Lobbying, Senator Participation and Mandate Length

Agathe Denis

Abstract:

This paper studies how legislative term length shapes the behavior, external relationships, and electoral outcomes of American state legislators. Exploiting the quasi-random assignment of two- and four-year terms that occurs following decennial redistricting in the Illinois and Texas State Senates, the analysis seeks to identify the effect of shorter electoral horizons on legislative activity, third-party engagement, and political careers.