APPENDIX FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION ONLY

May 21, 2025

A Additional Results and Robustness

Table A1: Rejection Rates by Agencies, States, and Cities

	Rejection Rate	No. of Filings	Mean Response Time (Days)
Panel A: Federal Agencies (Top 10)			
Federal Bureau of Investigation	0.345	3135	424
Central Intelligence Agency	0.672	826	424
Department of Justice	0.257	803	358
Department of Homeland Security	0.328	463	335
Department of Defense	0.265	422	478
National Security Agency	0.675	379	506
Army	0.241	315	312
Federal Communications Commission	0.055	310	71
Federal Trade Commission	0.147	266	45
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	0.227	256	378
Panel B: States (Aggregation of Agencies)			
New York	0.238	1261	108
Massachusetts	0.153	855	107
California	0.174	581	87
Texas	0.105	392	45
Florida	0.112	375	120
Illinois	0.224	361	57
Washington	0.073	358	107
Virginia	0.303	317	47
Pennsylvania	0.347	285	57
Tennessee	0.438	265	76
New Jersey	0.453	254	116
Georgia	0.188	239	50
Michigan	0.284	236	48
Arizona	0.072	209	107
North Carolina	0.082	208	139
Maryland	0.171	199	127
Ohio	0.163	190	67
Missouri	0.187	171	110
South Dakota	0.613	160	98
Rhode Island	0.063	159	32
Wisconsin	0.181	155	133
Connecticut	0.123	154	108
Arkansas	0.513	152	78
Delaware	0.440	150	109
Vermont	0.068	147	65
Colorado	0.096	146	56
Nevada	0.167	144	146
Alabama	0.618	136	339
Indiana	0.155	129	134
Minnesota	0.087	126	99

Table A1: Rejection Rates by Agencies, States, and Cities (cont.)

	Rejection Rate	No. of Filings	Mean Response Time (Days)
New Mexico	0.056	126	76
Utah	0.248	125	83
Louisiana	0.256	121	123
North Dakota	0.126	119	32
South Carolina	0.261	119	74
Oklahoma	0.224	116	251
Kentucky	0.270	115	55
Iowa	0.115	113	61
New Hampshire	0.216	111	128
Kansas	0.309	110	77
West Virginia	0.267	101	52
Oregon	0.172	99	53
Idaho	0.124	97	60
Montana	0.079	89	91
Wyoming	0.102	88	38
Nebraska	0.218	87	72
Maine	0.163	86	94
Alaska	0.213	80	151
Mississippi	0.215	79	162
Hawaii	0.240	75	103
District of Columbia	0.200	15	47
Panel C: Cities (Top 15)			
New York City, NY	0.437	1016	166
Chicago, IL	0.150	942	54
Boston, MA	0.103	464	109
San Francisco, CA	0.088	340	114
Seattle, WA	0.111	307	171
Los Angeles, CA	0.290	269	125
Washington, DC	0.345	197	293
Los Angeles County, CA	0.314	172	165
Reno, NV	0.185	157	100
Atlanta, GA	0.177	141	86
San Diego, CA	0.073	137	52
Somerville, MA	0.078	129	59
Minneapolis, MN	0.093	129	140
Denver, CO	0.098	123	36
Houston, TX	0.073	123	81

Table A2: State Level Corruption and Alternative FOIA Responsiveness Measure

This table reports the relationship between state level corruption and the average FOIA rejection rate by the given state where we use an alternative measure of rejection rate, in which we include partial completions as completed requests, and "no document" responses as effectively the same as rejection. Columns 1 to 4 report the results using state-year level data, whereas columns 5 and 6 report the results using data at the state level. We require that the given FOIA filing is either rejected or accepted (i.e., removing, for instance, ongoing or appealed cases). We use the corruption measure of Campante and Do (2014), whereas the outcome variable, *Alternative Rejection Rate*, is an alternative measure of rejection rate in which we include partial completions as completed requests, and "no document" responses as effectively the same as rejection. The mean of the dependent variable, *Alternative Rejection Rate*, is 0.45, whereas the standard deviation of *Corruption Rate* is 0.13. Standard errors are clustered at the state level and reported in parantheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

| | Dependent Variable: *Rejection Rate* | | | | | |
| | State-Year Level | | | | State Level | |
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Corruption Rate	0.276***	0.276***	0.255***	0.224***	0.276***	0.239***
	(0.092)	(0.093)	(0.088)	(0.082)	(0.093)	(0.089)
Log(Income)			-0.098	-0.088		-0.084
			(0.068)	(0.059)		(0.064)
Log(Population)			-0.014	-0.011		-0.014
			(0.012)	(0.010)		(0.010)
Average FOIA Score				-0.006		
				(0.006)		
$\mathbb{1}$*(Residents Only)*				0.093***		0.090***
				(0.029)		(0.030)
Fixed Effects						
Year		X	X	X		
N	600	600	600	600	50	50
R^2	0.041	0.359	0.377	0.404	0.172	0.336

Table A3: State Level Corruption and Time to Complete FOIA Request

This table reports the relationship between state level corruption and the average log-scaled time to FOIA filing response by the given state. Columns 1 to 4 report the results using state-year level data, whereas columns 5 and 6 report the results using data at the state level. We require that the given FOIA filing is either rejected or accepted (i.e., removing, for instance, ongoing or appealed cases). We use the corruption measure of Campante and Do (2014), whereas the outcome variable, *log(Time to Response)*, is the average log-scaled time to FOIA filing response by the given state. The mean of the dependent variable, *log(Time to Response)*, is 3.31, whereas the standard deviation of *Corruption Rate* is 0.13. Standard errors are clustered at the state level and reported in parantheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: *log(Time to Response)*					
	State-Year Level				State Level	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Corruption Rate	0.619	0.620	0.650	0.599	0.615	0.717*
	(0.400)	(0.405)	(0.398)	(0.377)	(0.403)	(0.388)
Log(Income)			0.040	0.036		0.021
			(0.315)	(0.300)		(0.325)
Log(Population)			0.086**	0.102**		0.081*
			(0.039)	(0.042)		(0.044)
Average FOIA Score				-0.059***		
				(0.021)		
$\mathbb{1}$*(Residents Only)*				-0.342**		-0.362*
				(0.154)		(0.185)
Fixed Effects						
Year		X	X	X		
N	588	588	588	588	50	50
R^2	0.015	0.117	0.134	0.199	0.047	0.184

Table A4: Matched Sample Analysis of Corruption and FOIA Responsiveness − Only Police Departments

This table presents the association between the state-level corruption rate from Campante and Do (2014) and the responses of FOIA requests filed in that state, focused on "matched groups" of requests (see text for details) submitted to police departments. The dependent variable is *Rejection*, an indicator variable denoting that a request was rejected. The sample mean of *Rejection* is 0.16; the standard deviation of *Corruption Rate* is 0.12. In columns 4, 5, and 6, we require that the standard deviation of corruption within a "matched group" should be greater than 0. Standard errors are double-clustered at the state and group level.

	Dependent Variable: *Rejection Rate*					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Corruption Rate	0.484***	0.424***	0.424***	0.469***	0.381**	0.326**
	(0.177)	(0.144)	(0.144)	(0.157)	(0.148)	(0.147)
Log(Income)			-0.027	-0.006	-0.046	-0.014
			(0.081)	(0.096)	(0.091)	(0.085)
Log(Population)			-0.035***	-0.035**	-0.025**	-0.019*
			(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.012)	(0.010)
Average FOIA Score						-0.005
						(0.007)
$\mathbb{1}$*(Residents Only)*						0.205***
						(0.036)
Fixed Effects						
Quarter of Submission		X	X	X	X	X
Matched-Group					X	X
Condition						
Matched-Group-level σ(*Corruption Rate*)> 0				X	X	X
N	8,783	8,781	8,781	5,669	5,668	5,668
R^2	0.022	0.091	0.102	0.090	0.279	0.294

Table A5: Matched Sample Analysis of Corruption and FOIA Responsiveness − No Small Matched Groups

This table presents the association between the state-level corruption rate from Campante and Do (2014) and the responses of FOIA requests filed in that state, focused on "matched groups" of at least five requests (see text for details). The dependent variable is *Rejection*, an indicator variable denoting that a request was rejected. The sample mean of *Rejection* is 0.16; the standard deviation of *Corruption Rate* is 0.12. In columns 4, 5, and 6, we require that the standard deviation of corruption within a "matched group" should be greater than 0. Standard errors are double-clustered at the state and group level.

	Dependent Variable: *Rejection Rate*					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Corruption Rate	0.358**	0.392***	0.382***	0.404***	0.346**	0.277**
	(0.140)	(0.144)	(0.138)	(0.145)	(0.132)	(0.110)
Log(Income)			-0.062	-0.082	-0.104	-0.062
			(0.081)	(0.095)	(0.092)	(0.077)
Log(Population)			-0.031**	-0.028**	-0.018	-0.011
			(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.011)	(0.008)
Average FOIA Score						-0.006
						(0.006)
$\mathbb{1}$*(Residents Only)*						0.251***
						(0.048)
Fixed Effects						
Quarter of Submission		X	X	X	X	X
Matched-Group					X	X
Condition						
Matched-Group-level σ(*Corruption Rate*)> 0				X	X	X
N	17,605	17,605	17,605	11,653	11,653	11,653
R^2	0.014	0.057	0.068	0.065	0.259	0.286

Table A6: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections: Shorter Pre-Election Windows

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during either the four months (columns 1-3) or five months (columns 4-6) prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed with a department in a jurisdiction that either had an election four months prior to the election date (in columns 1-3) or had an election five months prior to the election date (in columns 4-6). The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.35 in the sample used in columns 1-3 and 0.34 in the sample used in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	4 Months			5 Months		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	0.010	-0.078	-0.100*	-0.008	-0.101*	-0.124**
	(0.022)	(0.058)	(0.054)	(0.027)	(0.058)	(0.051)
Corruption Rate	0.287	0.219		0.368*	0.294	
	(0.185)	(0.194)		(0.189)	(0.193)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.343*	0.407**		0.366**	0.440***
		(0.182)	(0.177)		(0.172)	(0.149)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	4,004	4,004	4,004	4,198	4,198	4,198
R^2	0.228	0.229	0.278	0.243	0.244	0.293

Table A7: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections: Longer Pre-Election Windows

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during either the nine months (columns 1-3) or twelve months (columns 4-6) prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed with a department in a jurisdiction that either had an election nine months prior to the election date (in columns 1-3) or had an election twelve months prior to the election date (in columns 4-6). The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.29 in the sample used in columns 1-3 and 0.27 in the sample used in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	9 Months			12 Months		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.011	-0.138***	-0.154***	-0.008	-0.089**	-0.106***
	(0.026)	(0.044)	(0.041)	(0.020)	(0.038)	(0.039)
Corruption Rate	0.393**	0.269		0.417**	0.326*	
	(0.175)	(0.179)		(0.163)	(0.173)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) × *Corruption Rate*		0.492***	0.547***		0.314***	0.382***
		(0.112)	(0.107)		(0.104)	(0.110)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	4,838	4,838	4,838	5,257	5,257	5,257
R^2	0.254	0.256	0.307	0.271	0.272	0.323

Table A8: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections: Earliest Elections as Deadlines

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. Failure to response is determined by whether agencies issue a response within the shortest amount of time between request submission and an election in the same jurisdiction for each matched group. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed with a department in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.38. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.020	-0.144**	-0.154**
	(0.031)	(0.065)	(0.060)
Corruption Rate	0.289	0.181	
	(0.205)	(0.196)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.484**	0.509***
		(0.183)	(0.180)
Fixed Effects			
Matched-Group	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X
State			X
N	4,273	4,273	4,273
R^2	0.234	0.236	0.288

Table A9: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections by Agency Level

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions (cities in columns 1-3, states in columns 4-6) with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's mayoral or gubernatorial election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed to a government agency in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.31 for the sample in columns 1-3, and 0.35 for the sample in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	City Agencies			State Agencies		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.033	-0.135*	-0.165**	0.013	-0.157**	-0.170**
	(0.038)	(0.069)	(0.065)	(0.034)	(0.078)	(0.070)
Corruption Rate	0.299	0.237		0.454**	0.233	
	(0.227)	(0.216)		(0.178)	(0.189)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) × *Corruption Rate*		0.405*	0.487**		0.642**	0.712***
		(0.202)	(0.189)		(0.253)	(0.219)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	2,545	2,545	2,545	1,295	1,295	1,295
R^2	0.248	0.249	0.307	0.290	0.296	0.374

Table A10: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections: Police and Non-Police Requests

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The sample is restricted to FOIA requests submitted to municipal and state police departments in columns 1-3, and to FOIA requests submitted to all other departments in columns 4-6. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed with a department in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.30 for the sample used in columns 1-3 and 0.33 for the sample used in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	Police Requests			Non-Police Requests		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.021	-0.098	-0.144**	0.003	-0.203***	-0.215***
	(0.028)	(0.063)	(0.064)	(0.035)	(0.069)	(0.065)
Corruption Rate	0.251	0.191		0.474**	0.274	
	(0.226)	(0.223)		(0.184)	(0.179)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.308	0.450**		0.779***	0.832***
		(0.207)	(0.210)		(0.216)	(0.201)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	2,360	2,360	2,360	1,783	1,783	1,783
R^2	0.243	0.244	0.323	0.296	0.302	0.360

Table A11: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections by Incumbent's Political Party

This table presents the test of whether cities and states with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The sample is restricted to FOIA requests submitted in jurisdictions where the most recent election (at most 60 months prior to submission) was won by a Republican in columns 1-3 or by a Democrat in columns 4-6. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed to a government agency in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.30 for the sample in columns 1-3 and 0.33 for the sample in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	Republican Incumbent			Democratic Incumbent		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	0.027	-0.112	-0.148	-0.029	-0.159***	-0.177***
	(0.046)	(0.090)	(0.091)	(0.028)	(0.055)	(0.047)
Corruption Rate	0.631***	0.424**		0.298	0.197	
	(0.172)	(0.201)		(0.263)	(0.246)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.536**	0.626***		0.512***	0.559***
		(0.243)	(0.229)		(0.168)	(0.142)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	1,166	1,166	1,163	2,442	2,442	2,439
R^2	0.323	0.326	0.391	0.265	0.267	0.321

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Table A12: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections by Incumbent's Vote Margin

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The sample is restricted to FOIA requests submitted in jurisdictions where the most recent election (at most 60 months prior to submission) was decided by a close contest, defined as an election where the winner defeated the runner up by a vote margin of less than five percentage points in columns 1-3 or less than ten percentage points in columns 4-6. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed with a department in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.27 for the sample in columns 1-3 and 0.31 for the sample in columns 4-6. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)					
	5% Vote Margin			10% Vote Margin		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.036	-0.149	-0.134	-0.068	-0.120	-0.145
	(0.050)	(0.133)	(0.154)	(0.042)	(0.089)	(0.108)
Corruption Rate	-0.166	-0.363		0.156	0.081	
	(0.272)	(0.451)		(0.236)	(0.308)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.470	0.421		0.226	0.312
		(0.606)	(0.687)		(0.323)	(0.420)
Fixed Effects						
Matched-Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X	X	X	X
State			X			X
N	452	452	447	900	900	897
R^2	0.304	0.305	0.376	0.328	0.328	0.378

Table A13: Matched Sample Analysis of Failure to Respond Around Elections: Partially Completed Requests as Completions and "No Documents" as Rejections

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions with an election have a different rate of failure to respond to FOIA requests, defined as either a rejection or failure to response prior to an election, during the six months prior to the jurisdiction's mayoral or gubernatorial election when we match the given FOIA request to other identical FOIA requests that were filed to a government agency in a different jurisdiction by the same submitter. The dependent variable $\mathbb{1}$(Failure) takes the value of one if the FOIA request either was rejected, received a "No Documents" response, or received no decision prior to the latest election deadline in its matched group, and it takes a value of zero if the FOIA request was either partially or fully completed proir to the latest election deadline in its matched group. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one if the FOIA request was filed to a government agency in a jurisdiction that had an election six months prior to the election date. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{1}$(Failure), is 0.55. Standard errors are double clustered at the matched group and state level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{1}$(Failure)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	-0.001	-0.064*	-0.079**
	(0.017)	(0.038)	(0.034)
Corruption Rate	0.318**	0.267*	
	(0.130)	(0.136)	
$\mathbb{1}$(Election) $\times$ *Corruption Rate*		0.245**	0.295***
		(0.110)	(0.100)
Fixed Effects			
Matched-Group	X	X	X
Quarter of Submission	X	X	X
State			X
N	6,898	6,898	6,898
R^2	0.314	0.314	0.338

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B Volume of FOIA Requests around Elections

As a test of whether the volume of FOIA requests submitted to city and state governments varies in relation to mayoral and gubernatorial elections, we take the set of all city-months from January 2010 through June 2021 in the cities for which we have data on mayoral elections from the ALGED and data on FOIA requests from MuckRock, as well as the set of all state-months during the same period, and we count the number of completed FOIA request submissions to local government agencies in each city-month and to state government agencies in each state-month. Using the sample of 64,584 city-months across the 468 cities for which we observe both elections and FOIA requests between 2010 and 2021 and 6,900 state-months across all 50 states, we take the number of FOIA submissions $Requests_{ct}$ in jurisdiction j at (monthly) time t, and we estimate

$$Requests_{jt} = \alpha + \beta \times Election_{jt} + X_{jt} + \epsilon_{jt} \tag{1}$$

where $Election_{jt}$ indicates whether the month t is one of the six months preceding an election in jurisdiction j; in cases where two elections occur within six months of one another in the same jurisdiction, we use only the first election. We double-cluster standard errors at the city and monthly date level. The results are in Table B1. The average jurisdiction in the sample receives 0.19 FOIA requests in a given month; comparing within states and years, an increase of more than 20% in monthly FOIA request submission volumes during pre-election periods would fall well outside of our estimated 99% confidence interval.

Table B1: Monthly Number of FOIA Requests Submitted Around Elections: 6-Month Cutoff

This table presents the test of whether jurisdictions, including both cities and states, have a different volume of FOIA requests submitted during the six months prior to relevant (mayoral or gubernatorial) elections. Observations are jurisdiction-months, comprising both city-months and state-months, from January 2010 through June 2021 in all 50 states and the 468 cities that appear both in MuckRock's data on FOIA requests and the ALGED's data on mayoral elections. The variable $\mathbb{1}$(Election) takes the value of one for city-months in the six months prior to a mayoral election in the city, and one for state-months in the six months prior to a gubernatorial election in the state. The mean of the dependent variable, $\mathbb{N}$(Requests), is 0.19. Standard errors are double clustered at the jurisdiction (state or city) and monthly date level, and are reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at the 10% level, ** at the 5% level, and *** at the 1% level.

	Dependent Variable: $\mathbb{N}$(Requests)			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\mathbb{1}$(Election)	0.007	0.002	-0.001	0.001
	(0.020)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.014)
Fixed Effects				
Jurisdiction level		X	X	X
State			X	X
Year				X
N	71,622	71,622	71,622	71,622
R^2	0.000	0.054	0.079	0.096