

Appendix

Appendix A.1: List of members in the *Main Data Set* population and number of press releases per member:

Member	Press Release Count
Adam Schiff	943
Adam Smith	980
Al Green	556
Albio Sires	719
Alcee Hastings	1,206
Anna Eshoo	981
Barbara Lee	2,124
Bennie Thompson	96
Betty McCollum	847
Bill Pascrell Jr	1,585
Bobby Rush	865
Brad Sherman	713
Carolyn Maloney	2,618
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	1,208
Charles Grassley	8,307
Charles Schumer	4,031
Christopher Smith	2,587
Collin Peterson	427
Dan Lipinski	1,260
Danny Davis	179
David Price	994
David Scott	417
Debbie Stabenow	1,131
Debbie Wasserman Schultz	688
Devin Nunes	112
Diana DeGette	933
Dianne Feinstein	3,498
Don Young	1,751
Doris Matsui	1,682
Dutch Ruppersberger	963
Earl Blumenauer	1,116
Eddie Bernice Johnson	896
Eleanor Norton	3,931
Elijah Cummings	1,142
Eliot Engel	2,872
Emanuel Cleaver II	357
Frank Lucas	314
Frank Pallone	2,402
Fred Upton	886

GK Butterfield	623
Grace Napolitano	539
Greg Walden	893
Gregory Meeks	798
Gwen Moore	663
Harold Rogers	956
Henry Cuellar	1,474
Jack Reed	3,185
James Clyburn	366
James Inhofe	3,572
James Sensenbrenner	394
Jan Schakowsky	1,844
Jeff Fortenberry	371
Jerrold Nadler	1,824
Jim Cooper	675
Jim Costa	993
Jim Langevin	1,506
Jim McGovern	877
Joe Wilson	1,192
John Carter	1,298
John Cornyn	3,392
John Larson	1,654
John Lewis	718
John Shimkus	528
John Thune	2,112
Johnny Isakson	2,021
Jose Serrano	1,051
Kay Granger	577
Ken Calvert	684
Kenny Marchant	673
Kevin Brady	951
Lamar Alexander	3,892
Linda Sanchez	810
Lindsey Graham	1,721
Lisa Murkowski	3,097
Lloyd Doggett	976
Louie Gohmert	303
Lucille Roybal-Allard	1,710
Marcy Kaptur	1,155
Maria Cantwell	3,005
Mario Diazbalart	851
Maxine Waters	1,095
Michael Burgess	1,062
Michael Conaway	674

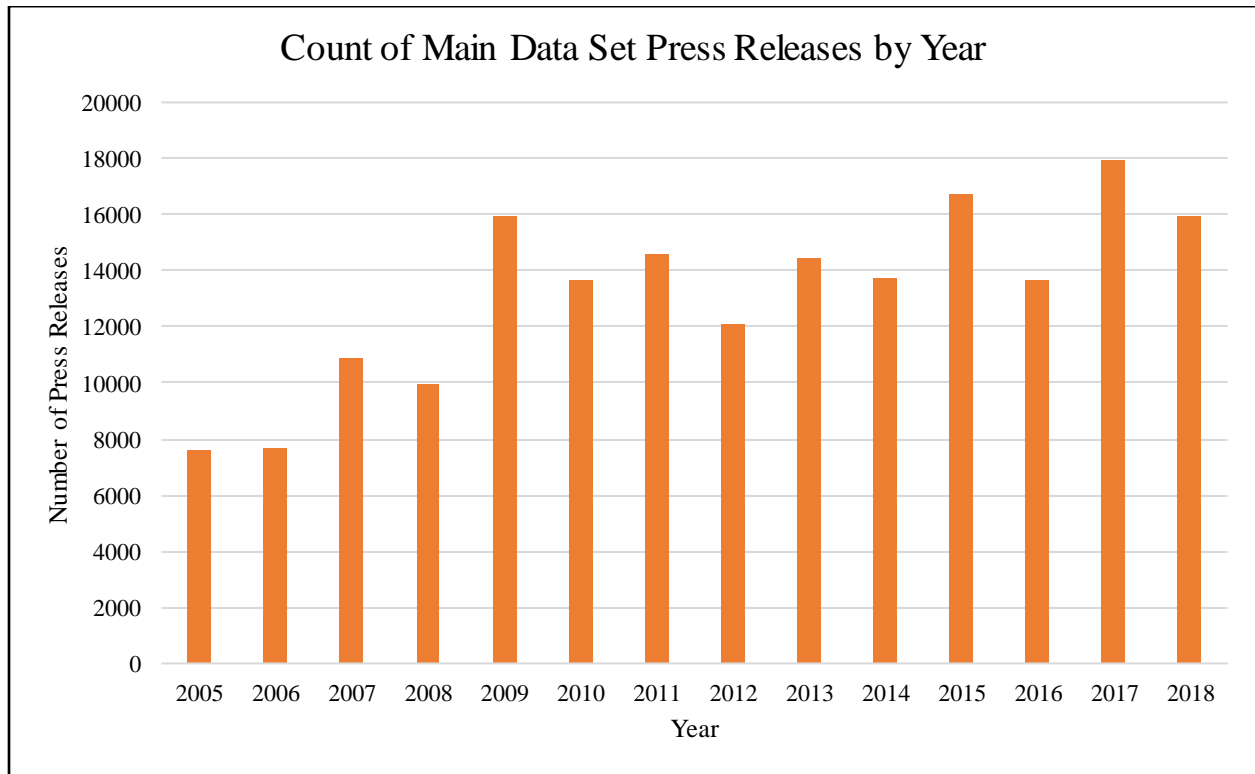
Michael Crapo	2,573
Michael Enzi	2,171
Michael McCaul	736
Mike Doyle	395
Mike Rogers	596
Mike Simpson	770
Mike Thompson	1,120
Mike Turner	894
Mitch McConnell	3,534
Nancy Pelosi	4,668
Nita Lowey	1,347
Nydia Velazquez	719
Pat Roberts	1,670
Patrick Leahy	4,853
Patrick McHenry	703
Patty Murray	4,406
Pete Visclosky	649
Peter DeFazio	914
Raul Grijalva	1,226
Richard Burr	1,482
Richard Durbin	3,949
Richard Neal	438
Richard Shelby	1,838
Rick Larsen	1,581
Rob Bishop	657
Robert Aderholt	433
Robert Scott	995
Ron Kind	1,086
Ron Wyden	2,201
Rosa Delauro	2,823
Sam Graves	437
Sanford Bishop Jr	911
Sheila Jackson Lee	512
Steny Hoyer	1,849
Stephen Lynch	675
Steve King	1,346
Susan Collins	1,952
Susan Davis	305
Thomas Carper	3,624
Tim Ryan	1,428
Tom Cole	920
Virginia Foxx	852
William Lacy Clay	362
William Thornberry	456

Zoe Lofgren	745
Total	184,873

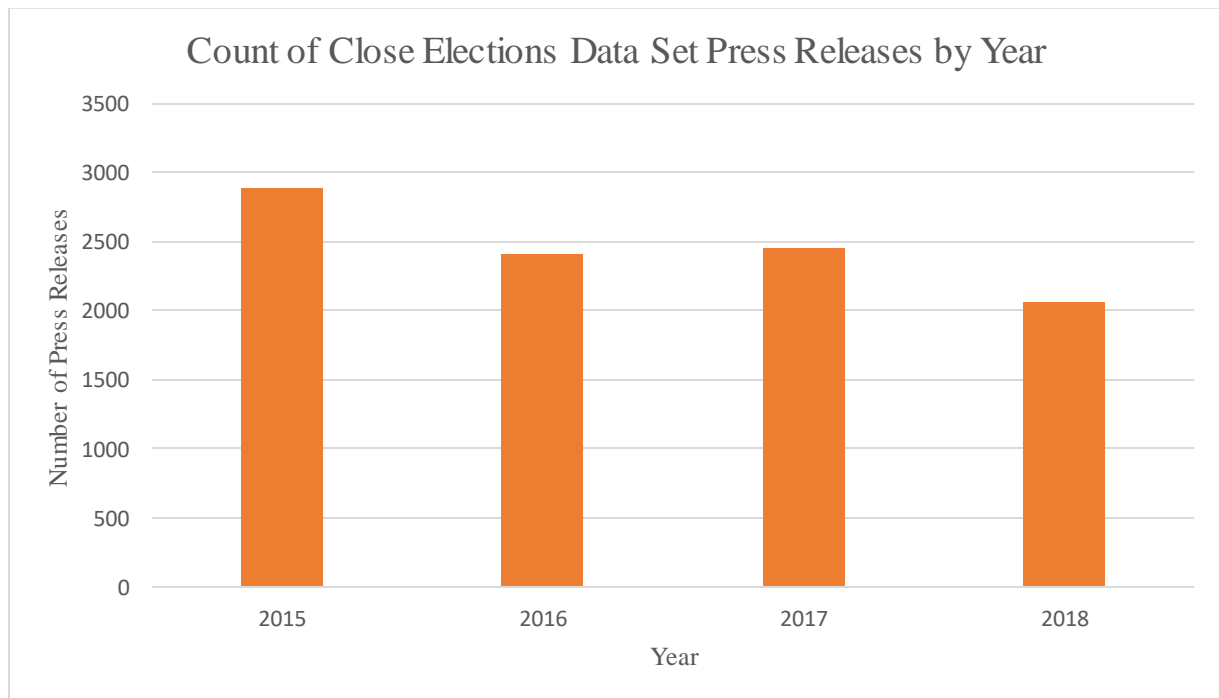
Appendix A.2: List of members in the *Close Elections Data Set* population and number of press releases per member:

Member	Press Release Count
Alex Mooney	114
Ami Bera	190
Bob Dold Jr.	139
Brad Ashford	143
Bruce Poliquin	626
Cory Gardner	939
Crescent Hardy	121
Dan Sullivan	615
Frank Guinta	207
Gwen Graham	156
Jeanne Shaheen	1,426
Jerry McNerney	240
John Delaney	767
Julia Brownley	311
Mark R. Warner	1,251
Martha McSally	517
Pete Aguilar	354
Rod Blum	140
Scott Peters	427
Sean Maloney	516
Thom Tillis	708
Will Hurd	316
Total	10,223

Appendix B.1: Distribution of *Main Data Set* Press Releases by Year:



Appendix B.2: Distribution of *Close Elections Data Set* Press Releases by Year:



Appendix C: Sample press releases, coded under the framework of Mayhew 1974:

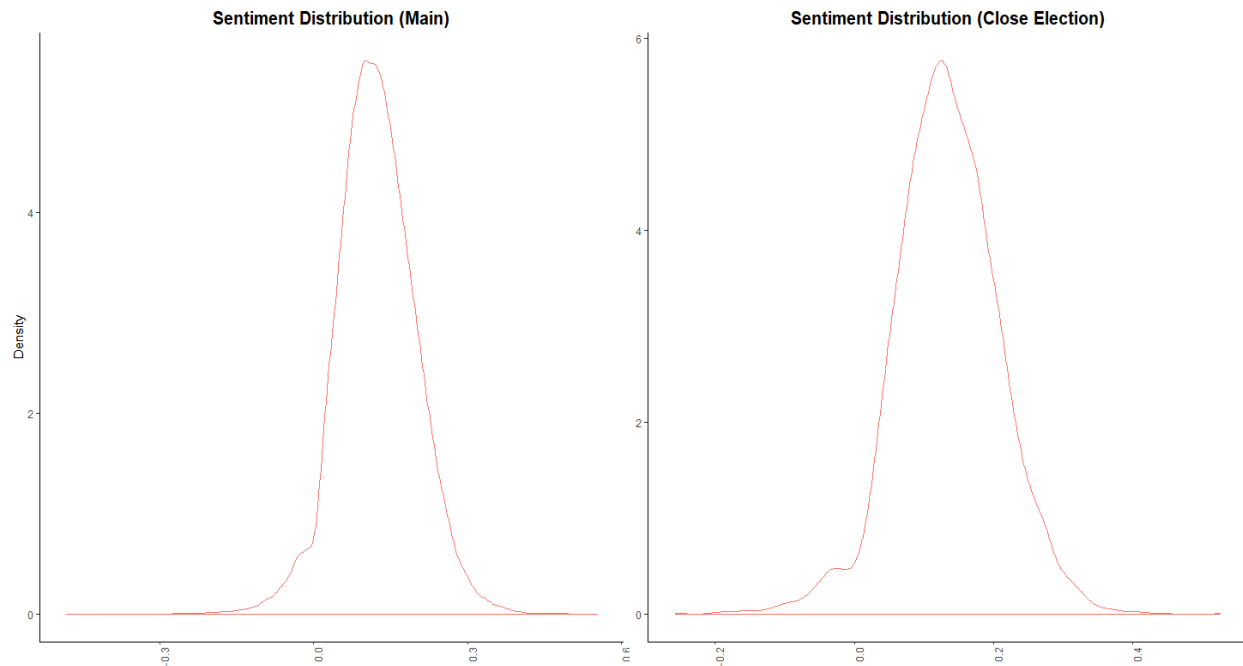
Position-taking: (Washington, DC)--On October 1, 2013, Congressman Al Green released the following statement on the GOP government shutdown. \Tonight's government shut down represents a collective failure to responsibly govern our country. It is truly disappointing that we have, allowed a partisan minority to impede the progress and recovery of our country. \I am a true believer in the American democratic system; one that is predicated on a legislature, an executive branch and a judicial branch acting as a check and balance to each other. I believe that when the legislature passes a law, that is then signed by the executive and then upheld by the judicial branch, the final product is one that reflects the representative will of the American people in our representative form of government. \The Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, signed by the President and upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States of America-it is the law of the land. I support amending it to improve it; but I do not support using a government shutdown to end it, as many of my colleagues have chosen to do. \I remain committed to finding a solution and I will continue to work with my Democratic and Republican colleagues until we find such a solution without closing the doors of healthcare to more than 6 million Texans. We must not turn our backs on the millions who will benefit from the Affordable Care Act to placate a partisan minority.\""

Advertising: (Washington, DC)--This Friday, Congressman Al Green will join with all Americans in commemorating the tragic events of September 11, 2001, with a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Created by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the National Day of Service channels the powerful sense of unity, patriotism and shared purpose Americans felt in the wake of the 9/11 attacks into meaningful action in our communities. \As America reflects on the tragic events of 9/11, let us remember the thousands of men, women and children who lost their lives and the servicemen, first-responders and volunteers who answered the call to service. In a time of crisis, the American people stood in solidarity against fear and terrorism,\Congressman Al Green said. \It is in this spirit of selfless sacrifice and compassion that the House passed H.R. 722, recognizing September 11th as National Day of Service and Remembrance.\The National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of several months of service projects-an important part of the Kennedy Act. Projects held in all fifty states and the District of Columbia included food drives, neighborhood cleanups and volunteer construction work. Hundreds of additional projects involving tens of thousands of volunteers, nonprofits, businesses, faith groups and governments will take place across the country as Americans reflect on the 9/11 anniversary. \September 11th serves as a powerful reminder our country's strength - that in the face of great adversity, America rises and overcomes it. The American people are resolved to protect the universal ideals that make our nation great: freedom, equality and democracy,\Congressman Al Green said. \We have a responsibility to do all in our power to ensure that our country is secure now and for future generations. I proudly continue to work with my House colleagues and President Obama to keep our nation secure and strong, and I encourage my constituents to join me this September 11th and in the days ahead in giving back to our community and honoring the memories of those who have already given us so much.\""

Credit-claiming: Today, U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) announced over \$35 million for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure improvements in rural Minnesota communities. The funding comes from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. \Upgrading and investing in local water

systems creates jobs while keeping communities healthy,\" Peterson said. \"These funds are critical to meeting our rural communities' water treatment needs.\" The upgrades will improve the drinking water, storm water drainage, and waste water systems in Redwood, Mahnomen, Douglas, Cottonwood, Big Stone, and Lyon counties. Details for funding below: Tracy, MN will receive a loan of \$8,399,000 and a grant of \$4,458,000 Clinton, MN will receive a loan of \$4,595,000 and a grant of \$2,369,000 Red Rock Rural Water will receive a loan of \$1,400,000 Farwell-Kensington Sanitary District will receive a loan of \$325,000 and a grant of \$1,095,000 Mahnomen, MN will receive a loan of \$11,919,000 Revere, MN will receive a loan of \$161,000 and a grant of \$402,000 Congressman Peterson is a strong advocate for the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program which serves small rural communities. In 2017 he led the effort to protect the program which was slated to be eliminated in President Trump's Budget Request."

Appendix D: Distribution of Sentiment Scores for *Main Data Set* and *Close Election Data Set* Press Releases, Respectively:



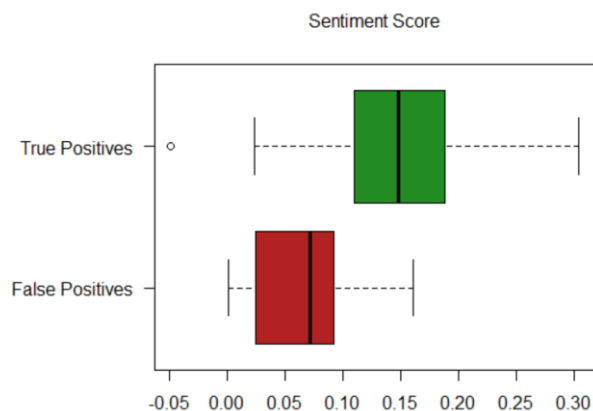
Appendix E: Model Sentiment Score Validation

We randomly sampled two hundred press releases and review the direction of their sentiment scores. We considered the sentiment score to be correct if the score was greater than or equal to 0 for texts written with a positive tone and if the score was less than 0 for texts written with a negative tone. We find an overall accuracy rating of 78%.

We note, however, that our model tended to inflate sentiment scores across all texts. Consequently, texts that read negatively often received scores greater than zero. Below is a table illustrating the rate of false positives and false negatives:

		Model Score	
		Positive	Negative
Actual	Positive	154	2
	Negative	42	2

We see that the model is able to accurately characterize texts with positive sentiment but it was only able to correctly identify two of the forty-four negative texts. As discussed in the Limitations section, we do not believe this is a significant issue as our analysis involves comparing scores rather than labeling them in absolute (i.e. “positive” or “negative”) terms. We include box plots illustrating the minimum, quartile one, median, quartile two, and maximum sentiment scores for true positives (positive texts that were correctly identified by the model as positive) and for false positives (negative texts that were incorrectly identified by the model as positive), respectively. We see that the aforementioned measurements are all greater for true positives than for false positives. Consequently, we are confident that all (and not just the negative) press releases experienced a shift in their scores towards the positive side and that our comparative analysis is valid.



Appendix F: List of issue topics as well as count of press releases per each topic

Topic	Main Data Set		Close Elections Data Set	
	Dem Count	Rep Count	Dem Count	Rep Count
AG/Justice	1,841	1,467	42	79
Agriculture	1,348	1,371	54	54
Approp: Firefight	1,816	1,033	52	55
Approp: General	4,412	1,964	124	199
Approp: Healthcare	3,769	1,732	99	108
Approp: HUD	1,973	551	53	36
Approp: Transportation	4,307	1,265	184	136
Approp: Water Proj.	1,930	798	50	36
Cancer/Research	426	166	5	8
Childrens' Issues	2,340	1,115	60	58
Civil/Human Rights	2,553	1,311	55	58
Energy/Clean/Oil	3,298	2,930	111	91
Environment	1,685	1,511	107	79
FDA/Food Policy	1,514	442	14	10
Federal Budget	2,435	2,076	87	82
Financial System/Consumer Protection	2,378	784	34	120
Gun Violence	1,897	367	85	53
Healthcare	4,813	2,969	143	195
High School Competition	2,365	1,443	88	87
Higher Education	3,276	1,409	120	109
Honorary	2,235	1,135	81	88
International Relations/Conflict	3,775	2,434	192	231
Iran/North Korea Nuclear Deal	982	885	121	104
Iraq War	1,503	820	17	10
Jobs/Economy	5,502	2,346	207	248
Judicial nom.	2,493	2,078	71	99
Law Enforcement/Crime	2,188	1,397	99	95
Legislative Activity/Voting	6,649	5,804	257	342
Memorial/Womens' Issues	2,036	405	73	76
Military/Defense	2,212	3,085	210	261
National/Homeland Security	3,592	1,835	134	270
Other	17,140	11,943	681	852
Prescription/Illicit Drugs	1,322	1,116	89	130
President/Executive Administration	4,712	3,033	157	225
Tax Policy	2,590	2,663	73	162
Town Hall/Meeting	1,608	1,388	84	103
Veterans' Affairs	2,840	2,047	444	319
Total	113,755	71,118	4,557	5,268

Appendix G. Additional Analyses

Table G1: Predicting Press Release Tone with Leadership Dummy

	Main Data Set 109th – 115th Congress
White House Control	0.018** (0.002)
Congress Control	0.010** (0.003)
Key Votes	0.014** (0.003)
Vote with Party	-0.000 (0.000)
Influence	-0.004** (0.001)
Approval	0.000 (0.000)
Party Leadership	0.003 (0.005)
Constant	0.108*** (0.004)
Adjusted R ²	0.028
N	180,937

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. The column estimates the tone using our *Main Data Set*. p<0.001, ‘***’; p<0.01, ‘**’, p<.05, ‘*’.

Table G2: Predicting Press Release Tone in Agricultural Press Releases Controlling for District Farmland

Main Data Set	
109th – 115th Congress	
White House Control	0.008** (0.003)
Congress Control	0.019** (0.003)
Key Votes	-0.009** (0.004)
Vote with Party	-0.000*** (0.000)
Influence	-0.001 (0.001)
Approval	0.000 (0.000)
Acres of Farmland (in thousands)	-0.000 (0.000)
Constant	0.145*** (0.003)
Adjusted R ²	0.025
N	2,811

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. The column estimates the tone using our *Main Data Set*. p<0.001, ‘***’; p<0.01, ‘**’, p<.05, ‘*’.

Table G3: OLS regression testing whether differences in attention towards Republican issues are significant between Democrat and Republican senators and representatives
Fractional Logit

	Owned by Republicans		Owned by Democrats	
	Senate	House	Senate	House
Republican	0.369*** (0.084)	0.484*** (0.058)	-0.046 (0.115)	-0.475*** (0.063)
110th	0.371** (0.181)	0.072 (0.145)	0.303 (0.203)	0.280** (0.137)
111th	0.268 (0.182)	-0.044 (0.131)	0.999*** (0.272)	0.766*** (0.142)
112th	0.486*** (0.174)	0.350*** (0.124)	0.446** (0.202)	0.533*** (0.152)
113th	0.404*** (0.154)	0.332*** (0.123)	0.428** (0.176)	0.537*** (0.132)
114th	0.368** (0.165)	0.044 (0.127)	0.364** (0.176)	0.551*** (0.133)
115th	0.213 (0.174)	0.134 (0.131)	0.521*** (0.195)	0.574*** (0.131)
Constant	-2.402*** (0.148)	-2.398*** (0.109)	-2.371*** (0.157)	-2.228*** (0.118)
R ²	0.144	0.136	0.116	0.137
N	166	644	166	644
<p>Note: Regressions estimated using fractional logistic regression. The dependent variable of each model is the percentage of press releases a MC devoted to the issues of a given party. The unit of analysis is MC. The first two columns present estimates of the percentage of press releases devoted to issues traditionally owned by Republicans, while the third and fourth columns present estimates for issues traditionally owned by Democrats. The first and third columns are estimates for the US Senate, while the second and fourth columns are estimates for the US House. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<.05, '*'.</p>				

Table G4: OLS regression testing whether differences in attention towards issues owned by the opposite party are significant between the House majority and the House minority, Fractional Logit

Republican	0.162** (0.076)
House Control	-0.172** (0.074)
Constant	-2.209*** (0.040)
R ²	0.012
N	644

Note: Regression estimated using fractional logit. The dependent variable of each model is the percentage of press releases a House member devoted to the issues of the opposing party. The unit of analysis is legislator. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<0.05, '*'.

Table G5: OLS regression testing whether differences in attention towards issues owned by the opposite party are significant between the Senate majority and House majority, Fractional Logit

Republican	0.091 (0.057)
Senate	0.217*** (0.071)
110th Congress	0.090 (0.136)
111th Congress	0.333*** (0.142)
112th Congress	0.359*** (0.124)
113th Congress	0.304*** (0.120)
114th Congress	0.097 (0.121)
115th Congress	0.058 (0.123)
Constant	-2.455*** (0.123)
R ²	0.049
N	810

Note: Regression estimated using fractional logit. The dependent variable of each model is the percentage of press releases a legislator devoted to the issues of the opposing party. The unit of analysis is legislator. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<0.05, '*'.

Table G6: OLS regression testing whether differences in attention towards credit claiming issues are significant between the MCs in the Close Elections population and MCs in the Main population, Fractional Logit

Close to Main	-0.190** (0.081)
115th Congress	-0.190** (0.081)
Constant	-1.181*** (0.109)
R ²	0.054
N	294

Note: Regression estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the percentage of press releases devoted to credit claiming. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<0.05, '*'.

Table G7: Predicting Press Release Tone, Subsetting By Divided Government, Main Population Data Set

	Unified Government	Split Chambers	Unified Chambers, Divided Government
White House Control	0.025*** (0.001)	0.036*** (0.005)	0.021 (0.017)
Key Votes	0.015*** (0.001)	0.006*** (0.001)	0.009*** (0.001)
Vote with Party	-0.000 (0.000)	0.000** (0.000)	-0.000*** (0.000)
Influence	-0.004*** (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)	-0.007*** (0.000)
Approval	0.000*** (0.000)	-0.000*** (0.000)	-0.000*** (0.000)
Constant	0.107*** (0.001)	0.089*** (0.005)	0.110*** (0.017)
Adjusted R ²	0.046	0.024	0.015
N	95,433	53,534	50,159

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. Estimates are for the tone using our *Main Data Set* sample. The first column estimates using press releases from periods of unified government. The second column estimates the tone of press releases from periods of government in which the chambers are controlled by different parties. The third column estimates using press releases from divided government, but both chambers are unified. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<.05, '*'.

Table G8: Comparing the Effects of White House Control between the Main and Close Election Populations

	All Press Releases 114th – 115th Congress	Main Data Set 114th – 115th Congress	Close Elections Data Set 114th- 115th Congress
White House Control	0.019** (0.002)	0.018*** (0.002)	0.008* (0.003)
Congress Control	0.022 (0.070)	0.029 (0.076)	-0.030 (0.053)
Key Votes	0.019*** (0.005)	0.022*** (0.005)	-0.001 (0.005)
Vote with Party	-0.000 (0.001)	-0.000 (0.001)	0.000 (0.004)
Influence	-0.007*** (0.002)	-0.008*** (0.002)	-0.001*** (0.003)
Approval	0.0003*** (0.0001)	0.0003** (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Close Election	0.017*** (0.005)		
Close Election X White House Control	-0.011* (0.005)		
Constant	0.108*** (0.005)	0.108*** (0.005)	0.126*** (0.013)
Adjusted R^2	0.035	0.037	0.004
N	72,009	62,888	9,121

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. The first column estimates the tone using all press releases for all MCs in our sample and illustrates the interaction between White House control and Close Elections. The second column estimates the tone using our *Main Data Set* sample. The third column estimates the tone of press releases for MCs using elections decided by five percentage points or fewer. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<0.05, '*'.

Table G9: Comparing the effects of White House Control and Congress control in the Main population

	Main Data Set 109th – 115th Congress Unstandardized	Main Data Set 109th – 115th Congress Standardized
White House Control	0.018** (0.002)	0.114* (0.011)
Congress Control	0.010** (0.003)	0.060** (0.019)
Key Votes	0.014** (0.003)	0.060*** (0.013)
Vote with Party	-0.000 (0.000)	-0.010 (0.024)
Influence	-0.004** (0.001)	-0.075 (0.026)
Approval	0.000 (0.000)	0.012 (0.009)
Constant	0.109*** (0.004)	-0.000 (0.026)
Adjusted R ²	0.028	0.028
N	180,937	180,937

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. The first column estimates the tone using our *Main Data Set* sample with unstandardized coefficients. The second column estimates the tone of press releases for MCs with standardized coefficients. $p < 0.001$, ‘***’; $p < 0.01$, ‘**’, $p < 0.05$, ‘*’.

Table G10: OLS regression testing whether differences in attention towards credit claiming issues are significant between the MCs in the Close Elections population and MCs in the Main population

Close to Main	-5.583*** (1.708)
115th Congress	-2.678** (1.159)
Constant	23.235*** (1.668)
Adjusted R ²	0.048
N	294

Note: Regression estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the percentage of press releases devoted to credit claiming. $p < 0.001$, ‘***’; $p < 0.01$, ‘**’, $p < 0.05$, ‘*’.

Table G11: A comparison of party-average sentiment scores across all thirty-seven issue topics between MCs in the *Main Data Set* and *Close Elections Data Set*, respectively. Comparisons in bold indicate that the 95-percent confidence intervals did not overlap between the two means

White House								
Congress								
	114		114		115		115	
	Main	Close	Main	Close	Main	Close	Main	Close
Topic	Democrats	Democrats	Republicans	Republicans	Democrats	Democrats	Republicans	Republicans
AG/Justice	0.097	0.134	0.084	0.100	0.063	0.078	0.101	0.121
Agriculture	0.169	0.166	0.150	0.190	0.138	0.171	0.159	0.155
Approp: Firefight	0.210	0.188	0.179	0.204	0.213	0.215	0.173	0.196
Approp: General	0.149	0.138	0.131	0.148	0.143	0.155	0.140	0.138
Approp: Healthcare	0.123	0.121	0.115	0.134	0.112	0.107	0.138	0.128
Approp: HUD	0.172	0.169	0.156	0.166	0.156	0.184	0.158	0.175
Approp: Transportation	0.148	0.144	0.155	0.163	0.150	0.174	0.181	0.197
Approp: Water Proj.	0.163	0.130	0.153	0.149	0.149	0.161	0.151	0.151
Cancer/Research	0.136	0.148	0.131	0.110	0.132	0.112	0.139	0.191
Childrens' Issues	0.141	0.171	0.131	0.131	0.091	0.113	0.128	0.152
Civil/Human Rights	0.119	0.144	0.068	0.111	0.104	0.100	0.074	0.109
Energy/Clean/Oil	0.145	0.162	0.140	0.164	0.125	0.173	0.157	0.174
Environment	0.119	0.137	0.097	0.098	0.106	0.115	0.113	0.114
FDA/Food Policy	0.112	0.147	0.134	0.125	0.088	0.100	0.134	0.059
Federal Budget	0.104	0.102	0.083	0.101	0.066	0.072	0.105	0.095
Financial System/Consumer Protection	0.104	0.107	0.078	0.121	0.089	0.093	0.094	0.094
Gun Violence	-0.001	0.017	0.045	0.044	0.002	0.060	0.049	0.063
Healthcare	0.132	0.143	0.118	0.114	0.078	0.108	0.122	0.109
High School Competition	0.210	0.216	0.220	0.243	0.204	0.225	0.211	0.219
Higher Education	0.187	0.211	0.188	0.208	0.173	0.202	0.201	0.196
Honorary	0.161	0.170	0.164	0.160	0.150	0.182	0.159	0.165
International Relations/Conflict	0.110	0.122	0.095	0.105	0.089	0.099	0.111	0.113
Iran/North Korea Nuclear Deal	0.084	0.086	0.066	0.065	0.061	0.060	0.062	0.059
Iraq War	0.066	0.090	0.065	0.071	0.074	0.093	0.064	0.050
Jobs/Economy	0.128	0.155	0.136	0.136	0.132	0.146	0.142	0.147
Judicial nom.	0.138	0.145	0.114	0.132	0.105	0.147	0.166	0.207
Law Enforcement/Crime	0.082	0.074	0.057	0.089	0.061	0.092	0.064	0.080
Legislative Activity/Voting	0.106	0.120	0.121	0.136	0.094	0.110	0.132	0.130
Memorial/Womens' Issues	0.142	0.153	0.154	0.193	0.135	0.131	0.169	0.238
Military/Defense	0.116	0.132	0.109	0.124	0.110	0.138	0.123	0.129
National/Homeland Security	0.104	0.122	0.089	0.114	0.088	0.107	0.098	0.123
Other	0.131	0.132	0.127	0.144	0.109	0.119	0.137	0.155
Prescription/Illicit Drugs	0.069	0.085	0.083	0.087	0.066	0.083	0.082	0.079
President/Executive Administration	0.120	0.143	0.071	0.087	0.057	0.068	0.108	0.108
Tax Policy	0.121	0.137	0.093	0.108	0.070	0.100	0.127	0.129
Town Hall/Meeting	0.151	0.176	0.125	0.165	0.149	0.160	0.138	0.150
Veterans' Affairs	0.157	0.142	0.148	0.147	0.158	0.164	0.159	0.159

Table G12: A comparison of party-average sentiment scores across all thirty-seven issue topics, across all seven sessions. Comparisons in bold indicate that the 95-percent confidence intervals did not overlap between the two means

White House Congress	109		110		111		112		113		114		115	
Topic	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans
AG/Justice	0.077	0.118	0.071	0.097	0.094	0.084	0.086	0.063	0.103	0.072	0.097	0.084	0.063	0.101
Agriculture	0.121	0.133	0.149	0.124	0.148	0.131	0.135	0.125	0.148	0.116	0.169	0.150	0.138	0.159
Approp: Firefight	0.185	0.257	0.190	0.218	0.183	0.216	0.210	0.198	0.215	0.153	0.210	0.179	0.213	0.173
Approp: General	0.148	0.156	0.146	0.152	0.164	0.145	0.155	0.121	0.147	0.123	0.149	0.131	0.143	0.140
Approp: Healthcare	0.119	0.159	0.120	0.157	0.146	0.157	0.130	0.123	0.138	0.111	0.123	0.115	0.112	0.138
Approp: HUD	0.145	0.202	0.146	0.152	0.160	0.147	0.164	0.109	0.161	0.134	0.172	0.156	0.156	0.158
Approp: Transportation	0.153	0.177	0.139	0.168	0.160	0.177	0.152	0.137	0.147	0.137	0.148	0.155	0.150	0.181
Approp: Water Proj.	0.148	0.161	0.143	0.149	0.142	0.130	0.144	0.109	0.157	0.128	0.163	0.153	0.149	0.151
Cancer/Research	0.130	0.138	0.112	0.136	0.121	0.149	0.114	0.130	0.133	0.157	0.136	0.131	0.132	0.139
Childrens' Issues	0.143	0.153	0.143	0.154	0.170	0.159	0.155	0.131	0.130	0.128	0.141	0.131	0.091	0.128
Civil/Human Rights	0.121	0.080	0.109	0.071	0.123	0.081	0.116	0.064	0.132	0.078	0.119	0.068	0.104	0.074
Energy/Clean/Oil	0.100	0.144	0.124	0.123	0.165	0.126	0.130	0.121	0.149	0.131	0.145	0.140	0.125	0.157
Environment	0.100	0.115	0.113	0.116	0.139	0.094	0.123	0.090	0.121	0.083	0.119	0.097	0.106	0.113
FDA/Food Policy	0.108	0.110	0.110	0.103	0.107	0.107	0.101	0.110	0.098	0.112	0.112	0.134	0.088	0.134
Federal Budget	0.061	0.098	0.102	0.077	0.113	0.051	0.071	0.048	0.078	0.057	0.104	0.083	0.066	0.105
Financial System/Consumer Protection	0.100	0.110	0.099	0.076	0.093	0.068	0.096	0.079	0.114	0.082	0.104	0.078	0.089	0.094
Gun Violence	0.048	0.065	0.037	0.071	0.040	0.062	0.023	0.020	0.035	0.020	-0.001	0.045	0.002	0.049
Healthcare	0.104	0.125	0.130	0.140	0.142	0.098	0.125	0.098	0.133	0.098	0.132	0.118	0.078	0.122
High School Competition	0.227	0.194	0.205	0.201	0.221	0.202	0.220	0.211	0.222	0.216	0.210	0.220	0.204	0.211
Higher Education	0.186	0.228	0.191	0.216	0.199	0.208	0.191	0.180	0.175	0.162	0.187	0.188	0.173	0.201
Honorary	0.152	0.164	0.169	0.170	0.165	0.146	0.138	0.137	0.151	0.150	0.161	0.164	0.150	0.159
International Relations/Conflict	0.102	0.119	0.116	0.117	0.121	0.110	0.112	0.090	0.108	0.112	0.110	0.095	0.089	0.111
Iran/North Korea Nuclear Deal	0.060	0.076	0.072	0.109	0.074	0.080	0.077	0.081	0.080	0.068	0.084	0.066	0.061	0.062
Iraq War	0.079	0.113	0.065	0.094	0.101	0.119	0.109	0.098	0.067	0.063	0.066	0.065	0.074	0.064
Jobs/Economy	0.107	0.148	0.117	0.136	0.123	0.113	0.134	0.109	0.144	0.130	0.128	0.136	0.132	0.142
Judicial nom.	0.139	0.162	0.104	0.131	0.145	0.134	0.129	0.125	0.148	0.102	0.138	0.114	0.105	0.166
Law Enforcement/Crime	0.080	0.084	0.081	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.099	0.070	0.087	0.060	0.082	0.057	0.061	0.064
Legislative Activity/Voting	0.113	0.132	0.127	0.115	0.129	0.097	0.111	0.101	0.109	0.104	0.106	0.121	0.094	0.132
Memorial/Womens' Issues	0.141	0.126	0.146	0.170	0.156	0.179	0.135	0.159	0.138	0.159	0.142	0.154	0.135	0.169
Military/Defense	0.109	0.126	0.103	0.127	0.121	0.095	0.115	0.099	0.106	0.090	0.116	0.109	0.110	0.123
National/Homeland Security	0.103	0.099	0.120	0.092	0.113	0.079	0.109	0.075	0.113	0.067	0.104	0.089	0.088	0.098
Other	0.128	0.141	0.130	0.144	0.136	0.130	0.130	0.113	0.129	0.120	0.131	0.127	0.109	0.137
Prescription/Illicit Drugs	0.103	0.129	0.094	0.099	0.120	0.090	0.098	0.084	0.082	0.093	0.069	0.083	0.066	0.082
President/Executive Administration	0.099	0.139	0.110	0.130	0.136	0.093	0.124	0.081	0.121	0.069	0.120	0.071	0.057	0.108
Tax Policy	0.104	0.109	0.109	0.096	0.098	0.075	0.083	0.082	0.114	0.084	0.121	0.093	0.070	0.127
Town Hall/Meeting	0.139	0.160	0.140	0.141	0.129	0.142	0.144	0.126	0.154	0.131	0.151	0.125	0.149	0.138
Veterans' Affairs	0.117	0.150	0.141	0.158	0.166	0.167	0.164	0.158	0.159	0.143	0.157	0.148	0.158	0.159

Table G13: Predicting Press Release Tone, Accounting for Issue Ownership

	Main Data Set 109th – 115th Congress	Main Data Set 109th – 115th Congress
White House Control	0.017*** (0.002)	0.017*** (0.002)
Congress Control	0.010** (0.003)	0.009** (0.003)
Key Votes	0.014*** (0.003)	0.014*** (0.003)
Vote with Party	-0.000 (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)
Influence	-0.004** (0.001)	-0.004** (0.001)
Approval	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
Party Owns Issue	-0.013*** (0.002)	-0.016*** (0.002)
Party Owns Issue x WH Control		0.002 (0.002)
Party Owns Issue x Congress Control		0.007** (0.002)
Constant	0.111*** (0.004)	0.111*** (0.004)
Adjusted R ²	0.031	0.031
N	180,937	180,937

Note: Regressions estimated using ordinary least squares. The dependent variable of each model is the tone of press release, the unit of observation, in which positive press releases are higher values. Both columns estimate the tone using our *Main Data Set*, with the second column illustrating interaction between control variables and Party Own Issue. p<0.001, '***'; p<0.01, '**', p<0.05, '*'.

Figure G1: The quartile numbers for the percentages of press releases issued by MCs in the *Main Data Set* and the *Close Elections Data Set*, respectively. Numbers are higher for the *Close Elections Data Set*

