User's Guide and Codebook for the CAWP State Legislative Women Nominees Database

Center for American Women and Politics

Rutgers University- New Brunswick

This document is a guide and codebook for the Center for American Women and Politics' (CAWP) Women State Legislative Nominees Database. If you find any errors or have comments and/or questions about the dataset, please email Chelsea Hill (chelsea.hill@eagleton.rutgers.edu) or Claire Gothreau (claire.gothreau@eagleton.rutgers.edu).

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Contents

Data Collection

This data was collected by the staff at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. CAWP relies on individual state's election lists and results (via state election agencies) and conducts gender verification on all candidates. We utilized CAWP historical candidate lists to assemble the dataset, as well as data from KnowWho data services since 2016. Gender was confirmed by a CAWP staff member through Google News searches or through Lexis Nexus Academic.

Codebook

Candidate-Level Variables

1. **FN-** Candidate's first name

2. **MN-** Candidate's middle name

3. **LN-** Candidate's last name

4. **Pty-** Candidate's party affiliation

   D = Democratic Party

   DFL = Democratic Farm Labor Party

   I = Independent

   IP = Independence Party of Minnesota

   NP = Non-Partisan

   P = Progressive Party

   R = Republican Party

   WFP = Working Families Party

5. **Seat-** Candidate's seat status during the general election

   C = Challenger

   I = Incumbent

   I/U = Incumbent Unopposed

   I/I = Incumbent verses Incumbent

   O = Open

   O/U = Open Unopposed

6. **GE Win-** Result of the General Election

   L = Lost

   W = Won

   WD = Withdrawn

   NA = Not Applicable

   Died = Candidate Died before Election

Codebook

District-Level Variables

1. **St-** Name of the State

2. **Year -** Year of election

3. **Ofabrev-** Office up for election

   St. Rep.- State Representative

   St. Sen.- State Senator

4. **District-** District number or code

Coding Guidelines: Rules for Inclusion in the Database

Drop Outs and Withdrawals

1. If the candidate appeared on the general election ballot, they are counted as a nominee and are included in the database. Appearance on the general election ballot was confirmed for each candidate by a CAWP staff member.
2. If a candidate appeared on the general election ballot but withdrew before the election, they are counted as a nominee but their result for the string variable "GE Win" will be "WD" for withdrawn.
3. If a candidate dies after winning the nomination and they are subsequently replaced on the ballot, "Died" will be the coding for "GEWin."

Special Elections

1. Special election candidates are counted as nominees if the election date coincides with the regular general election. The only exception is when there is both a special and regular election being held on the same day for the same district (seat). In this case, we only count the regular election candidate as nominees to avoid double counting candidates. In that case, general election results refer to the general election race.
2. Our candidate database only includes women candidates who ran in regularly-scheduled elections, even if that election was deemed a special election (where special election coincides with regular election). For special elections held outside of normal election schedules (not simultaneous/coinciding with regular election), women candidates are not included.

Runoffs

1. If a state holds runoff elections in the general election outside of a jungle primary system, the runoff result is what counts for the string variable "GEWin."
2. We do not count the pre-runoff election separately, unless it's the terminal contest (i.e. doesn't have to go to a runoff).

Jungle Primaries

1. Jungle primaries are non-partisan primaries that coincide with General Election days. If no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote, the race goes to a runoff. In these cases, we count the runoff election as the general election result for string variable "GEWin."
2. Nominees include either a) the top two vote getters, when no single candidate receives more than 50% of the vote; or b) the top vote getter who receives 50% or more of the vote. In the latter case, there is only one general election nominee. In the former case, the two top vote getters are counted as nominees and their result in the runoff election determines their general election result code for string variable "GEWin."

Rules on Third Party Candidates

1. Third party candidates are only included in the dataset if they win general election contests and become officeholders and/or they are incumbents who identify with a third party. Otherwise, third party candidates are not included in this dataset.
2. Note that the Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL) and non-partisan (NP) candidates are not considered third party candidates. Therefore, those running as Democratic Farm Labor candidates or non-partisan candidates are included as nominees in this dataset.

Party Inclusion/Identification

1. We use general election party identification (how the candidate I listed on the general election ballot) as the indicator of whether or not they should be included in our database of state legislative nominees.
2. If a candidate is listed as more than one party on the general election ballot, we include them as long as one of those parties is a major party (Democrat or Republican) and we then code them as the major party in our database.