Variable descriptions and sources from each data set

1. ButlerDynes_StateLegislators.dta:

   Summary: Stata data set with variables needed to replicate all of the tables and figures related to Study 1, including those in the appendices.

   Unit of Analysis: Individual state legislators

   Source of Data: Unless noted otherwise, the data come from the original State Legislator Survey conducted by the authors in March 2012. See "Details of the State Legislator Survey used in Study 1" in Supplementary Appendix for more details about this survey. To encourage state legislators to participate in the survey, we promised to keep their responses confidential. As such, we maintain their anonymity in the replication files and do not include any identifying information in this data set.

   Variable Name: definition [SOURCE:]

   islegislator: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Are you a state legislator or a staff member?"
   Possible Values:
   = 1 if respondent selected "State legislator"
   = 0 if respondent selected "Staff member or Assistant"
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question

   cuttaxes: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is your position on the following two issues?, and the following statement: "We should cut taxes, even if it means deep cuts in government programs".
   = 1 if respondent chose "Agree Strongly"
   = 2 if respondent chose "Agree Somewhat"
   = 3 if respondent chose "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
   = 4 if respondent chose "Disagree Somewhat"
   = 5 if respondent chose "Disagree Strongly"
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

   black: equals 1 if state legislator is identified as black according to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; 0 otherwise.
latino: equals 1 if state legislator is identified as Latino by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials; 0 otherwise.

minority: equals 1 if the variable "black" equals 1 or the variable "latino" equals 1; 0 otherwise.

dominant: equals 1 if state legislator is identified as female by The Center for American Women and Politics; 0 otherwise.


pop10k: indicates population size of state legislator's district in tens of thousands residents.

length_session: indicates the length of the regular legislative session in the respondent's state measured in number of days divided by 100.

staff_per_capita: indicates the average number of staff members per number of state legislators in respondent's state.

tenure: indicates the number of years that the state legislator has served in her current position.
tenure_sq: is the square of the variable "tenure".

upper: equals 1 if state legislator is a member of the upper chamber in the state legislature; 0 is she is a member of the lower chamber in the state legislature.
[SOURCE: Research assistants found these data from state legislatures' websites in the process of gathering state legislators' email addresses.]

democrat: equals 1 if state legislator ran as a Democrat; 0 otherwise.
[SOURCE: Research assistants found these data from the profiles of state legislators maintained by Project Vote Smart on their website, http://votesmart.org/.]

independent: equals 1 if state legislator ran as an Independent or unaffiliated; 0 otherwise.
[SOURCE: Research assistants found these data from the profiles of state legislators maintained by Project Vote Smart on their website, http://votesmart.org/.]

republican: equals 1 if state legislator ran as a Republican; 0 otherwise.
[SOURCE: Research assistants found these data from the profiles of state legislators maintained by Project Vote Smart on their website, http://votesmart.org/.]

traveltime_dist: indicates in miles the distance from the center of the state legislator's district to the state capitol.

tr_suptaxcuts: equals 1 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that supported tax cuts; 0 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that opposed tax cuts.

tr_black: equals 1 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that was written by a constituent with a name that is common among black Americans; 0 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that was written by a constituent with a name that is common among white or Latino Americans.

tr_latino: equals 1 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that was written by a constituent with a name that is common among Latino Americans; 0 if respondent was shown a letter in the vignette that was written by a constituent with a name that is common among white or black Americans.

frominterestgroup: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", about the following statement: "This letter was likely a form letter sent by an interest group"
Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Likely"
- 0 if respondent selected "Unlikely"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

understands: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", about the following statement: "The writer likely understands the complexities of this issue"

Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Likely"
- 0 if respondent selected "Unlikely"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

strongposition: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", about the following statement: "The writer likely holds this position strongly"

Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Likely"
- 0 if respondent selected "Unlikely"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

2. ButlerDynes_CityOfficials.dta:

Summary: Stata data set with variables needed to replicate all of the tables and figures related to Study 2, including those in the appendices.

Unit of Analysis: Individual elected municipal official

Source of Data: The data come from the 2012 American Municipal Official Survey conducted in the summer of 2012. See "Details of the 2012 American Municipal Official Survey used in Study 2" in Supplementary Appendix for more details about this survey. To encourage local officials to participate in the 2012 American Municipal Official Survey, we promised to keep their responses confidential. As such, we maintain their anonymity in the replication files and do not include any identifying information in this data set.

Variable Name: Variable description

position_2: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What's your position in your municipality? (Select all applicable answers)".

Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Chief elected or appointed executive official (e.g., mayor, president, board chair, etc.)"
= 0 if respondent selected "Member of municipal council (council member, alderman, selectman, etc.)" or "Other"
= -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question

party: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is your party affiliation?"
   Possible Values:
   = 1 if respondent selected "Republican"
   = 2 if respondent selected "Democrat"
   = 3 if respondent selected "Independent or Unaffiliated"
   = 5 if respondent selected "Other"
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

libcon: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Generally speaking, would you describe your political views as:"
   Possible Values:
   = 1 if respondent selected "Very Liberal"
   = 2 if respondent selected "Liberal"
   = 3 if respondent selected "Somewhat Liberal"
   = 4 if respondent selected "Middle of the Road"
   = 5 if respondent selected "Somewhat Conservative"
   = 6 if respondent selected "Conservative"
   = 7 if respondent selected "Very Conservative"
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

prog_amb_1: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is the likelihood that you will run for higher office sometime in the next 5 years?"
   Possible Values:
   Scale from 0 to 100% with following description:
   "Percent Chance of Running for Higher Office:"
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

occupation: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What, if anything, do you consider your occupation outside of government?"
   Possible Values:
   = 1 if respondent selected "Government service is my main occupation"
   = 2 if respondent selected "Profession: ": Response also included a blank text box for respondent to type in their profession.
   = -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

gender: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is your gender?"
Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Male"
- 2 if respondent selected "Female"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

education: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is the highest level of school you have completed?"
Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "Less than High School"
- 2 if respondent selected "High School Diploma or the Equivalent (GED)"
- 3 if respondent selected "Some College, No Degree"
- 4 if respondent selected "Associate Degree"
- 5 if respondent selected "Bachelor's Degree"
- 6 if respondent selected "Master's Degree"
- 7 if respondent selected "Professional or Doctorate Degree"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

income: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?"
Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "less than 25,000"
- 2 if respondent selected "25,000-34,999"
- 3 if respondent selected "35,000-44,999"
- 4 if respondent selected "45,000-54,999"
- 5 if respondent selected "55,000-64,999"
- 6 if respondent selected "65,000-80,000"
- 7 if respondent selected "80,000-99,000"
- 8 if respondent selected "100,000-249,000"
- 9 if respondent selected "Over 250,000"
- 10 if respondent selected "Prefer not to say"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

race: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What racial or ethnic group best describes you?"
Possible Values:

- 1 if respondent selected "White"
- 2 if respondent selected "Black or African-American"
- 3 if respondent selected "Hispanic or Latino"
- 4 if respondent selected "Asian or Asian-American"
- 5 if respondent selected "Native American"
- 6 if respondent selected "Mixed Race"
- 7 if respondent selected "Other"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.
com_j911_o: com_j911_s: com_e911_o: com_e911_s: com_a911_o: com_a911_s: com_m911_o: com_m911_s: These variables indicate which version of the constituent email seen by each respondent in this particular round of the 2012 AMOS. These variables were used for respondents who saw an email concerning the consolidation of 911 services. The letter before "911" in the name of the variable corresponds with the name of the constituent who wrote the email, using the following coding:

"j" indicates the email was written by "Joshua Wood"
"e" indicates the email was written by "Eric Bennett"
"a" indicates the email was written by "Amy Bennett"
"m" indicates the email was written by "Melissa Wood"

The letter at the end of the variable name indicates whether the email writer supported or opposed the consolidation of 911 services, using the following coding:

"s" indicates that the writer supported consolidating 911 services
"o" indicates that the writer opposed consolidating 911 services

Possible Values
= 1 if respondent saw an email with the corresponding characteristics indicated in the name of the variable.

issue911: indicates that respondent saw an email from a constituent on the issue of consolidating 911 services.
Possible Values
= 1 if respondent saw an email on the issue of consolidating 911 services.

issuenvouchers: indicates that respondent saw an email from a constituent on the issue of school vouchers.
Possible Values
= 1 if respondent saw an email on the issue of school vouchers.

letter_subject: indicates the issue addressed in the email from a constituent that the respondent saw. Also indicates if respondent saw information below the email about the email writer's partisanship.
Possible Values
= "consolidate_911" if respondent saw an email on the issue of consolidating 911 services but did not see any information about the email writer's partisan affiliation.
= "vouchers_party" if respondent saw an email on the issue of school vouchers and information about the email writer's partisan affiliation.
= "vouchers_plain" if respondent saw an email on the issue of school vouchers but did not see any information about the email writer's partisan affiliation.
support_position: indicates if the email from a constituent that the respondent saw supports either consolidating 911 services or school vouchers.

Possible Values
- 1 if respondent saw an email that supports either consolidating 911 services or school vouchers.
- 0 if respondent saw an email that opposes either consolidating 911 services or school vouchers.

constituent_name: indicates the name of the constituent who wrote the email that the respondent saw.

Possible Values
- "Dustin Snyder"
- "Jamal Washington"
- "Jose Lopez"

com_rate_1: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about this message?", about the following statement: "This letter was likely a form letter sent by an interest group"

Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

com_rate_2: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about this message?", about the following statement: "The writer likely understands the complexities of this issue"

Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

com_rate_3: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about this message?", about the following statement: "The writer likely holds this position strongly"

Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
- -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

com_rate_4: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about this message?", about the following statement: "The writer likely based his opinions on facts"

Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
com_party: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "What is the writer's partisanship? (Give us your best guess)"
Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Republican"
= 2 if respondent selected "Democrat"
= 3 if respondent selected "Independent or Unaffiliated"
= -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

npat_econ_12: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Do you support providing parents with vouchers to send their children to any participating school: public private or religious?"
Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Yes"
= 2 if respondent selected "No"
= -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

npat_econ_29: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "Do you support efforts to consolidate 911 services with neighboring areas as a way to save municipal funds?"
Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Yes"
= 2 if respondent selected "No"
= -99 if respondent saw but did not answer the question.

match_position: indicates if the position advocated in the email that the respondent saw matches the respondent's position on the issue as indicated by the respondent's response recorded in the variables npat_econ_12 and npat_econ_29.
Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent's position matches the email writer's position.
= 0 if respondent's position does not match the email writer's position.

3. ButlerDynes_MTurkSurvey.dta:

Summary: Stata data set with variables needed to replicate all of the tables and figures related to Study 3, including those in the appendices.

Unit of Analysis: Individual adult (age 18 or older) residing in the U.S.
Source of Data: The data come from an original survey the authors conducted in December 2014 using Qualtrics survey software and a panel of respondents recruited through Amazon's Mechanical Turk.

Variable Name: definition [source]

responseid: unique identification code for each respondent created by Qualtrics.

startdate: indicates the date and time when the respondent began the survey.

denddate: indicates the date and time when the respondent completed and submitted the survey

pos_tax_1: indicates respondent's answer to the following prompt, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:”, and the following statement: "We should cut taxes even if it means deep cuts in government programs".

Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Strongly Disagree"
= 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
= 3 if respondent selected "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
= 4 if respondent selected "Agree"
= 5 if respondent selected "Strongly Agree"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

pos_tax_2: indicates respondent's answer to the following prompt, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:”, and the following statement: “States should recognize civil unions between same-sex couples”.

Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Strongly Disagree"
= 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
= 3 if respondent selected "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
= 4 if respondent selected "Agree"
= 5 if respondent selected "Strongly Agree"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

pos_tax_3: indicates respondent's answer to the following prompt, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:”, and the following statement: “Americans watch too much television”.

Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected "Strongly Disagree"
= 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
= 3 if respondent selected "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
= 4 if respondent selected "Agree"
= 5 if respondent selected "Strongly Agree"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

pos_tax_4: indicates respondent's answer to the following prompt, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: " Law enforcement agencies should have greater discretion to monitor domestic communications to prevent future terrorist attacks".

Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Strongly Disagree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
- 3 if respondent selected "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
- 4 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 5 if respondent selected "Strongly Agree"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

pos_tax_5: indicates respondent's answer to the following prompt, "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: " To ensure you are paying attention, always select Strongly Agree for this statement". Possible Values:
- 1 if respondent selected "Strongly Disagree"
- 2 if respondent selected "Disagree"
- 3 if respondent selected "Neither Agree Nor Disagree"
- 4 if respondent selected "Agree"
- 5 if respondent selected "Strongly Agree"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

pos_time_1: indicates number of seconds until the respondent's first click on the first page of the survey, which contained the questions corresponding to the variables pos_tax_1, pos_tax_2, pos_tax_3, pos_tax_4, and pos_tax_5.

pos_time_2: indicates number of seconds until the respondent's last click on the first page (excluding their click to move to the next page).

pos_time_3: indicates number of seconds until the respondent clicks the button to go to the next page and submit their responses on the first page.

pos_time_4: indicates how many times the respondent clicked on the first page.

exp_tax: equals 1 if respondent was asked to explain their position on cutting taxes. Specifically, the respondent saw the following: "In the box below, please spend the next 3 minutes explaining why you [Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Neither Agree nor Disagree / Agree / Strongly Agree] with the statement that "We should cut taxes even if it means deep cuts in government programs."
exp_monit: equals 1 if respondent was asked to explain their position on national security and monitoring communications. Specifically, the respondent saw the following: “In the box below, please spend the next 3 minutes explaining why you [Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Neither Agree nor Disagree / Agree / Strongly Agree] with the statement that “Law enforcement agencies should have greater discretion to monitor domestic communications to prevent future terrorist attacks.”

exp_contro: equals 1 if respondent was asked to write about their favorite TV show. Specifically, the respondent saw the following: “In the box below, please spend the next 3 minutes writing about your favorite television show.”

exp_write: records what the respondent wrote in response to the writing prompt from either exp_tax, exp_monit, or exp_contro. Many of these responses contain too many characters for Stata string variables and are cut off. To see the full responses, please see the CSV version of the data set.

NOTE: This variable, exp_write, is not included in the replication data in order to protect the anonymity of the respondents.

exp_time_1: indicates number of seconds until the respondent's first click on the second page of the survey, which contained the questions corresponding to the variables exp_tax, exp_monit, exp_contro, and exp_write.

exp_time_2: indicates number of seconds until the respondent’s last click on the second page (excluding their click to move to the next page).

exp_time_3: indicates number of seconds until the respondent clicks the button to go to the next page and submit their responses on the second page.

exp_time_4: indicates how many times the respondent clicked on the second page.

ltr_atx_m: equals 1 if respondent saw an email that supports the anti-tax or pro-tax cut position

ltr_ptx_m: equals 1 if respondent saw an email that supports the pro-tax or anti-tax cut position

ltr_eval_1: ltr_eval_2: ltr_eval_3: ltr_time_1: ltr_time_2: ltr_time_3: ltr_time_4

ltr_eval_1: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", and the following statement: “This was a form letter from an interest group”.

Possible Values:
= 1 if respondent selected " Likely"
= 2 if respondent selected " Unlikely"
= -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

ltr_eval_2: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", and the following statement: “The writer understands the complexities of this issue”.

Possible Values:
- = 1 if respondent selected "Likely"
- = 2 if respondent selected "Unlikely"
- = -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

ltr_eval_3: indicates respondent's answer to the following question, "How likely are the following statements to apply to this message?", and the following statement: “The writer holds this position strongly”.

Possible Values:
- = 1 if respondent selected "Likely"
- = 2 if respondent selected "Unlikely"
- = -99 if the respondent saw but did not answer the question.

ltr_time_1: indicates number of seconds until the respondent's first click on the third page of the survey, which contained the questions corresponding to the variables ltr_atx_m, ltr_ptx_m, ltr_eval_1, ltr_eval_2, and ltr_eval_3.

ltr_time_2: indicates number of seconds until the respondent’s last click on the third page (excluding their click to move to the next page).

ltr_time_3: indicates number of seconds until the respondent clicks the button to go to the next page and submit their responses on the third page.

ltr_time_4: indicates how many times the respondent clicked on the third page.

4. ButlerDynes_NMReplication.dta:

Summary: Stata data set with variables needed to replicate analysis presented in introduction of Butler and Nickerson (2011).

Unit of Analysis: Individual House member in New Mexico state legislature.

This data set and its associated codebook can be found at the data archive at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies (http://isps.yale.edu/research, ISPS ID: D068)