

READ ME FILE for

WHEN DOES REGRESSION DISCONTINUITY DESIGN WORK? EVIDENCE FROM RANDOM ELECTION OUTCOMES

by Ari Hyytinen, Jaakko Meriläinen, Tuukka Saarimaa, Otto Toivanen and Janne Tukiainen

published at *Quantitative Economics*

The data used in our paper are mostly available from the journal www-site. However, certain parts of the data are proprietary. This file explains what the public and proprietary parts of our data are and how one can acquire access to proprietary parts of our data (and thus to all the data we have used).

Publicly available parts of the data: The replication material available from the journal www-site contains the public parts of our data and a STATA do-file. The public parts of our data consist of candidate level municipal election results for the election years 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012. These data and the STATA code can be used to replicate all figures in the main text and Tables 3 and 4.

Proprietary parts of the data: The data on candidate (individual-level) characteristics are proprietary. Replicating parts of Table 1 and columns (2)-(4) of Table 2 therefore require obtaining these data. To obtain the data, one has to apply for data access through the normal application processes of the data providers and registers (see below).

How to construct the complete data: The various data sets that we have used (see below) can be merged using a social security number, which uniquely identifies all Finns. In particular, merging the candidate level municipal election results with the data on candidate characteristics requires that one has the social security numbers also in the election results dataset (the publicly available data do *not* contain the social security numbers). The data that link the candidate level municipal election results to the social security numbers of the candidates can be purchased from the *Finnish Ministry of Justice*. The contact email is: vaalit@om.fi.

For the other data providers (registers), the data content and contact emails are:

- Data: candidates' income
 - Data provider: *Finnish Tax Authority*, email: verotilastot@vero.fi
- Data: candidates' education, occupation and socioeconomic status
 - Data provider: *Statistics Finland*, email: tutkijapalvelut@tilastokeskus.fi
- Data: municipal employee status of the candidates
 - Data provider: *Finnish Local Government Pensions Institution*, email: tilastot@keva.fi

Note: The overall cost of acquiring the complete data set was roughly 5000 euros for us. Once the data access has been granted, the data will be sent to the researchers conditional on them signing the appropriate contracts regarding, for example, data security.