

A Stochastic Model of Clientelistic Linkage as Valence Buying

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Abstract

This paper introduces a spatial model of machine politics which formalizes clientelistic linkage as a “valence-buying phenomenon”. The model allows for the existence of more than one machine party. Moreover, the platform choice of the political parties and their decisions regarding to how much to bribe each voter are simultaneously determined in the equilibrium subject to their budget constraints. We illustrate the predictions of the model by simulating the equilibrium using American National Election Survey data. This approach can yield empirically testable predictions which have implications outside the vote-buying literature, including the controversial phenomenon of bribing in international organizations.

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