Appendix

Online Appendix: Finding Ideological Neighbors for Alaska and Hawaii

Since Alaska and Hawaii are geographic outliers relative to the continental 48 states, it could pose problems to estimate the model and forecast ideology with the states located as they are. Such geographic outliers could exert substantial leverage over both the geographic trend term and the smoothed error structure. Yet, we do want to forecast ideology for these two states and these constituencies. As a result, we did a search for the states’ *ideological neighbors*. The idea behind finding ideological neighbors is that we can determine what geographical locales on the Pacific Coast work well as neighbors for the purposes of forecasting.

We searched for ideological neighbors for Alaska and Hawaii as follows: First, we estimated a preliminary point-referenced data model using OLS regression and an error structure on those residuals. In this initial model, we exclude Alaska and Hawaii from the training data. Second, we consider a variety of locations along the Pacific Coast that might serve as ideological neighbors for each state. For each possible location of the state, we compute the sum of squared errors if we forecasted ideology in the CCES data for each state using the model that was trained over the continental 48 states. We chose each state’s location based on which locale minimized the sum of squared errors.

For each state, we considered a central block and started out by placing the state so that its center was at the same northing as the southernmost point on the U.S. Pacific Coast. For Alaska we set the eastings so that the easternmost point in Alaska could never overlap with the westernmost point in the continental states. For Hawaii, we started off by setting the eastings so that the easternmost point in Hawaii would not overlap with the westernmost point of the continental states, but then moved Hawaii 75 kilometers closer: given how the best fits for each state work this adjustment prevents Hawaii from sitting on top of either the continental coast or atop Alaska’s new ideological neighbor position.

Figure 9 illustrates our comparative fit on this process. On each panel the horizontal axis represents the distance from the southernmost point on the continental Pacific Coast, with 0 representing the point at the far south and larger numbers indicating kilometers northward from there. The vertical axis on each panel represents the sum of squared errors (SSE) for the out-of-sample predictions to that state from the continental model. The black solid line represents the SSE for Hawaii at each position, and the dashed blue line represents the SSE for Alaska at each position. The left panel shows all positions along the Pacific Coast, which were considered in 50 km increments. As that panel shows, 1,000 km from the southernmost point the SSE starts rapidly increasing for both states, so the fit becomes remarkably bad if we place either state in the northwest. The right panel therefore focuses on the southern side of the Pacific Coast, ranging from the southernmost point at 0 km to 700 km north of that. For Alaska, the smallest SSE emerges 500 km north of the U.S.-Mexico border. For Hawaii, the two smallest SSE values emerge at 450 km and 500 km north of the border. While an SSE of 23,440 at 500 km actually is slightly lower for Hawaii than the SSE of 23,534 at 450 km, we choose 450 km as the ideological neighbor for a few reasons. First, these two values of the SSE are close and the only two to fall below 24,000. Second, this allows us to separate Alaska and Hawaii more easily, since Alaska’s minimum SSE of 34,451 is more sharply defined relative to other values. Third, a location of 450 km substantively allows us to say that Honolulu and San Francisco are ideological neighbors, which makes more substantive sense.

[FIGURE 9 ABOUT HERE]

Figure 9.

Sum of squared errors for forecasts of Alaska and Hawaii data for positions along the Pacific Coast.

Figure 2 in the main text plots the centroids of the census blocks we use for forecasting. In that figure, the blocks for Alaska and Hawaii are placed in their new ideological neighbor locations based on out-of-sample fit. Hawaii is placed so that its central census block is 450 km north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Substantively, this places the island of Oahu off the coast of the San Francisco Bay, meaning that Honolulu, HI and San Francisco, CA are ideological neighbors. Alaska is placed so that its central census block is 500 km north of the border. Substantively, this means that Juneau, AK is situated just south of San Diego, CA, which also puts the capital city as close as possible to Arizona and Texas for making forecasts of ideology. Anchorage, AK, meanwhile is a bit north of Santa Barbara, CA. Moving forward, when we forecast ideology for Alaska, Hawaii, and each state’s respective legislative districts we use these new ideological neighbor locations.

Sensitivity of Forecasts to Location

As an additional check of the robustness of our measures for Alaska and Hawaii, we conduct an analysis that compares our forecasts of simulated citizens in these states at various alternative geographic locations to the forecasts we use in our final measures. To do this, we proceeded in the following way: First, we subsetted the 724,814 simulated citizens used in our forecasts to the 1,503 simulated Alaskans and 3,347 simulated Hawaiians. Second, we adjusted the location of these simulated citizens to range from placing each state at 0 km north of the U.S. border with Mexico to 2,000 km north of the border, in 50 km increments. Third, we made kriged predictions of these citizens at each of these locations. For computational feasibility, we made the simplifying assumption that the parameter estimates of the forecasting model is assumed to be the point estimate of each parameter in Table 1. Additionally, a kriging model requires observed training data to predict the smoothed error term. Critically for computational time, we only use the first bootstrap subsample from the training data (consisting of 1,088 observations) when making the predictions at each alternative location. Doing this feasibly allowed us to make kriged predictions at 40 different alternative locations and compare each set of predictions to the results we get when we use *all* of our bootstrap samples to forecast ideology in Alaska and Hawaii at their ideological neighbor locations of 500 km and 450 km, respectively.

When we compute the correlations between the kriged values at these various proposed locations against the forecasts that we use in our final measures, the correlations are always large and similar across locations. Alaska’s correlations ranged from 0.81053 to 0.82066, with the points at 500 km (the ideological neighbor location) correlating with the full-bootstrap forecast of 0.81057. (The standard error of these correlations rounds to 0.000228 in all cases.) Meanwhile, Hawaii’s correlations ranged from 0.89039 to 0.89045, with the points at 450 km (the ideological neighbor location) correlating with the full-bootstrap forecast of 0.89045. (The standard error of these correlations rounds to 0.000061 in all cases.) Based on this additional analysis, we conclude that our results for these two states are not particularly sensitive to the ideological-neighbor placement that we use for the states, given the narrow range of these high correlation values. Even with this stability in results, though, we still believe that we have chosen the best ideological neighbor locations based on the analysis of Figure 9.

Online Appendix: Data Sources

* **Survey data of individual ideology in 2008:** The Cooperative Congressional Election Survey, Common Content, 2008. Accessed from http://hdl.handle.net/1902.1/14003 on April 18, 2013 (Ansolabehere 2011).
* **Population demographic data in 2010:** U.S. Census 2010 block, block group, and tract-level data. Dataset 2010\_SF1a accessed from the National Historical Geographic Information System, https://www.nhgis.org on October 13, 2015 (Minnesota Population Center 2011).
* **Census block centroids and area:** U.S. Census TIGER shapefiles for 2010. Accessed from http://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2010BLKPOPHU/ on December 12, 2015.
* **ZIP code centroids and area:** USA ZIP Code Areas, 2014. TomTom data held by ArcGIS. Accessed from https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=8d2012a2016e484dafaac0451f9aea24 on September 2, 2015.
* **Religious affiliation by county:** The 2010 Religious Congregations and Membership Study, provided by the ARDA. Accessed from http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/RCMSCY10.asp on October 15, 2015 (Grammich et al. 2012).
* **Urban-rural classification continuum by county:** United States Department of Agriculture, 2013 measure. Accessed from
* http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx#.UfCK11OE4xc on October 15, 2015 (United States Department of Agriculture 2013).
* **Ideology of members of Congress:** Subset of Carroll, Lewis, Lo, McCarty, Poole, & Rosenthal’s Common Space DW-NOMINATE scores. Restricted to first dimension for 112th Congress. Accessed from http://voteview.com on December 20, 2015 (McCarty, Poole and Rosenthal 1997; Poole and Rosenthal 1997).
* **Ideology of state legislators:** Subset of Shor & McCarty’s June 2015 update of individual state legislator database, focusing strictly on 2011 scores. Accessed from http://dx.doi.org/10.7910/DVN/THDBRA on December 19, 2015 (Shor and McCarty 2011).

Online Appendix: Crosswalk Between Census State Legislative District Names and Full Names, New Hampshire and Vermont

The 2010 Census files keep track of the state legislative and congressional districts that each census block falls in. Congressional districts follow a numbering scheme or are easily identified as a single at-large district. Most state legislative districts also follow a numbering scheme. All of this allows for merging with information such as legislator ideology scores.

As an important exception, the states of New Hampshire and Vermont name state legislative districts based on the county they are in. For the sake of file size, the names of state legislative districts are abbreviated in the Census files, though files such as the data by Shor and McCarty (2011) use the full name of the district. For the sake of facilitating future merging work, we list a crosswalk that ties the abbreviations to the full district names. Table 2 lists districts for the New Hampshire House of Representatives, Table 3 lists districts for the Vermont House of Representatives, and Table 4 lists districts for the Vermont Senate.

Table 2.

Crosswalk between Names of State Legislative Districts and Census Bureau Abbreviations in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Census Code  | District Name  | Census Code  | District Name  | Census Code  | District Name  |
| 101 | BELKNAP 1  |  617  | HILLSBOROUGH 17  |  001  |  SULLIVAN 1  |
| 102 | BELKNAP 2  |  618  | HILLSBOROUGH 18  |  002  |  SULLIVAN 2  |
| 103 | BELKNAP 3  |  619  | HILLSBOROUGH 19  |  003  |  SULLIVAN 3  |
| 104 | BELKNAP 4  |  620  | HILLSBOROUGH 20  |  004  |  SULLIVAN 4  |
| 105 | BELKNAP 5  |  621  | HILLSBOROUGH 21  |  005  |  SULLIVAN 5  |
| 106 | BELKNAP 6  |  622  | HILLSBOROUGH 22  |  |   |
| 201 | CARROLL 1  |  623  | HILLSBOROUGH 23  |   |   |
| 202 | CARROLL 2  |  624  | HILLSBOROUGH 24  |  |   |
| 203 | CARROLL 3  |  625  | HILLSBOROUGH 25  |  |   |
| 204 | CARROLL 4  |  626  | HILLSBOROUGH 26  |  |   |
| 205 | CARROLL 5  |  627  | HILLSBOROUGH 27  |  |   |
| 301 | CHESHIRE 1  |  701  | MERRIMACK 1  |  |   |
| 302 | CHESHIRE 2  |  702  | MERRIMACK 2  |  |   |
| 303 | CHESHIRE 3  |  703  | MERRIMACK 3  |  |   |
| 304 | CHESHIRE 4  |  704  | MERRIMACK 4  |  |   |
| 305 | CHESHIRE 5  |  705  | MERRIMACK 5  |  |   |
| 306 | CHESHIRE 6  |  706  | MERRIMACK 6  |  |  |
| 307 | CHESHIRE 7  |  707  | MERRIMACK 7  |  |   |
| 401 | COOS 1  |  708  | MERRIMACK 8  |  |   |
| 402 | COOS 2  |  709  | MERRIMACK 9  |  |   |
| 403 | COOS 3  |  710  | MERRIMACK 10  |  |   |
| 404 | COOS 4  |  711  | MERRIMACK 11  |  |   |
| 501 | GRAFTON 1  |  712  | MERRIMACK 12  |  |   |
| 502 | GRAFTON 2  |  713  | MERRIMACK 13  |  |   |
| 503 | GRAFTON 3  |  801  | ROCKINGHAM 1  |  |  |
| 504 | GRAFTON 4  |  802  | ROCKINGHAM 2  |  |   |
| 505 | GRAFTON 5  |  803  | ROCKINGHAM 3  |  |  |
| 506 | GRAFTON 6  |  804  | ROCKINGHAM 4  |  |  |
| 507 | GRAFTON 7  |  805  | ROCKINGHAM 5  |  |  |
| 508 | GRAFTON 8  |  806  | ROCKINGHAM 6  |  |  |
| 509 | GRAFTON 9  |  807  | ROCKINGHAM 7  |  |  |
| 510 | GRAFTON 10  |  808  | ROCKINGHAM 8  |  |  |
| 511 | GRAFTON 11  |  809  | ROCKINGHAM 9  |  |  |
| 501 | GRAFTON 1  |  810  | ROCKINGHAM 10  |  |  |
| 601 | HILLSBOROUGH 1  |  811  | ROCKINGHAM 11 |  |   |
| 602 | HILLSBOROUGH 2  |  812  | ROCKINGHAM 12 |  |   |
| 603 | HILLSBOROUGH 3  |  813  | ROCKINGHAM 13  |  |  |
| 604 | HILLSBOROUGH 4  |  814  | ROCKINGHAM 14 |  |   |
| 605 | HILLSBOROUGH 5  |  815  | ROCKINGHAM 15  |  |  |
| 606 | HILLSBOROUGH 6  |  816  | ROCKINGHAM 16 |  |   |
| 607 | HILLSBOROUGH 7  |  817  | ROCKINGHAM 17  |  |  |
| 608 | HILLSBOROUGH 8  |  818  | ROCKINGHAM 18  |  |  |
| 609 | HILLSBOROUGH 9  |  901  | STRAFFORD 1  |  |  |
| 610 | HILLSBOROUGH 10  |  902  | STRAFFORD 2 |  |   |
| 611 | HILLSBOROUGH 11  |  903  | STRAFFORD 3 |  |  |
| 612 | HILLSBOROUGH 12  |  904  | STRAFFORD 4  |  |  |
| 613 | HILLSBOROUGH 13  |  905  | STRAFFORD 5  |  |  |
| 614 | HILLSBOROUGH 14  |  906  | STRAFFORD 6  |  |  |
| 615 | HILLSBOROUGH 15  |  907  | STRAFFORD 7  |  |  |
| 616 | HILLSBOROUGH 16  |  |  |  |   |

Table 3.

Crosswalk between Names of State Legislative Districts and Census Bureau Abbreviations in the Vermont House of Representatives.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Census Code  | District Name  | Census Code  |  District Name |
|  A-1  | ADDISON-1  | L-2  | LAMOILLE-2  |
| A-2  | ADDISON-2  | L-3  | LAMOILLE-3 |
| A-3  | ADDISON-3  | L-4  | LAMOILLE-4 |
| A-4  | ADDISON-4  | LW1  | LAMOILLE-WASHINGTON-1  |
| A-5  | ADDISON-5  | OG1  | ORANGE-1  |
| AR1  | ADDISON-RUTLAND-1  | OG2  | ORANGE-2 |
| B-1  | BENNINGTON-1  | OA1  | ORANGE-ADDISON-1  |
| B21  | BENNINGTON-2-1  | OGC  | ORANGE-CALEDONIA-1  |
| B22  | BENNINGTON-2-2  | OL1  | ORLEANS-1  |
| B-3  | BENNINGTON-3  | OL2  | ORLEANS-2  |
| B-4  | BENNINGTON-4  | OLC  | ORLEANS-CALEDONIA-1  |
| B-5  | BENNINGTON-5  | OLF  | ORLEANS-FRANKLIN-1  |
| BR1  | BENNINGTON-RUTLAND-1  | R11  | RUTLAND-1-1  |
| CA1  | CALEDONIA-1  | R12  | RUTLAND-1-2  |
| CA2  | CALEDONIA-2  | R-2  | RUTLAND-2  |
| CA3  | CALEDONIA-3  | R-3  | RUTLAND-3  |
| CA4  | CALEDONIA-4  | R-4  | RUTLAND-4  |
| CAW  | CALEDONIA-WASHINGTON-1  | R51  | RUTLAND-5-1  |
| C11  | CHITTENDEN-1-1  | R52  | RUTLAND-5-2  |
| C12  | CHITTENDEN-1-2  | R53  | RUTLAND-5-3  |
| C-2  | CHITTENDEN-2  | R54  | RUTLAND-5-4  |
| C31  | CHITTENDEN-3-1  | R-6  | RUTLAND-6  |
| C32  | CHITTENDEN-3-2  | R-7  | RUTLAND-7  |
| C33  | CHITTENDEN-3-3  | R-8  | RUTLAND-8  |
| C34  | CHITTENDEN-3-4  | RY1  | RUTLAND-WINDSOR-1  |
| C35  | CHITTENDEN-3-5  | W-1  | WASHINGTON-1  |
| C36  | CHITTENDEN-3-6  | W-2  | WASHINGTON-2  |
| C37  | CHITTENDEN-3-7  | W31  | WASHINGTON-3-1 |
| C38  | CHITTENDEN-3-8  | W32  | WASHINGTON-3-2  |
| C39  | CHITTENDEN-3-9  | W33  | WASHINGTON-3-3  |
| C35  | CHITTENDEN-3-10  | W-4  | WASHINGTON-4 |
| C-4  | CHITTENDEN-4  | W-5  | WASHINGTON-5  |
| C51  | CHITTENDEN-5-1  | W-6  | WASHINGTON-6  |
| C52  | CHITTENDEN-5-1  | W-7  | WASHINGTON-7  |
| C61  | CHITTENDEN-6-1  | WC1  | WASHINGTON-CHITTENDEN-1  |
| C62  | CHITTENDEN-6-2  | X-1  | WINDHAM-1  |
| C63  | CHITTENDEN-6-3  | X-2  | WINDHAM-2  |
| C71  | CHITTENDEN-7-1  | X31  | WINDHAM-3-1  |
| C72  | CHITTENDEN-7-2  | X32  | WINDHAM-3-2  |
| C-8  | CHITTENDEN-8  | X33  | WINDHAM-3-3 |
| C-9  | CHITTENDEN-9  | X-4  | WINDHAM-4  |
| EC1  | ESSEX-CALEDONIA  | X-5  | WINDHAM-5  |
| EC2  | ESSEX-CALEDONIA-ORLEANS  | X-6  | WINDHAM-6  |
| F-1  | FRANKLIN-1  | XB1  | WINDHAM-BENNINGTON-1 |
| F-2  | FRANKLIN-2  | XBY  | WINDHAM-BENNINGTON-WINDSOR-1  |
| F-3  | FRANKLIN-3  | Y11  | WINDSOR-1-1  |
| F-4  | FRANKLIN-4  | Y12  | WINDSOR-1-2  |
| F-5  | FRANKLIN-5  | Y-2  | WINDSOR-2  |
| F-6  | FRANKLIN-6  | Y-3  | WINDSOR-3  |
| GC1  | GRAND ISLE-CHITTENDEN-1-1  | Y-4  | WINDSOR-4  |
| L-1  | LAMOILLE-1  | Y-5  | WINDSOR-5  |
|  |  | Y61  | WINDSOR-6-1  |
|  |  | Y62  | WINDSOR-6-2  |
|  |  | YO1  | WINDSOR-ORANGE-1  |
|  |  | YO2  | WINDSOR-ORANGE-2  |
|  |  | YR1  | WINDSOR-RUTLAND-1  |
|  |  | YR2  | WINDSOR-RUTLAND-2  |

Table 4.

Crosswalk between Names of State Legislative Districts and Census Bureau Abbreviations in the Vermont Senate.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Census Code  | District Name  | Census Code  | District Name |
| ADD  | ADDISON  | LAM  | LAMOILLE  |
| BEN  | BENNINGTON  | ORA  | ORANGE |
| CAL  | CALEDONIA  | RUT  | RUTLAND |
| CHI  | CHITTENDEN  | WAS  | WASHINGTON  |
| E-O  | ESSEX-ORLEANS  | WDM  | WINDHAM  |
| FRA  | FRANKLIN  | WSR  | WINDSOR |
| CGI  | GRAND ISLE  |   |   |

Also of note: Washington has multimember districts. In this case, Shor and McCarty denote the members with their district number, followed by a second index. For example, 021-1 and 021-2 indicate the first and second members from House district 21. To merge with Census data, simply dropping the “-1” and “-2” makes the merge straightforward