Measuring Agendas, and Positions on Agendas

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Abstract

Variation in agendas and positions on agendas are independently important. The former explains the kinds of issues people think are important, and the latter potentially explains people's positions on the issues. In this paper, we estimate variation on both these dimensions. To do this, we first estimate a supervised topic model using the bill labels from the Policy Agendas Project. Then within each of the topics, we estimate a model of slant using congressional speech as training data. Using this method, we scale 255 news programs across 50 television channels using original, and closed captions transcripts from these shows. We find large systematic variation in broad agendas of news media, and positions on those agendas.

Keywords: Media bias, ideology, supervised topic models, agenda bias

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Media are our 'window to the world.' What the media cover, and how they cover it, affects what we know about the world (**?**), influences which issues we think are important (**???**), and shapes how we think about those issues (for e.g. **??**). For instance, exogenous shocks to the amount of news coverage of disasters affect how much money is donated to disaster victims (**?**). By the same token, who people think is responsible for crime depends on whether the media frames the issue episodically or thematically (**?**). Suffice to say that both, what issues are covered in the news, and how they are covered matters.

Recent changes in news media—transition from mass media to new media—and the public, notably greater partisan animus (**?**), have raised worries about a particular kind of media bias—partisan bias. In the past decade, numerous studies have estimated partisan bias in the media using two broad strategies. Some scholars have estimated ideology of the media as a function of shared phrases used by the media and the members of congress, using extant measures of politicians' ideology to impute scores for the media (see, for e.g., **??**). Other set of scholars have exploited differences in audiences of various media outlets, using a structural model of consumption behavior to identify ideological location of news sources (see, for e.g., **??**).

Both these ways of estimating partisan bias, however, potentially conflate at least two distinct pathologies — what the media covers (the agenda) and how it covers it. In this paper, we attempt to pry apart these two important kinds of variation. We do so by first estimating a supervised topic model using a corpora of labeled Congressional Bills from the Policy Agendas Project (**?**). We then use the model to predict the topics covered in various news outlets. We find significant variation across media outlets but also significant correlation in topical coverage across time—news media cover the same issue at about the same time. We then predict the Congressional speech corpora to estimate the partisan slant of each topic. Building on work by **?** and **?**, we use this information to create a measure of partisan slant based on agendas of media outlets. And then as a last step, we partition our congressional speech corpora into topical domains and estimate slant within each domain. We then use this to estimate variation in how the same topic

is covered across outlets.

Why Distinguish Between Agendas and Positions on Agendas?

Consider a news organization that covers illegal immigration extensively. Without knowing anything more about the news organization, one would be hard pressed to say whether the news organization is for or against greater expenditure on border security. The news outlet could be Univision or the Fox News Channel or anything in between. For there is no necessary correlation between prioritizing an issue and position on the issue. Media organizations on all sides of the issue can think that an issue is important, and spend a great deal of time covering it.

Not only is the distinction between agendas and positions on agendas conceptually important, it is also important for understanding the consequences of exposure to media. For, exposure to an agenda may simply cause people to think a particular issue is important, and not affect their position on the issue. For instance, local media's coverage of crime may make both Republicans and Democrats more concerned about crime, but may not change the viewers' opinions about how to solve crime. In fact, the long-held commonly expressed worry about media's power has to do with how exposure to media informs how important people think an issue is, not media's ability to influence people's positions on the issues. In Cohen's oft-quoted words, "the press may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about" (?).

Affecting the importance of an issue can have important downstream consequences. In particular, agenda biases can affect partisan preferences. This is so because people believe that different parties are better at dealing with different issues—that the parties 'own' certain issues (?). For instance, people think that the Democratic Party is more competent at managing problems related to welfare, health care, and labor, while the Republicans are perceived as more competent

on defense (??). And 'priming' issues owned by a particular party can advantage that party (??). ?? build on that insight to describe variation in agenda of New York Times, and on economic issues by various newspapers, respectively.

Lastly, for very plausible reasons, agenda biases can have a larger influence people's preferences than exposure to explicit positions. The reasoning is straightforward— it is easy for people to discern the ideology based on explicit positions, and discount information that is uncongenial to them. However, it is likely that people are less aware of biases in agendas and their power to shape opinions. Selecting what information to reveal can thus produce bias even with rational agents (for relevant formal theoretic accounts, see ??).

Besides the potential effects of agenda biases on preferences on public preferences, agenda biases likely also affect policy making. ?, for instance, postulates that agendas of parties not just reflect stereotypes about competence that the parties can exploit, but also parties' legislative priorities. By focusing on a particular issue, a groundswell for dealing with that particular issue may be created. In all, distinguishing between agendas and positions on agendas may lead to a better understanding of effects of media.

Aside from reasons to do with better understanding effects of media by coding 'treatment' appropriately, differentiating between agenda and positions on the agenda may also be useful for creating better models of the economics of the media industry. A long literature in political science suggests that for a variety of reasons, some people are more interested in some issues than others (???). For instance, partly perhaps due to self-interest, older people are more interested (and informed) about issues to do with Medicare, and younger people are more informed about issues to do with student-lending and health insurance for the young. Interest in an issue can outstrip interest in listening to a particular position on the issue (?). To pursue the example of Medicare further, Americans over the age of 65 may be interested in all information to do with Medicare, not just, say the position of the Republican party. All in all, there exist a variety of important reasons to distinguish between agendas and positions on the agendas.

Expectations About (Co)-Variation in Agendas and Positions on Agendas

There are competing conjectures about whether or not we should see much variation in agendas of news outlets. At one end, there are good reasons to think that the agendas of media are highly constrained by real world events and politicians' agendas. At the other end, there are reasons to think that the media have ample opportunity to be entrepreneurial about the agendas, and have ample incentives to take advantage of those opportunities. We investigate either end of the pool sequentially, fleshing out the logic and other relevant hypothesis that stem from these postulates.

If we assume that the media organizations (actors, outlets) do not act as independent political players trying to influence the politics of the country, the account of media's agenda degenerates to following what the people want. This in turn may in turn may mean covering appropriate real world events, and following the congressional agenda. The congressional agenda in turn is influenced by the majority party (**?**).

The real world events may, however, dictate both the congress' and the media's agenda. In fact, one possibility is simply that the news media (and to some extent Congress) go from covering one 'salient' real world event to another (**??**). (What we mean by salient is theoretically debatable but appears to be widely agreed upon within the polity — mass murders in the U.S. for instance are nearly universally acknowledged as newsworthy these days.) For instance, when the mass murders happen in South Carolina.[1], the media focus on that event. And then some time later, another thing happens, and the news media changes its focus to that event.

The prediction from such kinds of models is that the media's agendas ought to be broadly similar. And that over-time correlation in agendas ought to be high. This also means that any ideological bias ought to come from how the events are covered. For instance, while covering the shooting, Fox News may emphasize that had the pastor been armed, the tragedy could have been

[1]See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charleston_church_shooting.

averted. On the other hand, MSNBC may emphasize the racial angle of the shooting. Or the Fox News may cover the racialization of the shooting by MSNBC. Or the MSNBC may decry the lack of discussion of race in shooting on conservative channels. The point is that the difference is less to do with what is covered and more to do with how it is covered.

But between these events, there are also fallow periods and other news programming that is less focused on current events. In those fallow periods, and on news programs less focused on covering current events, there is an opportunity for pursuing independent agendas. And we conjecture that the news outlets take this opportunity to cover issues that are important to them for one reason or another. For instance, some may pursue an issue because it is personally important to people in the editorial board. Or because the news media outlet is interested in building a groundswell of support for an issue it thinks can help their preferred party. Or for some other reason entirely.

In all, there exist good reasons to think both of the points are true—that media's agendas are largely constrained but do allow some opportunity for entrepreneurship. We empirically assess the extent to which the expectations hold. But before we do so, we describe the data, the measures, and our analytical strategy.

Data and Measures

Our first goal is to estimate the political agenda of the news media. In particular, we want to classify the topical content of transcripts of television news shows, and articles from variety of online news outlets. To do so, we start by training a supervised topic model based on bill labels produced by the Policy Agendas Project (PAP) (?). To accomplish this, we download the entire corpora of nearly 27,000 congressional bills and PAP's labels and other miscellanea for these bills. PAP labels congressional bills as belonging to one of 20 major issue areas, ranging from Macroeconomics to Immigration to Environment to Defense. Each of these major issue areas are

further sub-divided into sub-topics. (See **??** for all the subtopic labels per topic.) For instance, Macroeconomics is further subdivided into Inflation, Prices, and Interest Rates, Unemployment Rate, National Budget and Debt, etc. These sub-topics are informative, especially with regards to partisanship—for instance, Republicans are liable to speak more about budget deficits than Democrats, even though they may be no less interested in talking about Macroeconomics more generally — but to get a better sense of coverage of broad agendas, we start by estimating a model of how major topic areas relate to the text of the bills. The coherence of the topics in PAP labels is not particularly high. For instance, the topic 'Law, Crime, and Family Issues' spans from organized crime to child support. So, we also learn a model of 90 selected (with enough support) minor topic labels.

To estimate the model of how topic areas relate to text, we start with the standard text preprocessing stems of lemmatizing, removing 'stop words', and punctuation, losing all words less than 2 characters long, and converting all the words to lower case. We further assume a 1-, 2- Markov model of language, storing just frequency of bigrams and trigrams and removing order information. Since we plan to use the data to predict ideology of the news data, we take an additional step of removing bi- and tri-grams that either don't exist in our news database or occur than 20,000 times. (See **?** and **?**, among others who have used similar assumptions in modeling similar text.) Next, we split the data into a test-set (20%) and a training-set (80%). On the training set, we use Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier (**?**) to model the relationship between classes and phrases.

$$\|w\|^2 + C\sum_{i=1}^{m}\xi_i$$

$$\text{subject to: } y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \xi_i \geq 0$$

The out of sample accuracy for the model is approximately 80%. Figure **??** plots the out-of-sample confusion matrix of actual and predicted labels when we predict major topics, and

figure ?? the boxplot of accuracy scores for minor topics. ?? shows the top 20 predictors of each of the topics.

Figure 1: Out of Sample Confusion Matrix for Major Topics

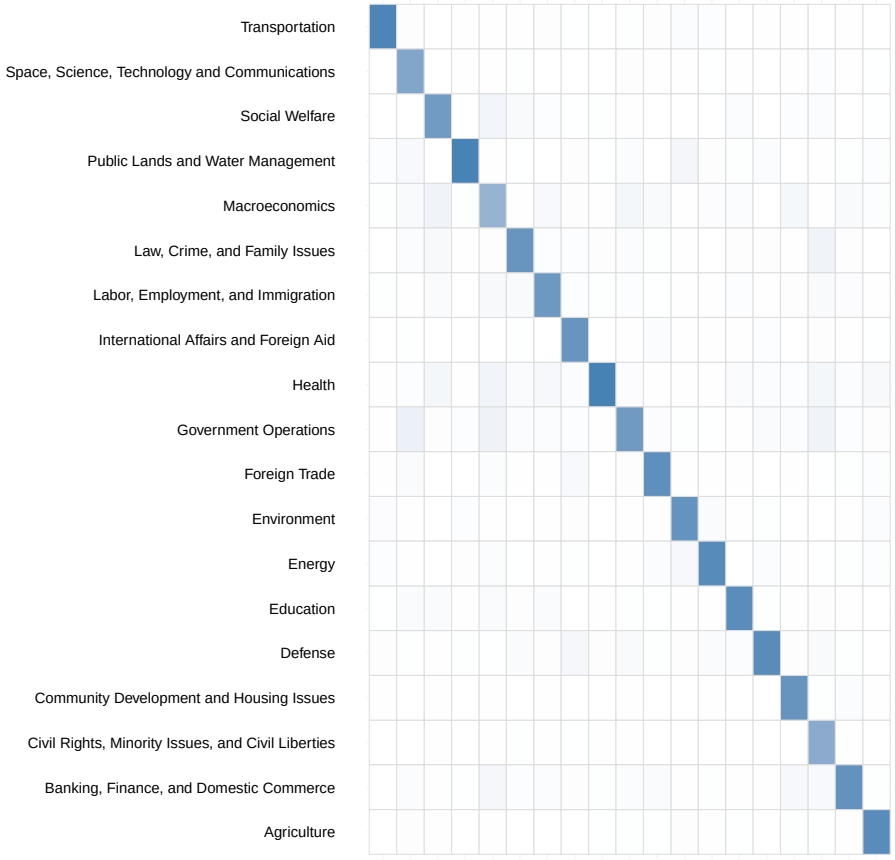
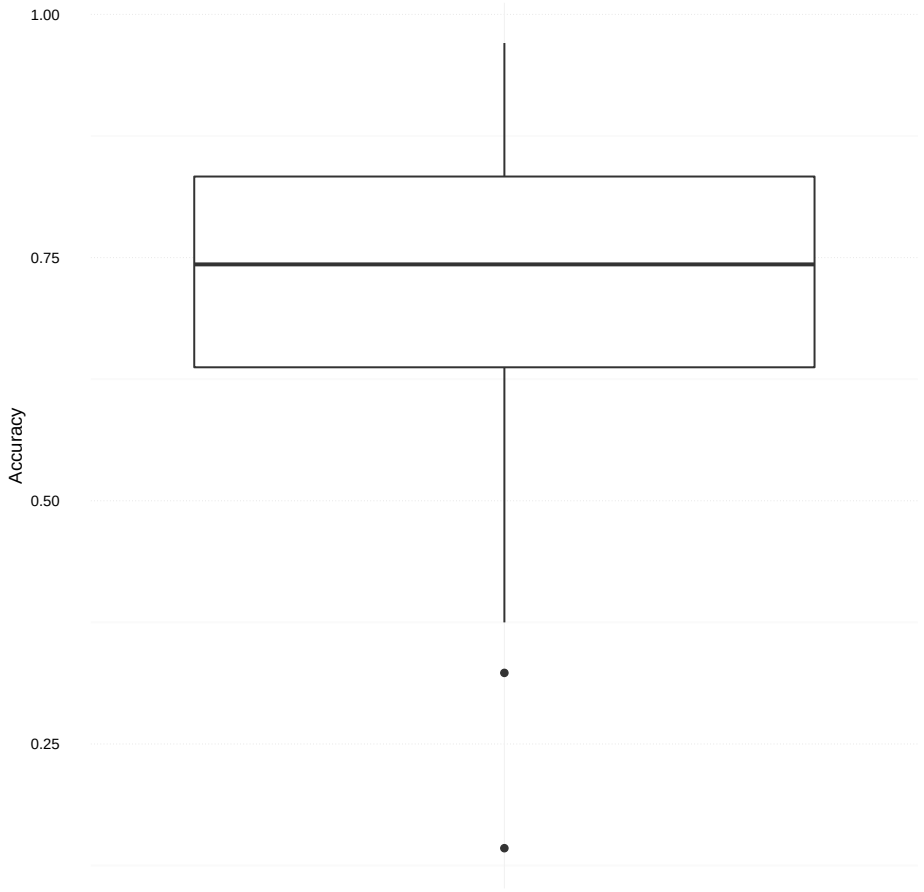


Figure 2: Distribution of Out of Sample Accuracy for Minor Topics



To estimate the relationship between parties and emphasis on different topical areas, we use three training sets—congressional speech corpora for the 111th and the 112th congress, party manifestos of the two major parties over the past 20 years, and the 100 recent most Facebook wall posts of members of congress (as of October 2015).[2] We preprocessed the data as before. Next, using the model we estimate above, we predict all the congressional corpora. We next calculate

[2]We downloaded the congressional speech data using a python module that interfaces with the CapitolWords API by the Sunlight Foundation. We accessed manifesto data via the manifestos project (?). For the Facebook data, we relied on R package, RFacebook, an R Client for the Facebook API.

the extent to which an average Republican talks more about a topic than an average Democrat by predicting the topics of all the speech and the Facebook wall posts corpora. We synthesize the information as the extent to which Republicans speak about it more often than Democrats. Everything is rescaled from -1 to 1 where -1 is where Republicans speak about it all the time, and Democrats never, 0 reflecting a case where Democrats and Republicans speak about it equally and 1 where only Democrats speak on a topic.

Lastly, we predict news data. Our textual news data originates from several sources. And importantly, it focuses on television news, still a major source of political information for most Americans (**?**).[3] We acquired broadcast transcripts from Fox News, CNNfn (CNN's now-defunct financial news network), CNN International, and MSNBC from NewsBank, a provider of full-text archives from a range of news sources, from 2000 to 2012. We supplemented this data with text transcripts from the Internet Archive (2009-2012) and the University of California, Los Angeles Closed Caption archive (LACC, 2006–2012) covering shows from CNBC, CNN, Current TV, Fox News, and MSNBC. In total we have data on more than 50 television channels, and 255 shows, e.g. NBC Nightly News, O'Reilly Factor, Countdown, CBS Evening News etc. Finally, we were able to download the text of stories posted to http://cnn.com (2000–2014) and http://msnbc.com (2010–2014) websites. We subset the data to shows with at least 100 transcripts each. And again we preprocess the text data — stemming, removing stop-words and punctuation etc. as before. The table in the Appendix (see **??**) provides details on the number of transcripts in our combined data by show as well as the date range for each.

Our next goal is to predict slant within agendas. For this purpose we use speech data from the 111th and the 112th Congress.[4] While our eventual aim is to predict slant among all

[3]For more recent data, see How Americans Get Their News, a 2014 report by the American Press Institute, and results of the 2013 Gallup Survey.

[4]The time period for our media data is much longer and ideally we want to predict only contemporaneous data to account for changes in cleavages, phrases used to fight the same ideological

topics, we for now limits ourselves to the salient issue of immigration. Within the congressional speech classified as to be on the topic of immigration, we estimate a model predicting party of the speaker, once again using SVM within Vowpal Wabbit.

Results

Variation in Agendas

If all the media organizations prayed from the same book—current events (and similar biases on what is news worthy) and congressional agenda—we would expect the distribution of topics within media to be broadly the same. On the other hand, if the media organizations exercised discretion in what to cover or had different preferences, we would expect heterogeneity in the frequency with which various topics are covered. To study the question, we looked at the frequency with which various topics are covered in various news channels. We define the quantity of interest as proportion of net coverage devoted to a topic. Alternate definitions—for e.g., total coverage of an issue—are reasonable but sensitive to frequency of news program, etc.[5]

For illustration, we limit ourselves to television channel-level aggregates. For focusing attention on crucial details, we limit ourselves to five topics, chosen mostly for variety and importance—immigration, education and macroeconomics. Figure **??** plots the distribution of the topics across channels. As we can see, there is healthy variation.

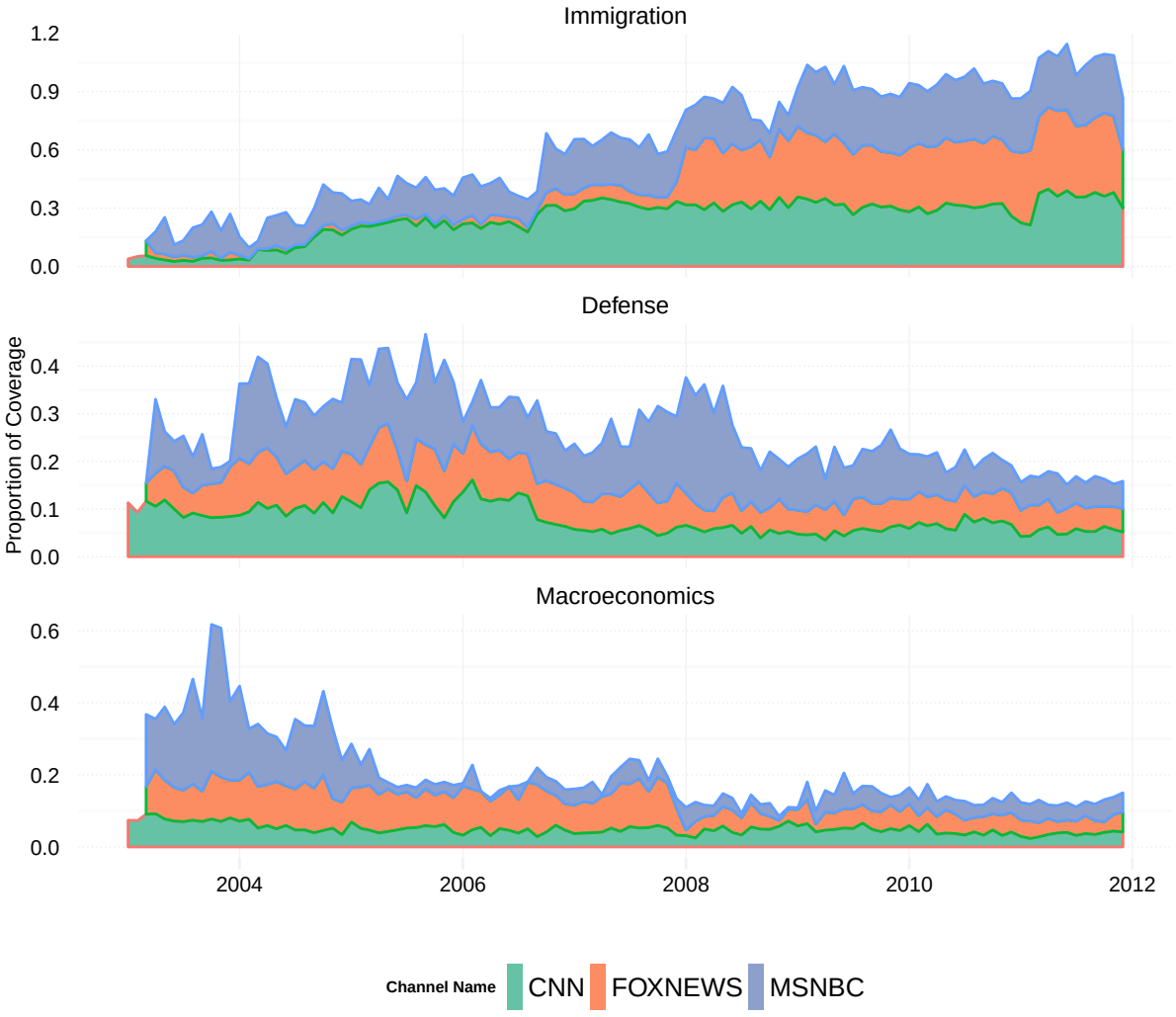
However, this healthy variation hides a fair bit of co-variation. Figure **??** shows topical coverage across channels across time. As we can see, coverage co-varies a bit. In fact, the average

battles, etc. over time. We plan to do that in the next iteration.

[5]On television, there is a large opportunity cost for covering a topic. In a medium like newspapers or the Internet, a news media organization can cover multiple issues in depth as space is much less constrained.

across-time correlation in proportion of coverage devoted to an issue across the eight channels is .47. For a noisy series, this is a pretty strong correlation. Average correlation in changes in coverage across issues — with month as a unit (the optimal unit of time likely varies by issue)—also has a pulse—it is .33. This suggests that switches in focus across time are somewhat systematic, likely a consequence of exogenous factors.

Figure 3: Over Time Variation in Agendas



Partisanship of Agendas

Next, we estimate the partisanship of the agendas. But before we present the results, a couple of caveats about interpretation. The current estimates only come from predicting Congressional speech text, which, as we note, is vastly constrained. We plan to discern partisanship of the agendas through 'speech' on less constrained media, such as manifestos and Facebook data, in the next iteration of the paper. Second, the Policy Agenda Project major topics are exceedingly crude and we pool over over much meaningful variation.

After adjusting for different numbers of Democrats and Republicans, the data show that the share of Republican speech on an issue doesn't ever exceed or lag the speech by Democrats by more than 15%. Figure **??** shows share of Republican (Democrat) speech on topics. There are some expected patterns in the data. Republicans speak more than Democrats on immigration, while Democrats speak more than Republicans on civil rights issues.

Figure 4: Partisanship of Agendas

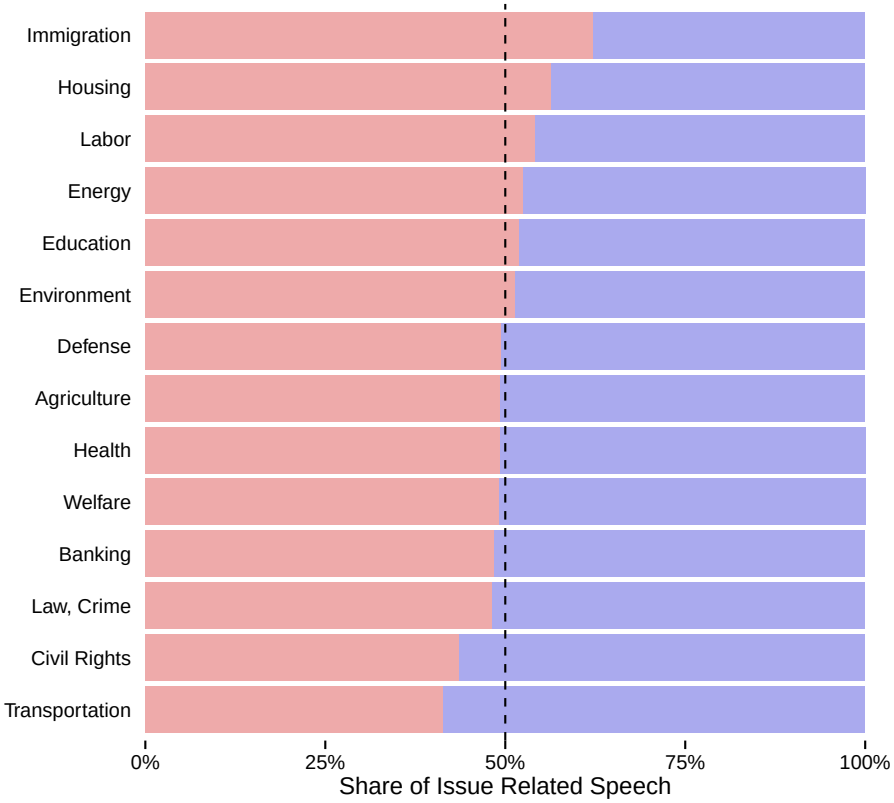


Figure 5: Partisanship of Agendas Over Time: Macro-economics

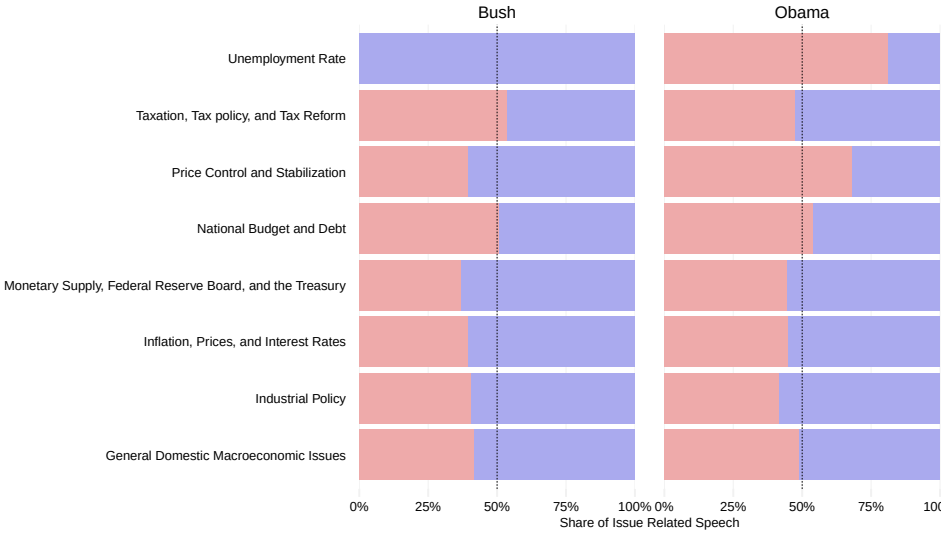
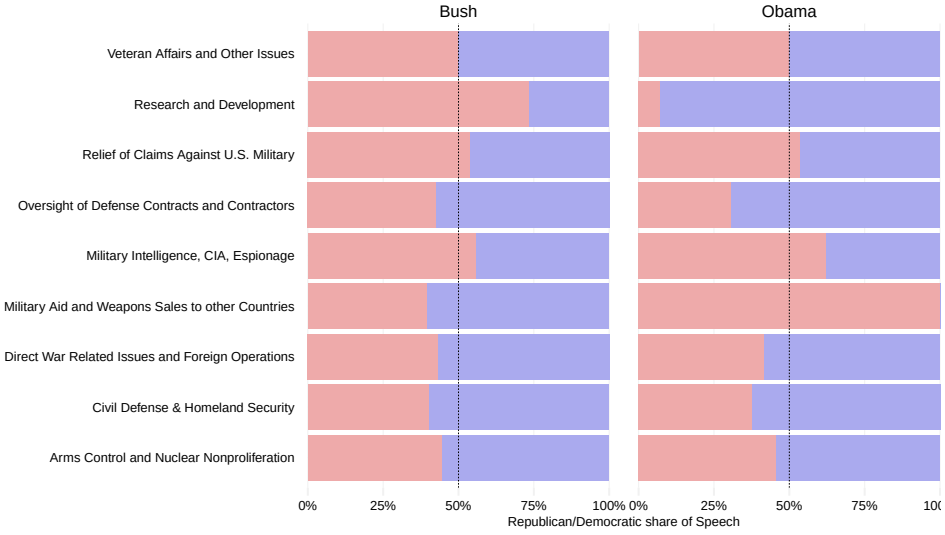


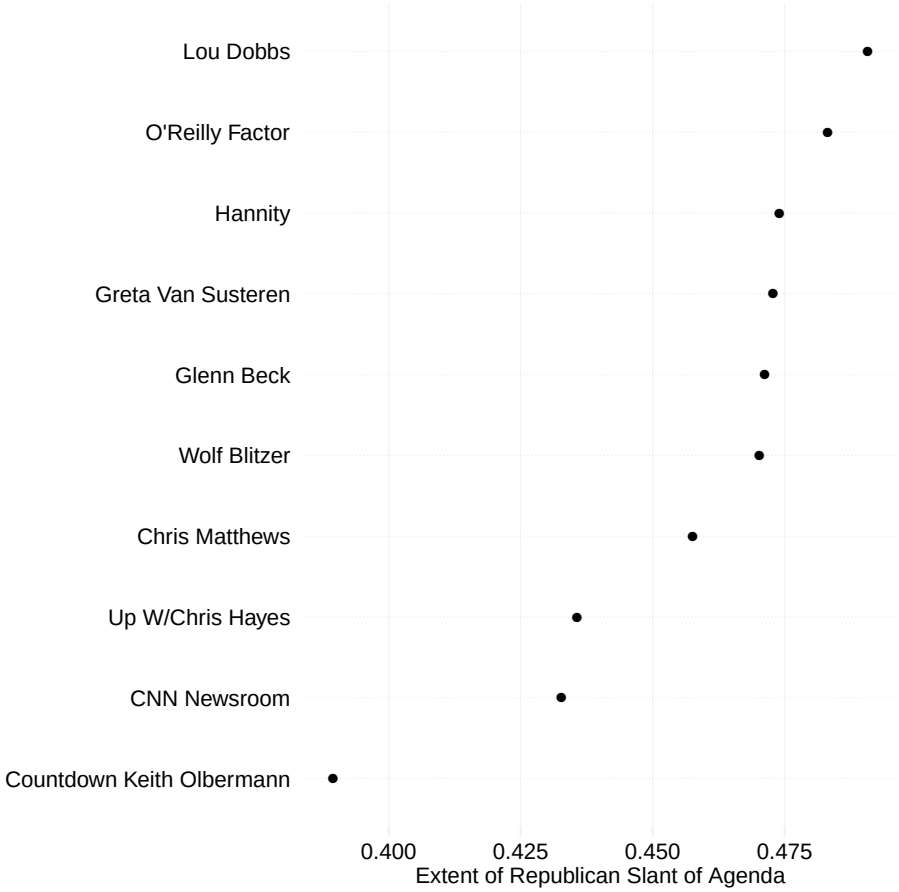
Figure 6: Partisanship of Agendas Over Time: Defense



Partisan Agendas

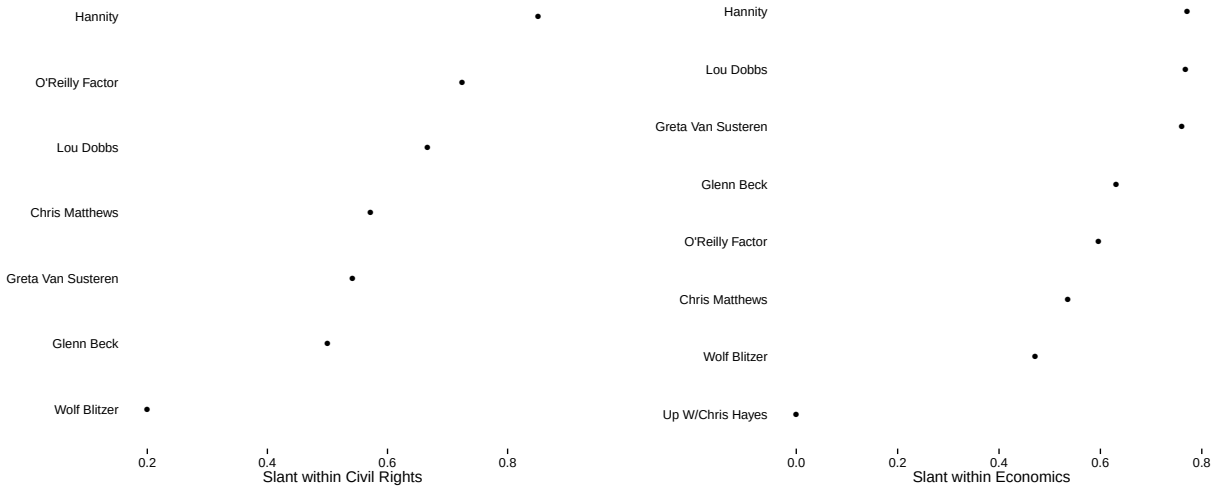
Next, we scale partisanship of shows by their agendas. Again, before we discuss the results, we would like to issue a couple of caveats about interpretation. Even if a show focuses on a particular issue that advantages a party, it doesn't mean that the reasons the show's editors focused on the issue were partisan. External factors, unrelated to partisanship, may be to blame. For instance, the New York Times may cover poverty more often because it is founded in an urban environment with a high proportion of people suffering from poverty. So any partisan agenda may be accidental. Second, we only estimate bias in topics included in the Policy Agendas Projects. This is not a complete (though likely a large) universe of topics. Figure **??** presents distribution of partisanship of shows (extent to which the agenda across the Policy Agendas Topics is Democratic) nested within channels. The overall variation is compressed, partly as a result of choice of crude topics, none of which have an overwhelming partisan slant, and partly because the shows don't focus exclusively on the most partisan topics. Despite these issues, you can see that the median of Fox News is to the right of MSNBC, CNN, and other network channels.

Figure 7: Partisanship of Agendas



Positions within Agendas

Lastly, we focus on estimating positions within agendas. For now, we limit ourselves to just one topic—civil rights. As we discuss, we use congressional speech on the topic of immigration as training data. Using a model trained on the congressional data, we impute the partisanship of various television shows on the issue. We cluster the estimates by channel. Figure **??** shows the extent to which the slant is Democratic for each show on civil rights. Again Fox News median is to the right but there is a lot of overlap across channels.



Discussion

The power of the agenda has been extensively discussed in political science. And forms basis of some work on measuring media bias (**?**, see for instance,). In fact, the most general model of thinking about media bias is to posit a neutral source and then observe whether different media organizations selectively cover various issues. This forms the basis of research by (**?**) who show that editorial judgments about placement of various news items is affected by ideology. We extend the research here, creating a supervised topic model based on Policy Agenda Topics, estimating partisanship of the agendas using political speech as training data, and then using both to describe variation in agendas and variation in slant within agendas. Our research contributes to the media effects literature in creating more nuanced measures that allow us to better measure media's political consequences.

Our research also contributes to understanding on ideological scaling of media sources. Many recent attempts to scale ideology of news sources have relied on labeled political speech as training data to model the relationship between words and ideology (**??**). However, language similarly can be driven by agendas that politicians pursue as much as positions on those agendas.

What are the implications of our research for the measurement of ideological slant using congressional speech data as training data for building one model for relationship between words and ideology? There are potentially a couple. As we note above, language similarly can be driven by agendas that politicians pursue as much as positions on those agendas. Thus, the agendas of congress and media likely have to be largely concordant for models trained on congressional speech to yield valid indicators of differences in positions on issues. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, media's ideology has also to be uni-dimensional. If media's positions on issues lie on more than one-dimension, congressional speech as training data to recover estimates of a generic ideological scale may not be enough. The model may still yield valid scores along the dimension of conflict spanned by congress, but it may not be enough.

Like others, we struggle with how we define a topic. To call something a topic doesn't make it a coherent entity. And a careful exegesis of Policy Agendas Projects labels for bills suggests that conceptual coherence of many of the major topic labels is debatable. In the next iteration of the paper, we plan to focus on more coherent minor topic labels in the Policy Agendas Project. But even doing so leaves open many questions. For even within a subtopic of taxation, there are a variety of policy issues. For instance, estate tax, corporate tax, etc. And that strikes us as a reasonable next step.

Supporting Information

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SI 1 Summary of the Media Data

Our text data originates from several sources. Here we summarize the number of transcripts in our combined data by show, as well as the specific data source and date range for each.

Table SI 1.1: Summary of the network, date range, and number of transcripts for each show in the text data.

Show	Network	From	To	# of Transcripts
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue	MSNBC	11/05/2008	04/03/2009	108
ABC News Good Morning America	ABC	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	2685
ABC World News David Muir	ABC	02/19/2011	09/10/2012	277
ABC World News Diane Sawyer	ABC	12/21/2009	09/13/2012	1549
ABC World News Now	ABC	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	2043
ABC World News Saturday	ABC	02/10/2007	08/20/2011	175
ABC World News Sunday	ABC	12/20/2009	02/21/2011	468
ABCs World News Charles Gibson	ABC	07/02/2009	12/18/2009	216
Abrams Report	MSNBC	07/03/2007	08/29/2008	1249
Ahead of the Curve	CNN	12/19/2000	04/03/2001	1908
All In Chris Hayes	MSNBC			163
AM Wake Up Call	CNN	06/27/2011	01/03/2012	260
America Live	FOXNEWS	02/01/2010	09/12/2012	733
American Morning	CNN	04/22/2003	12/30/2011	13544
American Morning Paula Zahn	CNN	01/07/2002	04/21/2003	5231
American Morning: Wake Up Call	CNN	06/27/2011	12/09/2011	119
Americas Election Hq	FOXNEWS	04/22/2008	01/02/2009	180
Americas News HQ	FOXNEWS	07/03/2011	09/09/2012	1162
Americas Newsroom	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	836
Anderson Cooper	CNN	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	9861
Andrea Mitchell Reports	MSNBC	07/07/2009	09/12/2012	781
Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown	CNN	04/14/2013	03/02/2014	120
Around the World	CNN	02/25/2013	02/07/2014	440
Asia Tonight	CNN	05/14/2001	09/10/2001	360
Beltway Boys	FOXNEWS	01/29/2005	12/15/2007	199
Big Story	FOXNEWS	01/19/2004	12/20/2007	11673
Biz	CNN	06/05/2003	09/20/2004	988

Biz Asia	CNN	05/01/2001	09/11/2001	326
Breaking News	CNN	04/04/2001	12/10/2013	5708
Buchanan & Press	MSNBC	04/03/2003	11/25/2003	158
Bulls & Bears	FOXNEWS	07/04/2009	09/08/2012	169
Burden of Proof	CNN	04/05/2001	10/06/2001	409
CBS Evening News	CBS	07/04/2009	09/10/2012	2239
CBS Evening News Katie Couric	CBS	07/02/2009	06/04/2011	1085
CBS Evening News Russ Mitchell	CBS	07/12/2009	01/02/2012	173
CBS Evening News Scott Pelley	CBS	06/08/2011	09/12/2012	696
CBS Morning News	CBS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	1647
CBS News Sunday Morning	CBS	07/05/2009	09/09/2012	764
CBS This Morning	CBS	01/10/2012	09/12/2012	350
CNN Election Center	CNN	02/19/2008	12/25/2008	177
CNN Money Morning	CNN	06/06/2003	09/20/2004	624
CNN Newsroom	CNN	07/02/2009	09/13/2012	6653
CNN Presents	CNN	08/30/2009	08/26/2012	502
CNN Saturday Morning	CNN	07/04/2009	03/10/2012	253
CNN Sunday Morning	CNN	07/05/2009	03/11/2012	145
CNN in Session	CNN	09/28/2011	11/08/2011	261
CNN: Special Investigations Unit	CNN	01/20/2007	10/16/2011	278
CNNs Amanpour	CNN	09/21/2009	03/07/2014	691
Campbell Brown	CNN	06/03/2009	07/21/2010	664
Capital Gang	CNN	04/07/2001	06/25/2005	225
Cashin in	FOXNEWS	07/04/2009	09/08/2012	259
Cavuto on Business	FOXNEWS	07/06/2009	09/08/2012	207
Cenk Uygur	MSNBC	01/25/2011	02/29/2012	286
Chris Matthews	MSNBC	07/02/2009	09/13/2012	3344
Connect the World	CNN	01/27/2010	03/07/2014	1055
Connie Chung Tonight	CNN	06/24/2002	03/19/2003	187
Countdown	MSNBC	04/10/2003	03/28/2011	4192
Crossfire	CNN	04/05/2001	03/07/2014	1447
Daily Rundown	MSNBC	01/11/2010	09/13/2012	1283
Deborah Norville Tonight	MSNBC	01/21/2004	01/13/2005	228
Diplomatic License	CNN	07/07/2001	11/10/2006	267
Dolans Unscripted	CNN	11/10/2003	09/20/2004	745
Dr. Drew	CNN	04/04/2011	03/06/2014	648
Dylan Ratigan Show	MSNBC	01/14/2010	08/29/2012	707
Early Edition	CNN	01/04/2000	03/02/2001	2868
Early Start	CNN	12/16/2013	03/07/2014	230

Early Start Ashleigh Banfield & Zoraida Sambolin	CNN	01/02/2012	08/08/2012	315
Early Start John Berman & Zoraida Sambolin	CNN	08/09/2012	12/13/2013	1046
Ed Show	MSNBC	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	4219
Election Center	CNN	03/25/2008	11/14/2008	668
Erin Burnett Out Front	CNN	10/06/2011	02/29/2012	1122
Fareed Zakaria Gps	CNN	06/01/2008	03/02/2014	850
First Evening News	CNN	07/02/2001	12/06/2001	188
First Look	MSNBC	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	797
Five	FOXNEWS	07/12/2011	09/12/2012	673
Flipside	CNN	04/01/2003	09/20/2004	1431
Forbes on Fox	FOXNEWS	07/06/2009	09/09/2012	227
Fox & Friends	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	2114
Fox Morning News	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	2631
Fox News Live	FOXNEWS	09/29/2006	02/29/2012	2811
Fox News Sunday	FOXNEWS	04/06/2003	01/23/2005	642
Fox News Sunday Chris Wallace	FOXNEWS	07/05/2009	09/10/2012	936
Fox News Watch	FOXNEWS	07/04/2009	09/09/2012	637
Fox Online	FOXNEWS	09/29/2006	02/29/2012	1409
Fox Report	FOXNEWS	07/04/2009	09/10/2012	252
Fox Special Report Brit Hume	FOXNEWS	03/31/2003	01/25/2005	2907
Geraldo	FOXNEWS	07/05/2009	08/27/2012	696
Glenn Beck	CNN	05/05/2006	10/16/2008	2471
Greenfield at Large	CNN	06/04/2001	02/15/2002	174
Greta Van Susteren	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	11744
Half Hour News Hour	FOXNEWS	02/18/2007	09/11/2011	238
Hannity	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	12075
Happening Now	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	857
Hardball	MSNBC	09/24/2002	04/29/2014	5371
Huckabee	FOXNEWS	07/05/2009	09/10/2012	791
In the Arena	CNN	02/28/2011	05/01/2012	213
In the Money	CNN	01/25/2003	08/05/2007	370
Inside Africa	CNN	05/19/2001	08/01/2009	395
Inside Politics	CNN	04/05/2001	03/02/2014	802
Insight	CNN	03/04/2002	01/30/2007	1041
International Asia Tonight	CNN	04/04/2001	05/11/2001	241
International Correspondents	CNN	11/15/2002	07/18/2009	291
International World News	CNN	01/04/2000	12/05/2000	1086
Issue Number One	CNN	03/17/2008	08/22/2008	113
Jane Velez-Mitchell	CNN	10/17/2008	03/14/2012	1389

Jansing & Co.	MSNBC	10/18/2010	09/12/2012	692
John King	CNN	07/05/2009	06/21/2012	2061
Journal Editorial Report	FOXNEWS	07/12/2009	09/09/2012	617
Joy Behar Show	CNN	09/29/2009	12/30/2011	580
Judy Woodruffs Inside Politics	CNN	04/23/2003	06/16/2005	541
Kabc 7 News at 11pm	ABC	12/20/2010	02/29/2012	313
Larry King	CNN	01/01/2000	04/03/2001	7026
Last Word	MSNBC	10/01/2010	09/12/2012	1437
Late Edition Wolf Blitzer	CNN	04/08/2001	11/21/2010	640
Lawrence Odonnell	MSNBC			1461
Legal View Ashleigh Banfield	CNN	08/12/2013	03/07/2014	286
Live Dan Abrams	MSNBC	07/05/2007	03/13/2008	173
Live Desk	FOXNEWS	07/09/2009	04/28/2011	109
Live Event	CNN	10/19/2006	09/21/2011	385
Live Event/Special	CNN	04/05/2001	03/02/2014	6505
Live From...	CNN	04/21/2003	09/01/2006	4924
Live Saturday	CNN	04/26/2003	05/22/2010	1454
Live Sunday	CNN	04/27/2003	09/17/2006	1012
Live This Morning	CNN	04/04/2001	11/15/2001	2779
Live Today	CNN	04/04/2001	09/01/2006	12158
Live at Daybreak	CNN	04/04/2001	11/25/2005	11292
Live from the Headlines	CNN	04/23/2003	09/05/2003	1510
Live on Location	CNN	02/01/2002	04/18/2003	1626
Lou Dobbs	CNN	05/14/2001	02/04/2002	3186
MSNBC Live	MSNBC	01/26/2011	09/13/2012	705
MSNBC Live Cenk Uygur	MSNBC	02/02/2011	08/09/2011	130
MSNBC News Live	MSNBC	07/02/2009	11/16/2011	2188
MSNBC News Saturday	MSNBC	09/27/2008	12/11/2010	115
MSNBC News Sunday	MSNBC	09/28/2008	12/12/2010	115
MSNBC Special	MSNBC	03/31/2003	04/02/2014	2902
Market Call	CNN	06/06/2003	09/20/2004	3142
Martin Bashir	MSNBC	03/01/2011	09/13/2012	319
Meet the Press	MSNBC	07/06/2009	09/10/2012	473
Melissa Harris-Perry	MSNBC			397
Money & Markets	CNN	04/02/2003	06/29/2004	1979
Money Gang	CNN	03/31/2003	09/20/2004	3063
Moneyline News Hour	CNN	01/02/2000	04/03/2001	308
Morning Joe	MSNBC	07/09/2009	09/12/2012	680
Morning News	CNN	01/04/2000	03/02/2001	4392

Mornings Paula Zahn	CNN	11/15/2001	01/07/2002	697
Nancy Grace	CNN	02/21/2005	03/07/2014	2448
New Day	CNN	06/17/2013	03/07/2014	1392
News Live	MSNBC	09/29/2006	02/29/2012	2794
News Nation	MSNBC	10/18/2010	09/12/2012	606
News Site	CNN	04/05/2001	10/30/2001	707
News Stream	CNN	01/05/2011	03/07/2014	718
News Sunday	FOXNEWS	01/30/2005	12/16/2007	1330
News Watch	FOXNEWS	01/29/2005	12/15/2007	526
News from CNN	CNN	04/22/2003	06/03/2005	1508
Newsday	CNN	01/04/2000	03/02/2001	1015
Newsnight Aaron Brown	CNN	11/05/2001	11/04/2005	1129
Newsroom	CNN	04/04/2001	02/12/3007	29224
Newsroom/World View	CNN	01/05/2000	04/03/2001	299
Next@cnn	CNN	02/09/2002	08/27/2005	188
Now Alex Wagner	MSNBC	11/17/2011	09/12/2012	190
On the Story	CNN	02/08/2003	06/04/2006	164
Open House	CNN	02/05/2005	09/12/2009	189
Oreilly Factor	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	16086
Parker Spitzer	CNN	10/05/2010	03/19/2011	276
Paula Zahn Now	CNN	09/08/2003	08/02/2007	1085
People in the News	CNN	04/07/2001	12/10/2005	221
Piers Morgan	CNN	03/22/2013	03/07/2014	3483
Politicsnation	MSNBC	08/29/2011	09/13/2012	1711
Presents	CNN	04/29/2001	11/30/2013	621
Q&a;	CNN	10/22/2001	01/23/2004	244
Q&a; Jim Clancy	CNN	11/29/2001	09/24/2003	409
Q&a; Zain Verjee	CNN	11/29/2001	02/04/2003	277
Quest Means Business	CNN	08/10/2009	03/07/2014	1186
Race for White House	MSNBC	03/17/2008	11/04/2008	162
Rachel Maddow Show	MSNBC	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	5341
Red Eye	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	1103
Reliable Sources	CNN	04/07/2001	03/02/2014	1035
Ricks List	CNN	01/18/2010	10/01/2010	793
Sanjay Gupta	CNN	04/10/2004	01/02/2010	799
Saturday	CNN	04/07/2001	04/19/2003	2678
Saturday Morning News	CNN	04/07/2001	06/15/2013	4958
Saturday Night	CNN	02/02/2002	09/16/2006	654
Scarborough Country	MSNBC	09/29/2006	06/29/2007	1565

Shepard Smith	FOXNEWS	07/02/2009	09/12/2012	3499
Showbiz Today	CNN	01/04/2000	12/29/2000	211
Showbiz Tonight	CNN	02/21/2005	02/06/2014	2292
Showdown: Iraq	CNN	11/14/2002	04/03/2003	485
Situation Room	CNN	07/08/2009	09/12/2012	4667
Special Event	CNN	01/01/2000	04/03/2001	1518
Special Report Bret Baier	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/12/2012	2615
Special Report Brit Hume	FOXNEWS	09/29/2006	01/02/2009	4899
Starting Point	CNN	01/02/2012	09/13/2012	156
Starting Point Soledad Obrien	CNN	01/02/2012	06/14/2013	1051
State of Union	CNN	01/18/2009	08/28/2011	177
State of the Union	CNN	01/28/2010	09/09/2012	336
State of the Union Candy Crowley	CNN	02/07/2010	03/02/2014	251
Stossel	FOXNEWS	05/14/2011	09/09/2012	127
Street Sweep	CNN	04/01/2003	09/20/2004	3816
Student News	CNN	01/22/2002	03/07/2014	678
Sunday	CNN	04/08/2001	04/20/2003	1654
Sunday Morning	CNN	04/08/2001	05/19/2013	3966
Sunday Morning News	CNN	01/09/2000	04/01/2001	782
Sunday Night	CNN	02/03/2002	09/22/2006	595
Talk Asia	CNN	01/19/2011	02/20/2014	153
Talkback Live	CNN	04/05/2001	03/07/2003	764
The Lead Jake Tapper	CNN	03/18/2013	03/07/2014	496
The Situation Room	CNN	08/08/2005	03/07/2014	6056
This Week at War	CNN	06/10/2006	01/12/2008	153
Today	CNN	01/04/2000	03/07/2001	3198
Tonight	CNN	04/05/2001	05/27/2010	830
Tucker Carlson	MSNBC	10/13/2006	03/14/2008	361
Up Steve Kornacki	MSNBC	04/13/2013	04/27/2014	102
Up w/Chris Hayes	MSNBC	10/08/2011	09/09/2012	493
Way Too Early Willie Geist	MSNBC	08/10/2009	09/12/2012	590
Weekends Alex Witt	MSNBC	10/01/2011	09/09/2012	180
Wolf Blitzer Reports	CNN	04/05/2001	04/25/2009	1241
World Business Today	CNN	01/18/2011	03/30/2012	451
World Report	CNN	04/08/2001	09/09/2001	706
Worldview	CNN	01/04/2000	01/08/2001	1748
Your Bottom Line	CNN	01/24/2009	04/27/2013	347
Your Business	MSNBC	07/04/2009	09/09/2012	339
Your Money	CNN	07/15/2007	03/01/2014	2577

Your World Neil Cavuto	FOXNEWS	07/03/2009	09/13/2012	3830
Your World Today	CNN	01/13/2004	01/25/2008	1338

SI 2 Policy Agendas Topics

Table SI 2.2: Details of Policy Agenda Topics

Topic ID	Topic Name	Topic Details
1	Macroeconomics	General Domestic Macroeconomic Issues, Inflation, Prices, and Interest Rates, Unemployment Rate, Monetary Supply, Federal Reserve Board, and the Treasury, National Budget and Debt, Taxation, Tax policy, and Tax Reform, Industrial Policy, Price Control and Stabilization, Other
2	Civil Rights	Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties, General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Ethnic Minority and Racial Group Discrimination, Gender and Sexual Orientation Discrimination, Age Discrimination, Handicap or Disease Discrimination, Voting Rights, Participation, and Related Issues, Freedom of Speech & Religion, Right to Privacy and Access to Government Information, Anti-Government Activities, Other
3	Health	General, Comprehensive health care reform, Insurance reform, availability, and cost, Regulation of drug industry, medical devices, and clinical labs, Facilities construction, regulation, and payments, Provider and insurer payment and regulation, Medical liability, fraud and abuse, Health Manpower & Training, Prevention, communicable diseases and health promotion, Infants and children, Mental illness and mental retardation, Long-term care, home health, terminally ill, and rehabilitation services, Prescription drug coverage and costs, Other or multiple benefits and procedures, Tobacco Abuse, Treatment, and Education, Alcohol/Controlled and Illegal Drug Abuse, Treatment, and Education, Research and development, Other
4	Agriculture	General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Agricultural Trade, Government Subsidies to Farmers and Ranchers, Agricultural Disaster Insurance, Food Inspection and Safety (including seafood), Agricultural Marketing, Research, and Promotion, Animal and Crop Disease, Pest Control, and Domesticated Animal Welfare, Fisheries and Fishing, Agricultural Research and Development, Other
5	Labor	Employment, and Immigration, General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Worker Safety and Protection, Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA), Employment Training and Workforce Development, Employee Benefits, Employee Relations and Labor Unions, Fair Labor Standards, Youth Employment, Youth Job Corps Programs, and Child Labor, Parental Leave and Child Care, Migrant and Seasonal workers, Farm Labor Is, Other
6	Education	General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Education of Underprivileged Students, Vocational Education, Special Education, Educational Excellence, Arts and Humanities, Research and Development, Other
7	Environment	General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Drinking Water Safety, Waste Disposal, Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Regulation, Treatment, and Disposal, Air pollution, Global Warming, and Noise Pollution, Recycling, Indoor Environmental Hazards, Species and Forest Protection, Pollution and Conservation in Coastal & Other Navigable Waterways, Land and Water Conservation, Research and Development, Other

8	Energy	General, Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issues, Electricity and Hydroelectricity, Natural Gas and Oil (Including Offshore Oil and Gas), Coal, Alternative and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation, Research and Development, Other
9	Immigration	Immigration and Refugee Issues
10	Transportation	General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Mass Transportation and Safety, Highway Construction, Maintenance, and Safety, Airports, Airlines, Air Traffic Control and Safety, Railroad Transportation and Safety, Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety, Maritime Issues, Including Safety and Security, Public Works (Infrastructure Development), Research and Development, Other
12	Law	Crime, and Family Issues, General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics), Executive Branch Agencies Dealing With Law and Crime, White Collar Crime and Organized Crime, Illegal Drug Production, Trafficking, and Control, Court Administration, Prisons, Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice System, Child Abuse and Child Pornography, Family Issues, Police, Fire, and Weapons Control, Criminal and Civil Code, Riots, Crime Prevention, and Crime Control, Other
13	Social Welfare	General, Food Stamps, Food Assistance, and Nutrition Monitoring Programs, Poverty and Assistance for Low-Income Families and Individuals, Elderly Issues and Elderly Assistance Programs (Including Social Security Administration), Assistance to the Disabled and Handicapped, Social Services and Volunteer Associations, Other
14	Community Development and Housing Issues	General, Housing and Community Development, Urban Economic Development and General Urban Issues, Rural Housing and FmHA Housing Assistance Programs, Rural Economic Development, Low and Middle Income Housing Programs and Needs, Veterans Housing Assistance and Military Housing Programs, Elderly and Handicapped Housing, Housing Assistance for Homeless and Homeless Issues, Secondary Mortgage Market, Other
15	Banking	Finance, and Domestic Commerce, General, U.S. Banking System and Financial Institution Regulation, Securities and Commodities Regulation, Consumer Finance, Mortgages, and Credit Cards, Insurance Regulation, Bankruptcy, Corporate Mergers, Antitrust Regulation, and Corporate Management Issues, Small Business Issues and the Small Business Administration, Copyrights and Patents, Domestic Disaster Relief, Tourism, Consumer Safety and Consumer Fraud, Sports and Gambling Regulation, Other
16	Defense	General, U.S. and Other Defense Alliances, U.S Security Assistance, Military Intelligence, CIA, Espionage, Military Readiness, Coordination of Armed Services Air Support and Sealift Capabilities, and National Stockpiles of Strategic Materials, Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation, Military Aid and Weapons Sales to other Countries, Manpower, Military Personnel and Dependents (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines), Military Courts, Veteran Affairs and Other Issues, Military Procurement and Weapons System Acquisitions and Evaluation, Military Installations, Construction, and Land Transfers, National Guard and Reserve Affairs, Military Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Disposal, Military Environmental Compliance, Civil Defense & Homeland Security, DOD Civilian Personnel, Civilian Employment by the Defense Industry, Military Base Closings, Oversight of Defense Contracts and Contractors, Direct War Related Issues and Foreign Operations, Relief of Claims Against U.S. Military, Research and Development, Other

17	Space	Science, Technology and Communications, General, NASA, U.S. Government Use of Space, Space Exploration Agreements, Commercial Use of Space, Satellites, Science Technology Transfer, International Scientific Cooperation, Telephone and Telecommunication Regulation, Broadcast Industry Regulation (TV, Cable, Radio), Weather Forecasting and Related Issues, NOAA, Oceanography, Computer Industry, Computer Security, and General Issues related to the Internet, Research and Development, Other
18	Foreign Trade	General, Trade Negotiations, Disputes, and Agreements, Export Promotion and Regulation, Export-Import Bank, International Private Business Investments, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Productivity and Competitiveness of U.S. Business, U.S. Balance of Payments, Tariff and Import Restrictions, Import Regulation, Exchange Rates and Related Issues, Other
19	International Affairs and Foreign Aid	General (Department of State and U.S. Information Agency appropriations), U.S. Foreign Aid, International Resources Exploitation and Resources Agreement, Developing Countries Issues, International Finance and Economic Development, Western Europe and Common Market/European Union Issues, Panama Canal Issues and Other International Canal Issues, Other Country/Region Specific Issues, Human Rights, International Organizations other than Finance: United Nations (UN), UNESCO, International Red Cross, Terrorism, Hijacking, U.S. Diplomats, U.S. Embassies, U.S. Citizens Abroad, Foreign Diplomats in the U.S., Passports, Other
20	Government Operations	General (includes budget requests and appropriations for multiple departments and agencies), Intergovernmental Relations, Government Efficiency and Bureaucratic Oversight, Postal Service Issues (Including Mail Fraud), Government Employee Benefits, Civil Service Issues, Nominations and Appointments, Currency, Commemorative Coins, Medals, U.S. Mint, Government Procurement, Procurement Fraud and Contractor Management, Government Property Management, IRS Administration, Presidential Impeachment & Scandal, Federal Government Branch Relations and Administrative Issues, Congressional Operations, Regulation of Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, PAC regulation, Government Ethics, Census, District of Columbia Affairs, Relief of Claims against the U.S. Government, Federal Holidays, Other
21	Public Lands and Water Management	General, National Parks, Memorials, Historic Sites, and Recreation, Native American Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Forest Management, Water Resources Development and Research, U.S. Dependencies and Territorial Issues, Other

SI 3 Top Predictors of Each Topic

Table SI 3.3: Top 20 Predictors of Each Major Topic

topic	predictors
Macroeconomics	medicar choic, sale tax, direct spend, qualifi manufactur, amend relat section, feder tax, portland oregon, public debt, gift tax, deficit reduct, regular credit, budget year, taxabl person, debt incur, tax administr, sick time, old section, capit gain, cover inpati, nation dividend
Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties	genet inform, sexual orient, vote right, racial profil, partialbirth abort, perform abort, free speech, perman partnership, person health inform, vote system, grammleachbliley act, work forc, board advisor, discriminatori practic, privaci act, religi freedom, greekth sec, girl women, electron equip, state secret
Health	prescript drug, health plan, health servic act, nation health, item servic, protect individu, secretari health human, amend titl xviii, medic malpractic, health insur, secur futur, state health, health coverag, public health servic, medic devic, region allianc, health board, medicar program, medicar beneficiari, tobacco product
Agriculture	agricultur commod, food safeti, anim drug, farmer rancher, genet engin, agricultur product, agricultur research, food product, depart agricultur, crop year, poultri product, agricultur produc, committe agricultur, valuead agricultur, specialti crop, dairi product, farm credit, dairi compact, farm ranch, activ grower
Labor, Employment, and Immigration	child care, youth apprenticeship, illeg alien, infrastructur project, wto particip, immigr enforc, compens act, pension plan, amend immigr, immigr servic, unemploy compens, amend immigr nation, workforc develop, depend care, employ shall, labor organ, numer limit, career center, health profession provid, note note
Education	student loan, higher educ, secretari educ, head start, educ assist, educ act, educ save, depart educ, number children, profession develop, elementari secondari, public school, local partnership, school construct, financi aid, privat school, foreign languag, lifelong learn, nation educ, school act
Environment	asbesto claim, coral reef, ballast water, toxic mold, fisheri manag, preserv area, conserv plan, insur particip, hazard substanc, hazard wast, environment protect, defend particip, chesapeak bay, great ape, invas speci, water qualiti, regul instrument, migratori bird, chemic substanc, solid wast
Energy	oil ga, crude oil, clean energi, feder power, energi polici, secretari energi, natur ga, energi laboratori, fuel cell, energi effici, electr energi, energi conserv, pipelin safeti, energi properti, electr servic, pipelin facil, feder power act, renew energi, climat servic, depart energi
Transportation	coast guard, public transport, transport infrastructur, air carrier, surfac transport, rail carrier, air transport, transport system, secretari transport, depart transport, aviat secur, highway system, motor carrier, transport plan, rail passeng, highway safeti, railroad carrier, northeast corridor, grade cross, highspe rail
Law, Crime, and Family Issues	shall imprison, administr fema, bureau prison, money launder, death penalti, committe judiciari, cover grant, child support, volunt firefight, feder prison, child abus, violent crime, depart justic, nation drug, victim crime, intercountri adopt, law enforc agenc, youth violenc, refer committe judiciari, father registri
Social Welfare	older individu, individu disabl, nonprofit agenc, care account, account holder, disabl beneficiari, state registri, opportun board, nonvisu access, licens vendor, employ network, smart annuiti, subacut care, cover employ, obra amend, commission shall, social servic, state agenc, welfar recipi, state option
Community Development and Housing Issues	hous act, empower zone, hous credit, consensu committe, delta region, hous agenc, commun develop, invest save, grant amount, invest save account, princip resid, mortgag insur, individu homestead, qualifi resid, collabor applic, public hous agenc, foreclosur commission, child maltreat, particip jurisdict, homeless individu
Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce	small busi, nation insur, offshor aquacultur, interst insur, depositori institut, flood insur, financi compani, develop compani, comptrol currenc, profession box, store valu, product safeti, foreign insur, copyright work, credit union, depart commerc, invest loss, unclassifi inform, new produc, antitrust law
Defense	depart defens, homeland secur, air forc, secretari defens, arm forc, secretari navi, war terror, feder director, section ahva, reserv compon, closur realign, ammonium nitrat, refer committe veteran, nation defens, chemic facil, marin corp, nation intellig, militari construct, prison war, maritim secur
Space, Science, Technology and Communications	commun act, geoloc inform, broadband servic, space transport, news inform, region ocean, telephon servic, video servic, motion pictur, protect comput, digit media, commerci space, digit televis, realloc commiss, weather modif, use internet, commun commiss, telecommun network, telecommun carrier, electron mail
Foreign Trade	trade agreement, nafta countri, custom servic, export control, tariff act, custom offic, exportimport bank, amend act amend, trade deficit, rough diamond, countervail duti, committe financ, commission custom, lo angel, canada mexico, prohibit import, suspens duti, foreign person, boycot countri, amend act
International Affairs and Foreign Aid	human right, unit nation, depart state, peac corp, foreign assist, develop countri, foreign servic, secretari state, australia unit, obstetr fistula, panama canal, nongovernment organ, foreign affair, delet sec, world bank, refer committe foreign, govern sudan, amnesti intern, committe intern relat, insur loss
Government Operations	postal servic, district columbia, feder elect, public build, joint committe, dutch john, polit parti, addit amount, feder employe, contract personnel, govern reform, independ counsel, land grant, system transform, gener elect, legisl branch, refer committe govern, paper ballot, government affair bill, memori day
Public Lands and Water Management	water resourc, indian tribe, nativ hawaiian, miner activ, resourc bill, committe resourc, critic miner, dam safeti, indian reserv, commonwealth guam, heritag area, nation park, nation forest, refer committe resourc, mine claim, direct secretari interior, water suppli, puerto rico, smithsonian institut, nativ american
Other, Miscellaneous, and Human Interest	bill relief, session relief, judiciari bill relief, st session relief, act relief, privat relief, mean bill provid, mr barlow, amend section amend, author request, emerg relief, transfer fee, debtor individu, littl rock, code amend section, honolulu hawaii, reaffirm agreement, congress session relief, committe judiciari, refer committe judiciari

Table SI 3.4: Top 20 Predictors of Each Minor Topic

topic	predictors
Inflation, Prices, and Interest Rates	feder statist, state shall effect, price stabil, statist data, statist data center, feder statist servic, function offic, statist servic, price goug, nation emerg, unit state dollar, state dollar, statist polici, chairperson board, valu unit state, statist system, data center, bureau econom analysi, valu unit, methodolog develop section
National Budget and Debt	medicar choic, public debt, direct spend, sequestr order, deficit reduct, budget author, budget year, nation dividend, poundag quota, commiss bill, elig manag care, temporari employ, frail elderli, manag care provid, possess corpor, public benefit, temporari employ assist, addit peanut, congression budget, choic organ
Taxation, Tax policy, and Tax Reform	intern revenu servic, sale tax, revenu servic, busi entiti, gift tax, capit gain, foreign corpor, feder tax, amend relat section, amend intern revenu, amend intern, tax administr, roth ira, incom tax, capabl oper, tax shelter, adjust basi, section amend strike, state tax, busi activ
Ethnic Minority and Racial Group Discrimination	racial profil, custom servic personnel, institut slaveri, cultur compet, servic personnel, qualifi minor, morril act, harass intimid, elimin racial, elimin racial profil, race color, racial ethnic, second morril act, second morril, qualifi women, person race, racial discrimin, intimid person, nation languag, unit state attorney
Gender and Sexual Orientation Discrimination	sexual orient, perman partner, girl women, sexual harass, gender equiti, administr judg, perman partnership, econom selfsuffici, women scientist, basi sexual, civil right act, basi sexual orient, applic congress, hear board, femal genit mutil, genit mutil, femal genit, fire station, afterschool care, work forc
Voting Rights, Participation, and Related Issues	vote right, vote system, uniform servic voter, servic voter, requir payment, absente ballot, parti candid, electron vote, protect vote right, elect assist, develop committe, state local elect, individu convict, equal protect, regist vote, vote feder, elect assist commiss, local elect, board advisor, uniform servic
Freedom of Speech & Religion	partialbirth abort, perform abort, unborn child, religi freedom, free speech, reproduct health, flag unit, first amend, free exercis, flag unit state, sexual explicit, relat abort, reserv state respect, exercis religion, religi belief, outsid cover, power reserv, abort provid, abort servic, substanti burden
Comprehensive health care reform	region allianc, nation health, health secur, state health, health board, commun health, advanc direct, rural health, health inform, health plan, postpartum condit, antimicrobi resist, nation health board, certifi plan, class program, refer product, bipartisan patient protect, bipartisan patient, corpor allianc, determin appropri secretari
Insurance reform, availability, and cost	health insur, hapi plan, medihealth plan, health coverag, independ home, transit care, health benefit, applic author, valuebas payment, americar supplement, manag care entiti, purchas cooper, care coverag, huntington diseas, immun globulin, plan purchas cooper, tricar program, medic technolog, phase phase, contact len
Provider and insurer payment and regulation	amend titl xviii, physician servic, mortgag fraud, longterm care provid, regist nurs, fee schedul, sunsetthi section shall, eye examin, sunsetthi section, section uu, advisori group, first assist, convers factor, medic devic, mandatori overtim, medicar physician, secur act prohibit, therapi servic, design health servic, secur act provid
Medical liability, fraud and abuse	fraud abus, medic malpractic, malpractic insur, dispar impact, medic malpractic insur, prevent system, care fraud, health care fraud, partial hospit, partial hospit servic, care liabil, health care liabil, physician provid, aa shall, wast fraud, provid ambul, develop public, health care profession, toll user fee, toll user
Prevention, communicable diseases and health promotion	hivaid sti, influenza vaccin, agent toxin, emerg contracept, prostat cancer, public health emerg, gestat diabet, pandem influenza, avian influenza, prevent health care, health emerg, cancer care, patient navig, dietari supplement, organ donat, lyme diseas, colorect cancer, sickl cell, elimin tuberculosi, share decis
Infants and children	pregnant women, child health, newborn screen, healthi children, children health, infant care, employ health plan, pediatr diseas, pediatr research, titl xxi, children adolesc, elig child, fetal alcohol, pediatr palli, spina bifida, qualifi employ health, public health servic, newborn infant, pain symptom, pediatr palli care
Mental illness and mental retardation	mental health, mental ill, individu autism, autism spectrum disord, stress disord, spectrum disord, coal energi, mental health servic, center excel, loan agreement, physician surgeon, treatment intervent, depress disord, depress psychosi, treatment intervent servic, autism spectrum, postpartum depress, posttraumat stress disord, mental retard, health servic profession
Prescription drug coverage and costs	prescript drug, secur futur, drug biolog, qualifi drug, elig beneficiari, immunosuppress drug, medicar advantag, chronic care improv, list drug, coverag immunosuppress, eff region, gener drug, coverag immunosuppress drug, secur futur product, drug benefit, futur product, eff plan, care improv, qualifi independ contractor, drug medicar
Food Inspection and Safety (including seafood)	food safeti, tobacco product, anim drug, genet engin, food establish, poultri product, pesticid chemic, agricultur product, necessari carri section, pediatr studi, growth hormon, warehous oper, perish product, nonambulatori livestock, meat poultri, food product, food safeti inspect, specialti crop, foodborn ill, weight gain
Agricultural Marketing, Research, and Promotion	market order, class iv, specialti crop, promoflor council, fluid milk, order shall provid, dairi product, qualifi handler, livestock product, cut green, price report, promot act, promot research, flower cut green, cut flower cut, flower cut, handler import, amend agricultur, agricultur market, produc import
Worker Safety and Protection, Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA)	safeti health, drugfre workplac, possibl modif, asbesto claim, energi employe, safeti health act, modif thereof, occup safeti, occup safeti health, expos person, black lung benefit, lung benefit, health act, cover ill, black lung, protect equip, medic advisori, independ investig, depart energi, occur age

Employment Training and Workforce Development	infrastructur project, job train, local area, workforc develop, train credit, career center, employ train, vocat educ, workforc invest, compon area, shorttim compens, social work, program year, substat grante, labor market, onestop center, modern renov, modern renov repair, displac homemak, megahertz megahertz
Employee Benefits	pension plan, unemploy compens, wto particip, plan year, profession provid, plan maintain, health profession provid, retir benefit, pension prosav, displac worker, retir incom, fiduciari advis, wage supplement, document materi, safe account, sick leav, secur escrow, social secur escrow, retir account, invest option
Employee Relations and Labor Unions	teamster plan, reduct oper, labor organ, labor relat, assign oper, nation labor, nation labor relat, labor disput, combin fund, interst compact, amend nation labor, labor relat act, citi counti, health care worker, relat act, affect employe, file aris, care worker, concern payment, injuri death
Fair Labor Standards	minimum wage, compensatori time, fair labor, labor standard act, fair labor standard, econom develop, standard act, feder contract, labor standard, amend fair labor, full employ, cooper state agenc, wage requir, flexibl credit, septemb read second, flexibl credit hour, amend fair, research park, septemb read, overtim compens
Parental Leave and Child Care	child care, depend care, famili medic, depend care servic, daycar facil, child care center, chief execut project, direct care, execut project, medic leav, child care facil, famili medic leav, execut project offic, infant toddler, toddler care, infant toddler care, domest partner, project offic, flexibl work, care credit
Migrant and Seasonal workers, Farm Labor Is	ha worker, agricultur worker, farm labor, job opportun, agricultur employ, farm labor contractor, migrant season, state worker, section ahiia, qualifi design, season agricultur, implement duti, labor contractor, unit state worker, qualifi design entiti, temporari resid, design entiti, statu subsect, employ alien, blue card
Higher Education	higher educ, student loan, educ assist, educ save, secretari educ, postsecondari educ, qualifi tuition, educ loan, advanc placement, financi aid, certain educ, pell grant, learn account, studi abroad, person reemploy, sea grant, higher educ act, deputi clerk, lifelong learn, lifelong learn account
Education of Underprivileged Students	head start, earli learn, earli educ, prekindergarten program, famili literaci, educ empower, earli childhood, literaci instruct, literaci program, prime sponsor, rural local, school social, homeless children youth, educ literaci, read write, rural local educ, lowincom local, lowincom local educ, corp particip, head start agenc
Educational Excellence	mathemat scienc, profession develop, foreign languag, public school, student perform, scienc mathemat, nation educ, elementari secondari, nation scienc, gift talent, student perform standard, state local educ, magnet school, educ research, educ technolog, region educ, drug violenc, educ agenc, school librari, school system
Arts and Humanities	perform art, cultur center, art artifact, john kennedi center, kennedi center, nation endow, endow art, nation endow art, museum servic, john kennedi, nation foundat, new mexico, center perform art, art human, institut museum servic, foundat art, foundat art human, nation foundat art, center perform, institut museum
Drinking Water Safety	drink water, manag program, nonpoint sourc, revolv fund, water suppli, year carri subsect, administr state, gener permit, residenti construct, treatment work, water qualiti, great lake research, public water, water system, lake research, public water system, watersh manag, drink water act, bank instrument, water sourc
Waste Disposal	solid wast, wastewat treatment, industri materi, recycl industri, construct demolit, municip solid wast, affect local, municip solid, sewer overflow, affect local govern, underground storag, vulner assess, water sewag facil, sewag facil, biolog monitor, industri wast, recycl materi, treatment plant, water sewag, wast manag
Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Regulation, Treatment, and Disposal	hazard wast, toxic mold, nuclear wast, hazard substanc, chemic substanc, brownfield site, element mercuri, respons action, radioact wast, hazard materi, parti state, toxic substanc, aboveground storag, storag tank, leadacid batteri, coeur dalen, aboveground storag tank, environment respons, environment remedi, respons cost
Air pollution, Global Warming, and Noise Pollution	climat chang, clean air, offset project, carbon sequestr, emiss reduct, noinfxinf allow, trade facil, air act, indoor air, clean air act, carbon dioxid, greenhous ga, regul instrument, global warm, nitrogen oxid, nation climat, amend clean air, amend clean, mercuri emiss, carbon trade
Species and Forest Protection	endang speci, fisheri manag, great ape, migratori bird, conserv plan, conserv manag, invas speci, forest health, recoveri plan, fisheri habitat, rocki flat, conserv area, lacey act, habitat restor, fisheri conserv, fish vessel, fish habitat, reynold secretari, state fish, watersens program
Pollution and Conservation in Coastal & Other Navigable Waterways	gulf main, coral reef, gulf mexico, ballast water, chesapeak bay, water qualiti, oil pollut, mitig bank, coastal zone, advers find, human health, wet weather, method technolog, cb fiscal, cb fiscal year, treatment technolog, arctic ocean, permit issu, secretari armi, observ system
Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issues	nuclear facil, energi laboratori, usec inc, nuclear secur, department laboratori, depart energi, nuclear plant, atom energi, nuclear fuel, addit protocol, nuclear power, nuclear fuel manag, uranium mine, fuel manag, radioact materi, energi act, atom energi act, corpor fund, electr servic, nuclear regulatori commiss
Electricity and Hydroelectricity	restor agreement, hydroelectr project, retail electr, feder power, util compani, electr reliabl, onecal notif, supplier shall, sale electr, region transmiss, feder power act, electr energi, facil remov, gener facil, tennesse valley, valley author, tennesse valley author, electr reliabl organ, firm energi, dam remov
Natural Gas and Oil (Including Offshore Oil and Gas)	crude oil, pipelin safeti, pipelin facil, oil ga, vintag year, natur ga, climat servic, divers energi, petroleum product, gasolin fuel, offset credit, leas sale, plugin electr drive, global chang, oil shale, motor fuel, clean energi, product carbon, strateg petroleum, strateg petroleum reserv

Alternative and Renewable Energy	fuel cell, renew energi, exchanger misalign, ga intens, greenhous ga intens, biodiesel fuel, biofuel product, wind energi, cellulos biomass, oil save, biodiesel mixtur, plugin hybrid, western hemispher, alcohol mixtur, methan hydrat, energi reserv, nation laboratori, electr produc, traction batteri, hybrid system
Energy Conservation	energi conserv, fuel economi, secretari energi, energi effici, outdoor luminair, school leader, energi coal, energi properti, corros prevent, energi save, coal technolog, energi state, averag fuel, averag fuel economi, clean coal technolog, year gallon, sulfur diesel, energi star, effici measur, ga transport
Highway Construction, Maintenance, and Safety	highway system, public transport, highway safeti, surfac transport, household good, interst system, transport plan, transport system, transport research, nation highway, federalaid highway, fund apport, impair drive, metropolitan plan, state rout, phase retir, highway construct, highway trust, fix guideway, nation highway system
Airports, Airlines, Air Traffic Control and Safety	air carrier, air transport, feder aviat, aviat administr, feder aviat administr, air traffic, air servic, gener aviat, secur administr, aeronaut technolog, airport airway, aviat fuel, airlin industri, administr feder aviat, airport secur, airport develop, aviat safeti, airport oper, aviat secur, intern airport
Railroad Transportation and Safety	railroad carrier, rail carrier, highspe rail, rail passeng, rail servic, rail infrastructur, grade cross, alaska railroad, servic decemb, railroad safeti, feder railroad, rail transport, amtrak control, secretari transport, railwayhighway cross, northeast corridor, rail secur, amtrak control board, amtrak shall, passeng rail servic
Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety	motor carrier, motor vehicl, school bu, safeti belt, accredit thirdparti, advanc safeti, nonrepair vehicl, vehicl advanc, risk driver, child restraint, high risk driver, articl food, secretari transport, fda food, fda food safeti, freight forward, new deadlin, deadlin rule, food safeti modern, safeti modern act
Maritime Issues, Including Safety and Security	coast guard, merchant marin, coastal fisheri, state seaport, unit state seaport, passeng vessel, assist secretari shall, marin debri, gross ton, transport secur, vessel oper, app usc, ship contain, port secur, corpor board, project navig, date oper, ship repair, secretari transport, tow vessel
White Collar Crime and Organized Crime	money launder, organ crime, cyber threat, gang activ, internet gambl, forens scienc, ident theft, money transmit, punit damag, street gang, crimin street gang, intern organ crime, crimin street, system network, intern organ, peonag slaveri, corpor limit liabil, foreign bank, transmit busi, money transmit busi
Illegal Drug Production, Trafficking, and Control	control substanc, methamphetamin laboratori, nation drug, drug control, drug offens, nation drug control, illicit drug, endang children, drug traffick, cocain methamphetamin, control substanc act, ephedrin pseudoephedrin, heroin cocain, substanc act, control substanc monitor, substanc monitor, list chemic, nation media campaign, nation media, crimin organ
Court Administration	feder court, district court, chief judg, state court, dna test, legal assist, condit nonimmigr, judici confer, feder judici, capit case, victim crime, foreign state, famili court, elig client, crimin case, bar associ, period begin date, eastern district, justic judg, committe judiciari
Prisons	feder prison, bureau prison, parol commiss, correct facil, prison jail, releas parol, prison industri, condit parol, prison shall, feder state local, ex offend, boot camp, feder prison industri, condit confin, public institut, hiv test, state prison, state local govern, supervis releas, medic personnel
Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice System	youth violenc, juvenil justic, juvenil crime, juvenil offend, juvenil delinqu, special registr, clone pager, school violenc, school secur, adjud delinqu, crime violenc, prevent intervent, violent juvenil, bodi armor, atrisk youth, parent support, youth crime, bullet resist, delinqu prevent, core requir
Child Abuse and Child Pornography	crime children, child abus, sex offend, miss exploit, amber alert, commerci sexual, tribal actor, child pornographi, child abus prevent, exploit children, sexual abus, histori review, sex traffick, prevent treatment act, crimin histori review, state actor, miss children, miss exploit children, video game, child protect
Family Issues	child support, domest violenc, foster care, child marriag, intercountri adopt, adopt expens, famili violenc, father registri, child welfar, sexual assault, adopt child, medic support, parent care, famili plan, accredit entiti, right parent, respons father, enter data, live arrang, put father
Police, Fire, and Weapons Control	volunt firefight, cover grant, administr fema, law enforc offic, crimin arsonist, firearm ammunit, sport clay, volunt fire, winchest model, licens dealer, transfer firearm, boltact rifl, firearm product, enforc offic, polic corp, new england, auto rifl, first respond, explos materi, import manufactur
Food Stamps, Food Assistance, and Nutrition Monitoring Programs	food stamp, hunger relief, reduc price, nutrit act, supplement food, school lunch, state agenc, nation program, food nutrit, emerg assist relief, nation school, error rate, nonprofit feed, committe agricultur, nation school lunch, insert school, nonprofit feed antihung, feed antihung, amend food, strike reduc
Poverty and Assistance for Low-Income Families and Individuals	individu develop, welfar recipi, work famili, work opportun, work program, individu develop account, welfar reform, program fund part, fund part, opportun board, develop account, state expenditur, earn incom, local opportun, strike coupon, unemploy begin date, needi famili, begin decemb effect, receiv aid, nation welfar
Elderly Issues and Elderly Assistance Programs (Including Social Security Administration)	older individu, older american, insur benefit, older american act, high school, european american, selfemploy incom, obra amend, account holder, person retir account, chief actuari, school improv, person retir save, execut director, social secur benefit, secur account, secur benefit, american act, care account, invest account
Assistance to the Disabled and Handicapped	individu disabl, nonprofit agenc, employ network, assist technolog, disabl beneficiari, nonvisu access, independ live, vocat rehabilit, licens vendor, hear aid, disabl individu, commission shall, advanc price, commission may, state licens agenc, price agreement, signific disabl, technolog devic, disabl act, design state unit
Housing and Community Development	commun develop, hous act, afford hous, revit credit, invest save, foreclosur commission, consensu committe, child maltreat, grant amount, enterpris zone, shall termin, invest save account, credit agenc, invest certif, support hous, public hous, qualifi resid, foreclosur sale, public hous agenc, hous agenc
U.S. Banking System and Financial Institution Regulation	financi compani, store valu, credit union, securitybas swap, depositori institut, foreign insur, comptrol currenc, consum financi, hold compani, state insur, host state, financi servic, save bond, supervisori agenc, crossguarante stoploss, feder reserv, municip secur, transfer date, invest loss, consum account

Securities and Commodities Regulation	cover bond, secur exchang, deriv dealer, energi commod, deriv activ, excess specul, amend secur, secur transact, public account, privat action, individu invest account, amend secur exchang, contract market, secur exchang act, director execut offic, individu invest, exchang act, account firm, nation deriv, impli privat
Consumer Finance, Mortgages, and Credit Cards	highcost mortgag, unclassifi inform, rentalpurchas agreement, predatori lend, residenti mortgag, loan origin, credit card, mortgag loan, electron payment system, princip resid, mortgag broker, home mortgag, loan modif, swap agreement, electron payment, defer deposit, home equiti, payday lender, defer deposit loan, escrow account
Bankruptcy	unit state truste, state truste, case chapter, commenc case, reaffirm agreement, foreign proceed, foreign repres, file petit, libbi montana, debtor shall, patient record, confirm plan, unsecur claim, government unit, consum debt, order relief, bankruptci judg, date file petit, code amend insert, nonbankruptci law
Small Business Issues and the Small Business Administration	small busi, particip lender, sbir program, small entiti, mentor partnership, equival inform, develop compani, funer servic, order place calendar, busi act, busi act usc, voluntari protect, particip financi institut, veteran busi, women busi, minor busi, small busi act, review panel, particip financi, sttr program
Copyrights and Patents	strike section small, copyright owner, regist copyright, patent trademark, copyright royalti, program particip, trademark offic, particip secur, patent applic, copyright work, domain name, intellectu properti, act usc insert, provid section titl, infring copyright, small busi concern, disast assist, busi concern, satellit carrier, patent owner
Domestic Disaster Relief	flood insur, disast relief, seismic retrofit, consum mortgag, warn system, disast declar, disast area, hurrican katrina, disast emerg, civil defens, director shall, hurrican research, tsunami warn, feder emerg manag, alert system, feder emerg, loss reduct, properti owner, local advisori, new orlean
Consumer Safety and Consumer Fraud	product safeti, prospect franchise, cover inform, ident theft, biomateri supplier, product liabil, consum product, mortgag refer, product averag, home loan, wood product, wireless telephon, unsolicit commerci, consum credit report, person inform, protect consum, deliveri product, payday loan, credit score, vehicl product
U.S. and Other Defense Alliances, U.S Security Assistance	radioact sourc, unit kingdom, nonnato alli, major nonnato alli, major nonnato, bilater agreement, persian gulf region, gulf region, atlant treati, north atlant treati, countri emerg, nato member, nato membership, organ nato, treati organ nato, north atlant, central eastern, central eastern europ, european countri, protect countri
Military Intelligence, CIA, Espionage	chemic facil, nation intellig, intellig commun, foreign intellig, central intellig, place calendar, physic search, nation intellig director, intellig director, intellig committe, intellig agenc, classifi inform, civil liberti, secur clearanc, busi system modern, terrorist travel, intellig surveil, trade secret, report nation commiss, electron surveil
Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation	nuclear weapon, arm control, antipersonnel landmin, russian feder, weapon convent, chemic weapon, threat reduct, nuclear forens, foreign person, chemic weapon convent, nuclear explos, islam republ iran, republ iran, north korea, islam republ, nuclear explos devic, arm control disarma, control disarma, good technolog, explos devic
Veteran Affairs and Other Issues	veteran affair, veteran spous, refer committe veteran, veteran benefit, near militari, term section titl, veteran affair bill, retir pay, presepar counsel, disabl veteran, cours educ, rural veteran, veteran purpos, depend indemn compens, depend indemn, committe veteran, committe veteran affair, veteran assist, servic connect, veteran employ
Military Procurement and Weapons System Acquisitions and Evaluation	defens acquisit, commerci item, defens acquisit program, ballist missil, missil defens, major defens acquisit, major defens, agenc head, acquisit program, small purchas, cost price data, cost price, feder acquisit, faef aircraft, price data, procur polici, ddg destroy, depart defens, head agenc, contractu action
National Guard and Reserve Affairs	nation guard, reserv compon, member reserv, activ duti, member reserv compon, reserven guard, readi reserven guard, readi reserven, qualifi reserv, call activ, call activ duti, guard employe, reserven guard employe, spaceavail travel, militari reservist, sec readi, sec readi reserven, guard employe credit, employe credit, retir pay
Civil Defense & Homeland Security	homeland secur, border secur, maritim secur, chemic sourc, metropolitan citi, care trust, wast energi, urban counti, catastroph incid, green build, section ahva, region standard, trust account, region council, secur plan, highperform green, smart grid, emerg manag, biomassbas diesel, emerg commun
NASA, U.S. Government Use of Space, Space Exploration Agreements	inform secur, intern space, space shuttl, undersea research, inform infrastructur, intern space station, aeronaut space, space station, nation aeronaut, insert reentri, space flight, nation aeronaut space, airport effect, mission director, space launch, aeronaut space administr, offic cyberspac, nation offic cyberspac, space administr, nation space
Telephone and Telecommunication Regulation	realloc commiss, telecommun servic, geoloc inform, commun act, telecommun carrier, telecommun network, feder entiti, wireless servic, digit content, separ entiti, telecommun facil, telephon call, two percent, cellular phone, internet crime, grant licens, tax jurisdict, advanc wireless, broadband expenditur, qualifi technolog
Broadcast Industry Regulation (TV, Cable, Radio)	public broadcast, motion pictur, digit media, erickson secretari, televis broadcast, commiss ntia, local televis, commun commiss, attorneycli privileg, feder commun commiss, loan guarante act, commerci avail, televis station, radio station, feder commun, local market, consum educ, satellit servic, fm station, digit televis
Computer Industry, Computer Security, and General Issues related to the Internet	electron mail, protect comput, use internet, comput system, comput softwar, highend comput, data servic, invest partnership, internet domain, highperform comput, digit signatur, broadband servic, year statement, network oper, applic servic, provid broadband, high speed data, author user, cyber secur, speed data

Trade Negotiations, Disputes, and Agreements	trade agreement, custom servic, nafta countri, subsaharan africa, trade repres, is is, commission custom, beneficiari countri, negoti object, free trade, nondiscriminatori treatment, boycot countri, import merchandis, free trade area, trade area, trade relat, commerci servic, trade organ, binat panel, countri parti agreement
Tariff and Import Restrictions, Import Regulation	tariff act, head relat, rough diamond, harmon tariff, suspens duti, harmon tariff schedul, tariff schedul, applic year period, schedul unit state, schedul unit, lo angel, countervail duti, tariff schedul unit, trade prefer, construct repair, reliquid certain, men boy, kimberley process, textil apparel, exchanger manipul
U.S. Foreign Aid	foreign assist, peac corp, tuberculosi malaria, obstetr fistula, east timor, foreign assist act, unit state assist, hivaid tuberculosi, state assist, global fund, reconstruct oper, independ state, countri south, subsaharan african, republ panama, panama canal, assist act, hivaid tuberculosi malaria, hivaid diseas, nongovernment organ
Human Rights	human right, religi persecut, govern sudan, act countri, amnesti intern, member commiss, hagu convent, violenc women girl, victim tortur, north korean, women right, categori persecut, traffick person, sport good, violenc women, women girl, wear apparel, humanitarian assist, label standard, war crime
International Organizations other than Finance: United Nations (UN), UNESCO, International Red Cross	unit nation, foreclosur prevent, special olymp, world health, state olymp, strike constitut, unit state olymp, peacekeep oper, intern crimin court, intern crimin, crimin court, olymp committe, world summit, summit children, world summit children, olymp game, unit nation sanction, nation sanction, intern olymp, nation endow democraci
Terrorism, Hijacking	militari commiss, insur loss, review commiss, terrorist organ, al qaeda, classifi inform, protect america, plastic explos, militari commiss chapter, commiss chapter, conspir attempt, terror activ, guantanamo bay, intern terror, materi support, insert conspir, terrorist act, nuclear materi, american citizen, foreign state
Government Efficiency and Bureaucratic Oversight	regulatori action, inspector gener, public printer, legisl propos, risk assess, public servic, action purpos, nontax debt, execut branch, elig invest, schedul review, major system, feder review, joint committe, inspect audit review, secretari state, public pension, contract personnel, system transform, agenc program
Postal Service Issues (Including Mail Fraud)	postal servic, postag stamp, postal regulatori, postal regulatori commiss, post offic, bypass mail, rate postag, postmast gener, frank mail, cover postal, offici mail, rate fee, thereof offici, regulatori commiss, continu pay, compens reform, class mail, benefit structur, nonprior bypass, nonprior bypass mail
Currency, Commemorative Coins, Medals, U.S. Mint	commemor coin, gold medal, coin issu, educ outreach, congression gold, congression gold medal, reserv note, feder reserv note, cent coin, coin act, coin program, numismat item, quarter dollar, state mint, unit state mint, bald eagl, circul coin, legal tender, travel promot, bullion coin
Federal Government Branch Relations and Administrative Issues, Congressional Operations	member employe, member hous repres, legisl branch, librari congress, use forc, presidenti order, librarian congress, disapprov bill, war power, consent decre, complain parti, pay member congress, limit tax, congression employe, legisl branch feder, item veto, committe bill, limit tax benefit, member offic employe, independ counsel
Regulation of Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, PAC regulation, Government Ethics	feder elect, gener elect, lobbi disclosur, lobbi activ, presidenti elect, report individu, elect campaign, polit committe, elect offici, polit parti, respect elect, elig candid, contribut person, lobbi congress, paper ballot, independ expenditur, lobbi disclosur act, voter registr, polit contribut, cover organ
Census	decenni censu, redistrict plan, american resid, censu popul, resid abroad, censu bureau, apportion repres congress, director censu, independ redistrict, bureau censu, censu data, independ redistrict commiss, redistrict commiss, counti metropolitan, depart commerc, apportion repres, state censu bureau, estim prepar, prepar depart, statist purpos
National Parks, Memorials, Historic Sites, and Recreation	nation park, nation histor, nation monument, heritag area, scienc park, nation museum, nation memori, concess contract, paleontolog resourc, nation heritag, smithsonian institut, park servic, nation park servic, commemor work, sabinoso wilder, histor preserv, project lake, histor site, secretari interior, histor district
Native American Affairs	indian tribe, nativ hawaiian, nativ american, indian reserv, indian affair, game oper, indian land, indian child, indian game, indian tribal, american indian, bureau indian, land claim, tribe shall, settlement agreement, urban indian, indian nation, water right, tribal educ, indian health

SI 4 Top Partisan Predictors of Each Topic

Table SI 4.5: Top 20 Partisan Predictors of Each Major Topic

	party	term
Macroeconomics	R	tax increas, rais tax, speaker ask unanim, american peopl, presid obama, debt crisi, feder govern, tax hike, incom tax, higher tax, white hous, live within, presid budget, may consid, death tax, spend reduct, budget act, within mean, job creator, live within mean
	D	middl class, deficit reduct, tax cut, tax break, republican colleagu, republican leader, reduc deficit, presid move, get done, hous republican, econom recoveri, republican budget, work famili, georg bush, presid ask unanim, laid upon tabl, make america, democrat republican, republican major, bush administr
Transportation	R	fiscal year, administr feder, spend money, children grandchildren, feder court, depart transport, hous floor, intern revenu code, air transport, thought prayer, gener aviat, would like, pass bill, air carrier, extrem import, support bill, project nt, environment review, european union, hous senat
	D	new york recogn, york recogn, rhode island, creat job, senat hutchison, mr tonko, fair share, dedic servic, path forward, vote would, save live, help other, reclaim time, hous republican, virginia mr, public servant, public transit, road bridg, light rail, one project
Law, Crime, and Family Issues	R	american citizen, nation media, fast furiou, gentleman california mr, judici circuit, white hous, madam chair, move suspend rule, fire chief, justic scalia, thank friend, even though, concern mr, border patrol, member commun, mr speaker, constitut mean, cut spend, feder govern, special agent
	D	pleas join, senat republican, republican leader, rhode island, san francisco, judici nomin, republican senat, bill would, gun violenc, civil right, cyber attack, new england, assault weapon, senat offic, young peopl, servic provid, pleas join honor, women act, hope senat, lost live
Social Welfare	R	address issu, year work, make differ, district work, could nt, would say, govern program, last sever, food program, increas spend, payrol tax, scout america, back commun, welfar program, go beyond, obama administr, tanf program, give back, throughout year, difficult time
	D	cut food, tax break, women infant children, work peopl, incom tax, four year, help need, famili member, safeti net, work togeth, two year, tax cut, last month, human servic, countri world, move forward, past year, program help, rhode island, supplement nutrit assist
Community Development and Housing Issues	R	depart hous, two year, last week, fanni mae, hous commun, amend would, past year, american peopl, urg colleagu support, continu work, freddi mac, hous program, commun develop, million dollar, hard work, ca nt, feder govern, hous financ, public servic, small busi
	D	privat sector, work hard, hous urban, creat job, need help, across countri, stay home, loan modif, million american, feder state, new york, health care, low incom, hous develop, nonprofit organ, fiscal year, execut director, public hous, feder hous, interest rate
Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce	R	job creator, senat illinoi, rais tax, feder govern, follow senat, tax hike, pass bill, white hous, job creation, new regul, small busi owner, spend money, health care law, care law, regulatori burden, govern regul, taxpay dollar, cut spend, state main, wall street journal
	D	middl class, tax break, republican colleagu, wall street, insur compani, pleas join, tax cut, rhode island, new york, rest live, republican leader, credit union, reduc deficit, american job act, senat snow, work famili, mr presid ask, consum protect, stock option, tax loophol
Defense	R	unit state congress, war terror, member support, pass bill, mr speaker move, white hous, marin corp, god pleas, obama administr, speaker ask unanim, god bless, south carolina, northwest florida, thank gentleman, missil defens, major leader, mr speaker, follow senat, thought prayer, global war terror
	D	pleas join, intellig author, arm servic author, laid upon tabl, war afghanistan, announc senat, middl class, motion reconsid laid, rhode island, washington state, war iraq, homeland secur government, japanes american, african american, secur government affair, san francisco, government affair, fisa amend act, republican colleagu, speaker pleas
Space, Science, Technology and Communications	R	space center, feder govern, radio televis, taxpay dollar, internet servic, high school, local radio station, everi day, wireless broadband, corpor public broadcast, corpor public, space flight, broadband servic, mani us, first time, broadband network, bill pass, space explor, mani year, radio televis station
	D	million american, web site, american public, local commun, go back, save live, access internet, public broadcast, research develop, right thing, fund corpor public, public servic, nt know, servic provid, nation space, open internet, white hous, across countri, move forward, first respond
Foreign Trade	R	white hous, trade agreement congress, one best, trade agreement sign, could nt, us trade agreement, trade agreement us, agreement unit state, unemploy rate, trade promot author, america back work, take place, trade agreement colombia, economi creat job, creat job get, privat sector, need get, also want, job creat, want see
	D	lost job, middl class, trade polici, make thing, trade deficit, bush administr, peopl republ china, take away, countri world, lot peopl, turn back, trade deal, good idea, mani time, nt get, job growth, trade adjust assist, american worker american, american peopl, manufactur job
International Affairs and Foreign Aid	R	muslim brotherhood, guantanamo bay, american citizen, war terror, us must, middl east, human traffick, russian govern, need know, israel enemi, polit prison, gentleman new jersey, chines govern, could nt, clinton secretari, forc abort, hunger strike, would take, nt know, one child

	D	middl class, mr presid ask, foreign relat, committe foreign relat, mr presid yield, million peopl, dalai lama, close relationship, el salvador, women children, innoc peopl, motion reconsid laid, israelipalestinian conflict, san francisco, risk live, clean water, pay tribut, justic system, food secur, high school
Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties	R	time may, religi liberti, unborn child, taxpay fund, pass bill, bill right, right religi freedom, right life, mani time, would say, state local, work hard, peopl faith, peopl want, say know, nt want, ident theft, human life, plan parenthood, nt go
	D	vote right, sexual orient, us govern, look forward, elect offici, constitut protect, rank member, amend would, civil right, protect privaci, racial profil, wo nt, look forward work, million peopl, introduc bill, would requir, court decis, earlier year, voter fraud, nt take
Government Operations	R	move suspend rule, speaker ask unanim, follow senat, legisl day, would say, ronald reagan, inspector gener, eagl scout, mr speaker, job creator, mr speaker move, pass budget, texa mr, unanim consent member, rule pass bill, white hous, repeal obamacar, govern spend, recess appoint, thought prayer
	D	consent senat proceed, civil right, middl class, announc senat, citizen unit, away capitol, rhode island, african american, pleas join, morn busi, rollcal vote, tax cut, republican colleagu, presid ask unanim, laid upon tabl, interven action debat, super pac, record vote, gentleman massachusett mr, republican leadership
Public Lands and Water Management	R	pass bill, unit state congress, boy scout, peopl state, new member, children grandchildren, major leader, thank gentleman yield, impact commun, cut spend, borrow money, great honor, commit work, committe natur resourc, today support, number one, honor one, obama administr, medal honor, border patrol
	D	african american, energi natur resourc, offic build, pleas join, set asid, american public, democrat republican, fairfax counti, rollcal vote, indian affair, san francisco, urg colleagu join, made signific, great countri, public safeti, middl class, republican leader, big oil, want talk, san diego
Health	R	health care law, care law, feder govern, time move, hous floor, american peopl, follow senat, good friend, save medicar, unanim consent member, member may, new member, consent member may, repeal obamacar, mr roger, presid obama, budget amend, health care bill, patient protect afford, ca nt
	D	insur compani, second read, senat ask, tax cut, announc senat, tax break, end medicar, laid upon tabl, jackson lee, women health, unanim consent senat, new york, without object order, prescript drug, preexist condit, pleas join, presid move, middl class, republican budget, current form
Agriculture	R	wo nt, obama administr, want make, food stamp, take place, nt know, nt work, state depart, level play field, would make, would say, spend money, new farm bill, go back, way get, washington dc, million dollar, last night, need get, secretari agricultur
	D	peopl countri, last farm bill, ve got, lot time, unit state depart, farmer market, next month, go forward, get done, ask unanim consent, also want, almost everi, everi one, wall street, find way, local farmer, food produc, hundr thousand, need help, put food tabl
Labor, Employment, and Immigration	R	illeg alien, south carolina, job creator, pass bill, feder govern, amend would, rule law, citizen unit state, presid said, full year, nt need, allow employ, common ground, unit state congress, border secur, nt take, drug cartel, obama administr, peopl america, job creat
	D	tax cut, dream act, republican colleagu, make america, american job act, republican leader, middl class, role model, famili member, lost live, human right, tax credit, local commun, million peopl, help peopl, worker protect, thousand american, unemploy insur, take action, across nation
Education	R	unit state congress, job creation, health care law, care law, thank mr, georg washington, rais tax, univers texa, serv student, year servic, offer student, child left behind, school board, behalf unit state, commun countri, local school, care bill, good friend, strateg plan, school choic
	D	head start, middl class, baptist church, forprofit school, earli childhood, el paso, rhode island, pell grant, best practic, scienc educ, tax cut, new york, civil right, make educ, receiv award, health educ, republican colleagu, commun servic, develop work, rest live
Environment	R	new regul, north dakota, ga price, highlevel nuclear wast, improv water qualiti, ve done, increas cost, citi town, enough money, health benefit, said would, econom impact, would like offer, execut order, govern spend, environment review, regulatori agenc, lose job, west virginia, job creation
	D	fish industri, public safeti, rhode island, public work, local busi, public servic, health care, georg bush, million acr, help us, would prevent, million job, special interest, clean energi, committe environ public, air act, get bill, protect endang speci, san francisco, water level
Energy	R	american energi, domest energi, energi product, white hous, presid obama, feder govern, pass bill, rais tax, re go, ve got, afford energi, reduc spend, price gasolin, de facto, tax incent, countri need, middl east, state texa, borrow money, major leader
	D	clean energi, oil compani, middl class, deepwat horizon, make america, rhode island, air pollut, climat chang, product tax credit, republican colleagu, public health, million acr, nuclear power plant, republican leadership, oil industri, oil spill, big oil, reduc deficit, oil market, tar sand