



2017-05-09

Do Municipal Officials Represent the Views of their Constituents?

Steven Jamieson

Brigham Young University - Provo, stevenjamieson0708@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub



Part of the [Political Science Commons](#)

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Jamieson, Steven, "Do Municipal Officials Represent the Views of their Constituents?" (2017). *FHSS Mentored Research Conference*. 317.

https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/317

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Do Municipal Officials Represent the Views of their Constituents?

Student Researcher: Steven Jamieson

Faculty Mentor: Adam Dynes

Department of Political Science

Does an Officials' Ideology Predict Policy Outcomes?

- Conservative cities have lower taxes (Tausanovitch and Warshaw 2014)
- Does the ideology of the city official predict the policies which the city adopts?

Significance:

- Municipalities make decisions that effect millions of Americans every day
- Research has been done to assess the link between citizen's preferences and municipal policy (Tausanovitch and Warshaw 2014)
- However, the link between the policies and the officials who make them is missing

Data: American Municipal Officials Survey (AMOS)

- The largest study of elected local officials in the country, more than 3000 observations in even numbered years
- In 2012 AMOS measured officials' ideology by asking about 28 issues
- I combine the AMOS data with the city preference data (cities with pop. above 50,000) from Warshaw and Tausanovitch (2013)

Correlated Ideologies?

- I compare the preferences of cities to the preferences of officials elected city-wide - these variables are positively correlated
- Republican cities elect Republicans, and Democratic cities elect Democrats. Each have very different policy preferences.

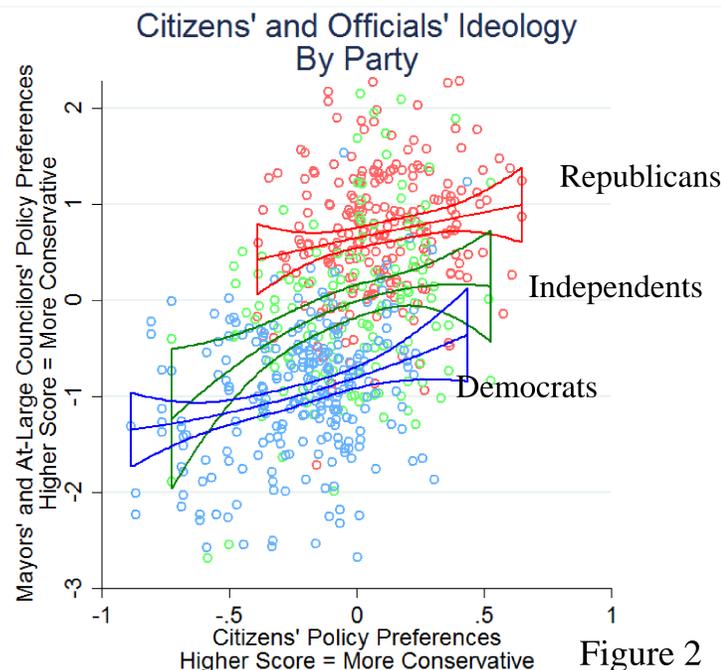
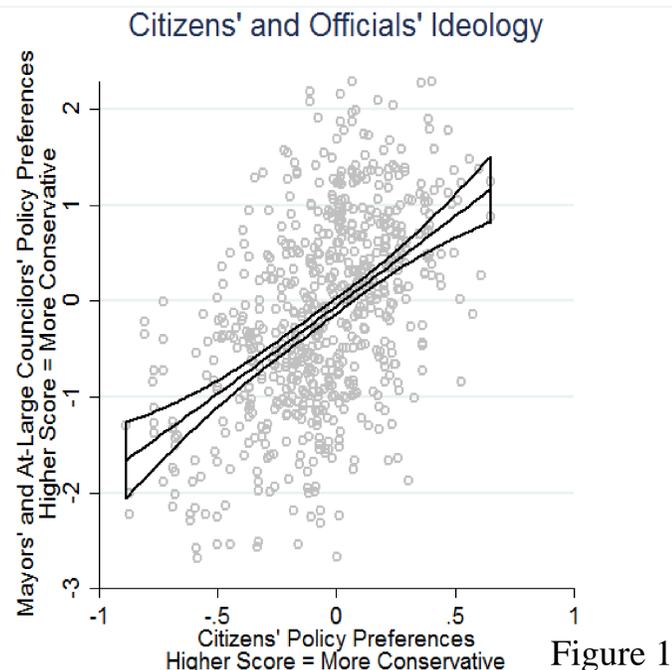
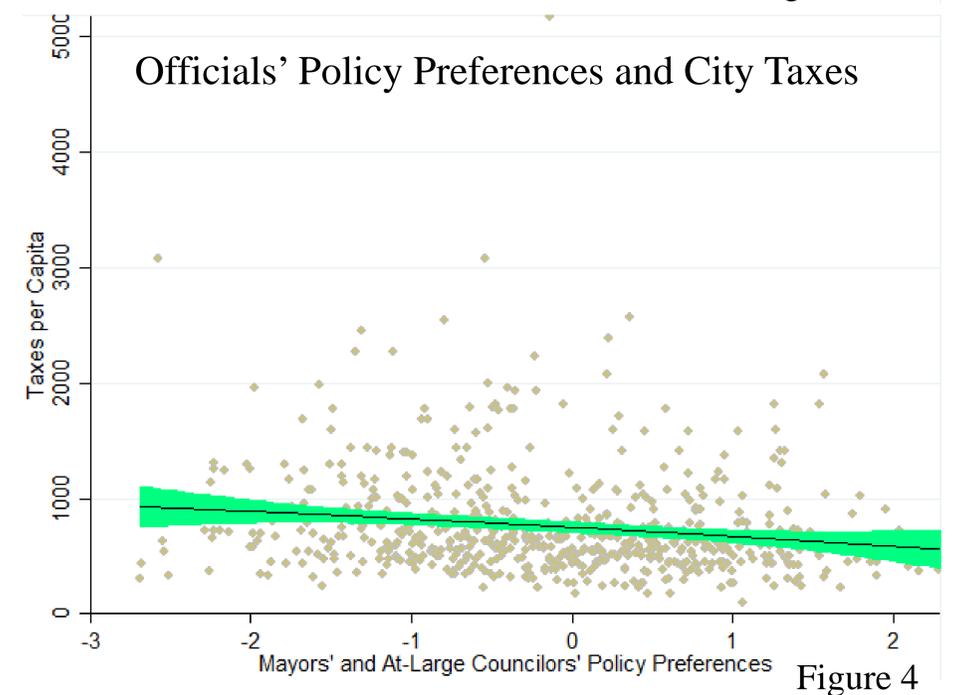
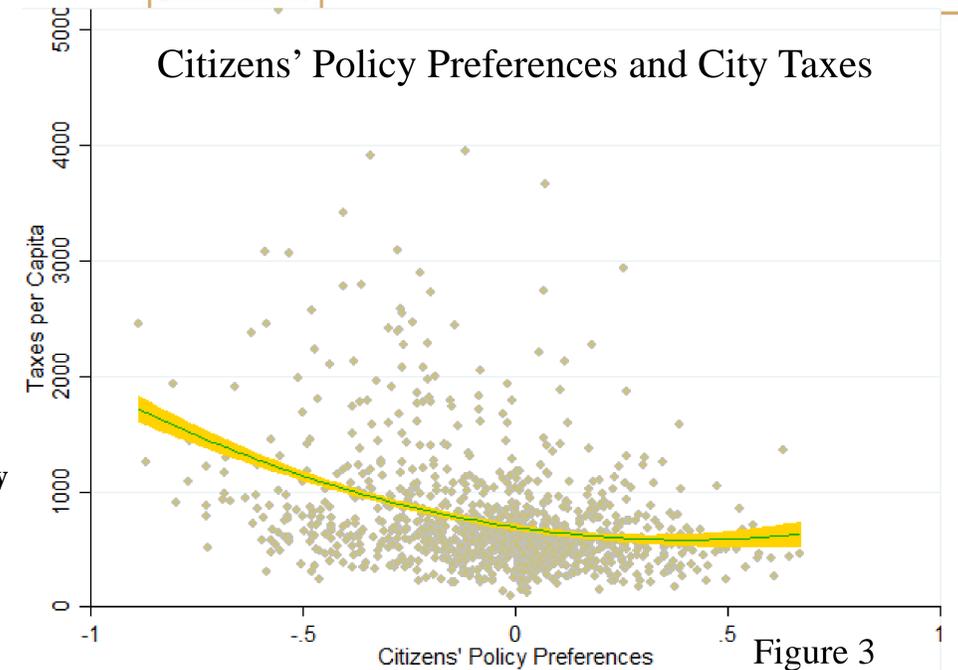
Regression of per Capita Taxes on Citizens' and Officials' Ideology

***p>.01 **p>.05 *p>.1

Taxes per Capita	Coefficient
City Policy Preferences (ideology)	-377.90*** (132.31)
Official's Policy Preferences	28.02 (47.90)
Official is a Republican	34.82 (64.96)
Official is a Democrat	40.23 (64.04)
City Population	80.09 (51.78)
Percent of the Population that was black in 2000	645.81** (285.64)
Percent of Taxes from Sales Tax	213.30** (104.46)
City is allowed to collect Sales Tax	31.27 (67.45)
Policy preferences of the City	-99.67*** (24.07)



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY



Ideology and Policy

- The ideology of officials and actual policy are not correlated
- The ideology of the citizens is a much better predictor of city policy
- Knowing the ideological/policy preferences of a city might be more predictive of a mayor's policy preferences than the mayor's political party itself