Constitutional Design Conference

Voters, Politicians, and Schools: Reassessing the Fiscal Effects of Direct Democracy

By Christopher Berry
Suggestions

• Include state level funding schemes for education and court decisions regarding equity
• Include additional demographics: race/ethnicity, English language proficiency, foreign born
• Clarify revenue versus spending
• Alternative measure: $$ spent on education/income
Puzzles Remaining

• Initiative states spend less money on education even before they have the initiative

• Local governments in initiative states start off spending more money on education and then shift dramatically to spend less
Possible Explanations

• Some unmeasured factor generates the adoption of initiatives and education policy
  – Homogeneity (ethnicity, income, religion)
  – Size
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  – Homogeneity (ethnicity, income, religion)
  – Size
  – Populism
  – Malapportionment

• See
Possible Explanations

• Initiatives actually affect policy, but they do it in a weird way
  – Two stage process
  – Local initiatives drive the differential
  • Analyze in California?
    [http://www.csus.edu/isr/reports/california_elections/index.html](http://www.csus.edu/isr/reports/california_elections/index.html)
Small Things

• Discuss DV earlier & discuss controls relationships to initiatives
• Square state income per capita
• Add debt loads
• Add partisan makeup of state house
• Analyze pensions
• Control for private school enrollment
• Non unified school districts may be non-unified for important reasons related to your DVs
• Results on IG transfers for counties and cities are big (but noisy)
• Break inequality analysis into two chunks of time