)	0.02* (0.01)
President-Legislature Same Party		-0.29*** (0.06)		-0.60*** (0.17)
Pres. Approval x Pres.-Legislature Same Party		0.12*** (0.03)		0.25*** (0.07)
Gubernatorial Approval		0.47*** (0.03)		0.96*** (0.08)
Governor-Legislature Same Party		-0.00*** (0.01)		-0.01 (0.01)
Gov Approval x Gov.-Legis. Same Party		0.01 (0.00)		0.02** (0.01)
Governor-Respondent Same Ideology	0.19*** (0.01)		0.27*** (0.03)	
Governor-Respondent Same Party	0.12*** (0.01)		0.19*** (0.02)	
President-Governor Same Party	-0.67*** (0.09)		-1.11*** (0.17)	
Pres. Approval x Pres.-Gov. Same Party	0.41*** (0.02)		0.65*** (0.04)	
cut1			-0.78 (0.24)	0.24 (0.18)
cut2			0.33 (0.22)	1.98 (0.21)
cut3			0.79 (0.22)	3.08 (0.21)
cut4			2.82 (0.21)	6.02 (0.28)
var(cons[year])	0.00 (0.0)	0.00 (0.00)	0.01** (0.01)	0.01* (0.00)
var(cons[year>state])	0.13*** (0.01)	0.02*** (0.00)	0.35*** (0.03)	0.12*** (0.02)
Constant	1.48*** (0.13)	0.72 (0.09)		

Observations	328,108	277,403	49,978	49,975
Number of groups	9	7	9	7
df	8	6	8	6
Log likelihood	-527922	-378005	-67610	-61181

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05

Note: Neither STATA 15.0 nor MLWIN could converge on the full 275,652 cases with three levels (individuals nested in states, state nested in years, and years) using ordered logit, or ordered probit in STATA 15.0. Thus, for both gubernatorial and state legislative approval, random samples of 50,000 cases were generated. STATA 15.0 successfully converged to a solution using meologit. The smaller number of cases produced results substantively identical to the other estimations using the full sample, with minor changes in the magnitude of the coefficients.