Online Appendix

No Time to Attend? Effects of Family-Friendly Meeting Hours in Politics

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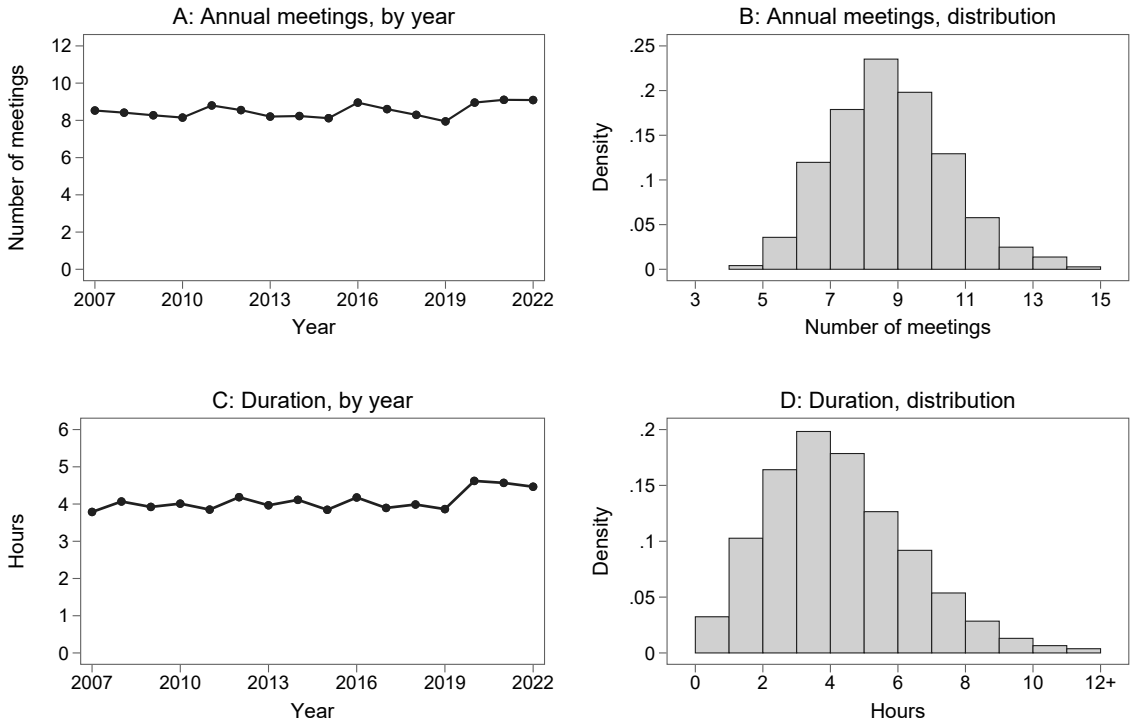
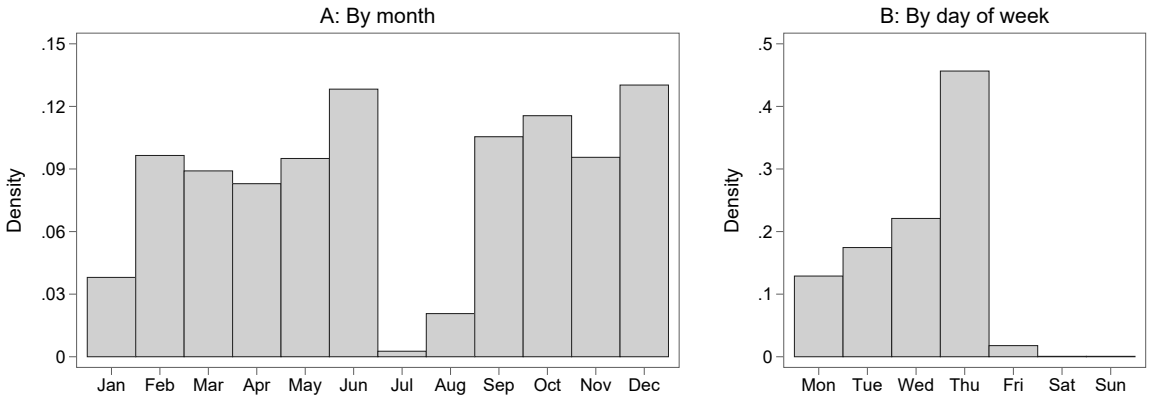
Appendix A: Supplementary material

Figure A1: Local council meeting frequency and duration, 2007–2022



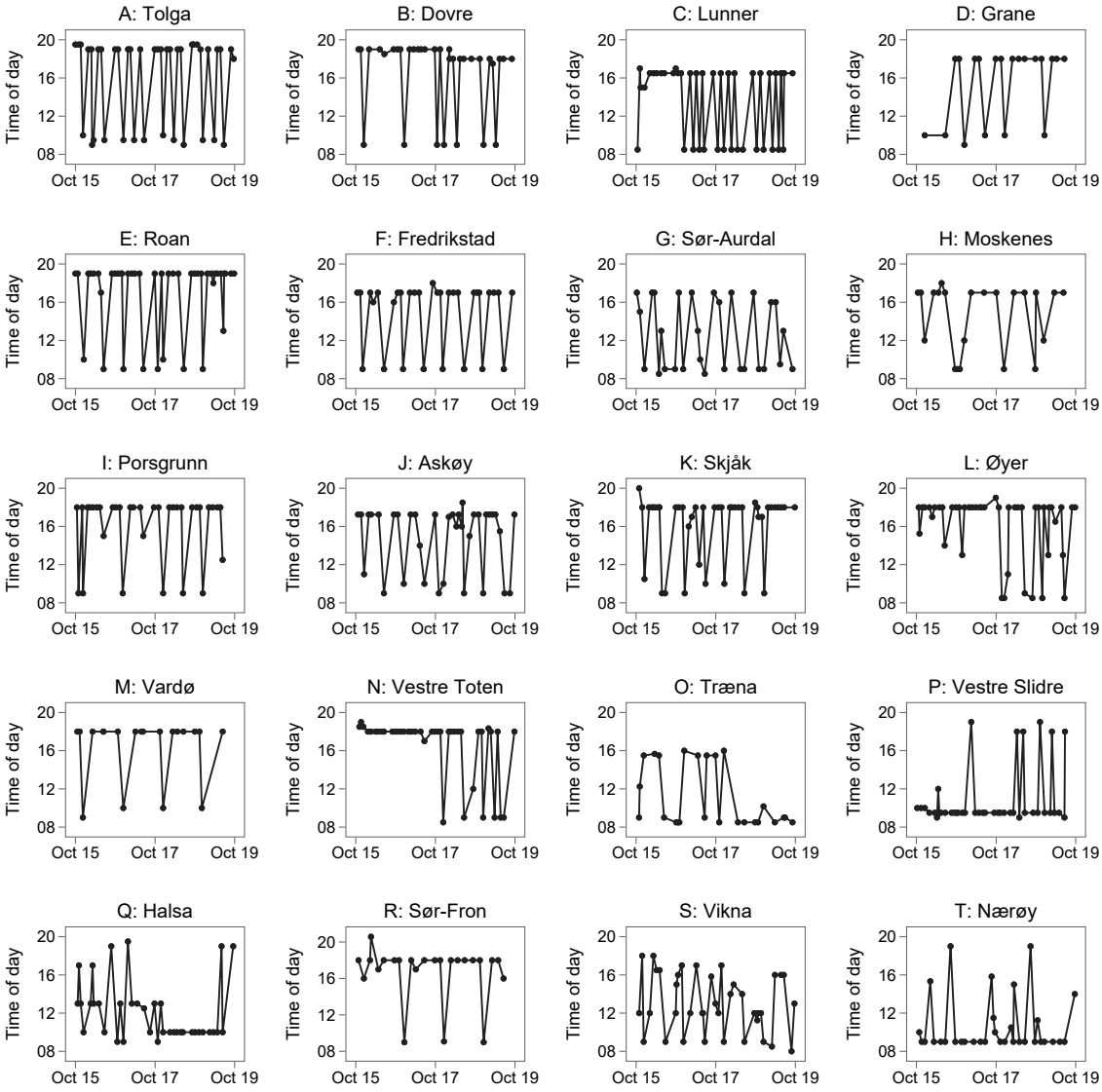
Notes: Panels A and C plot the evolution over time in the average number of meetings per council-year and the average session duration, respectively. Panels B and D show their distributions. The figure uses all meetings in the Local Council Meetings dataset (2007–2022; 2023 is excluded because coverage ends in September).

Figure A2: Local council meeting distributions by month and day of week



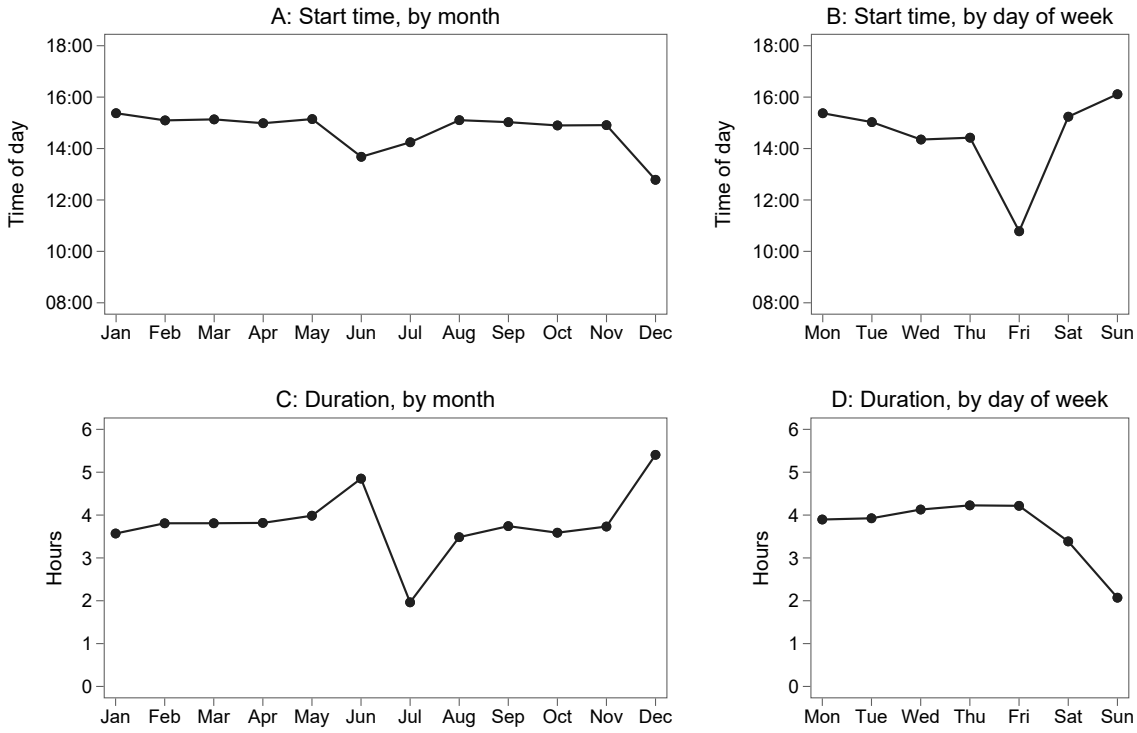
Notes: Panels A and B show the distribution of local council meetings by calendar month and day of the week, respectively. The figure uses all meetings in the Local Council Meetings dataset (2007–2022; 2023 is excluded because coverage ends in September).

Figure A3: Meeting start times over time for the 20 most variable councils



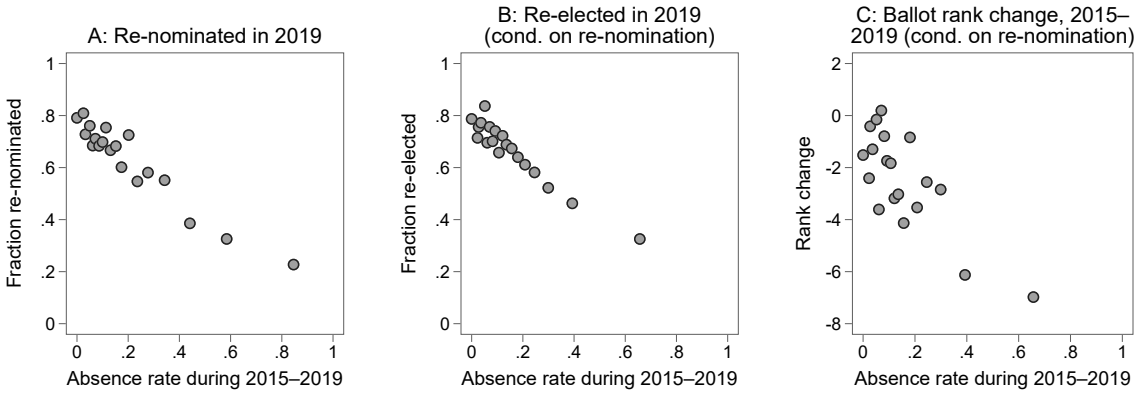
Notes: Each panel plots meeting start times over time for one of the 20 municipalities with the greatest within-council variation in start times, measured by the standard deviation. The figure is based on a 25% random sample of municipalities in the 2015–2019 election period.

Figure A4: Average start time and meeting duration, by month and day of week



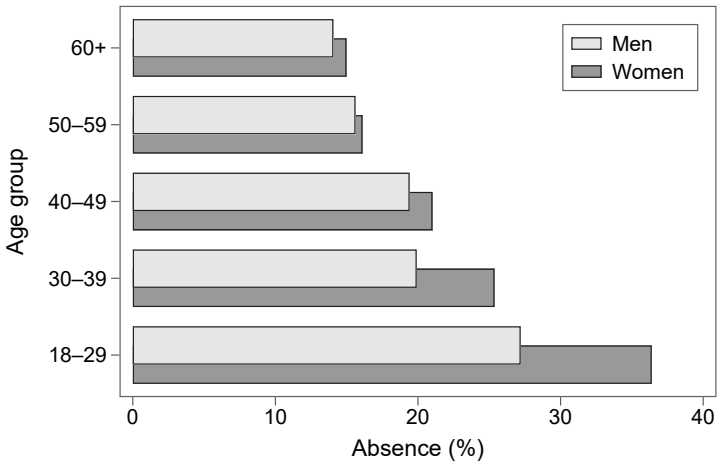
Notes: Panels A and B plot the average start time of local council meetings by calendar month and day of the week, respectively; Panels C and D do the same for average meeting duration. The figure uses all meetings in the Local Council Meetings dataset (2007–2022; 2023 is excluded because coverage ends in September).

Figure A5: Absence rates and subsequent election outcomes



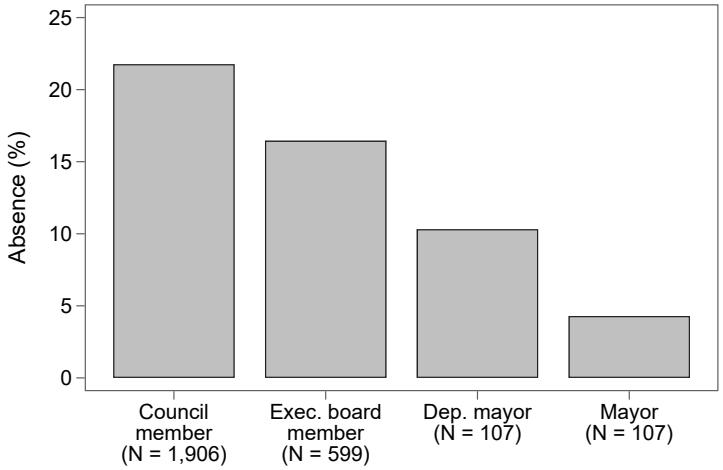
Notes: Each panel plots a binned scatter relating average absence rates during the 2015–2019 election period to outcomes in the 2019 election. Panel A covers all 2,717 individuals in the main estimation sample; Panels B and C restrict to the 1,729 council members who were renominated.

Figure A6: Absences, by gender and age



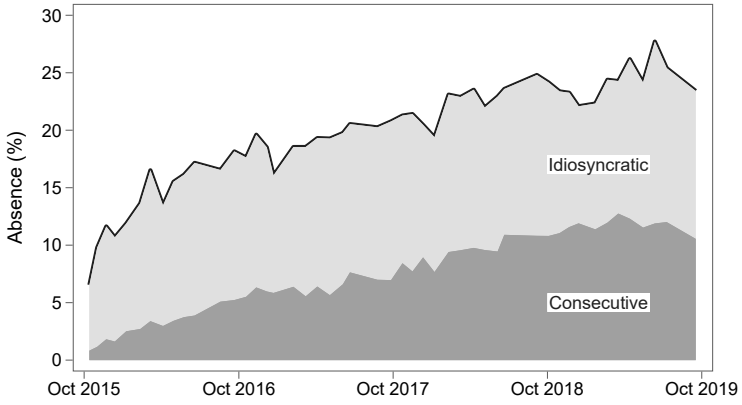
Notes: The figure plots average absence rates from local council meetings by gender and age group, based on all 92,687 person-meeting observations in the estimation sample.

Figure A7: Absences, by level of the local political hierarchy



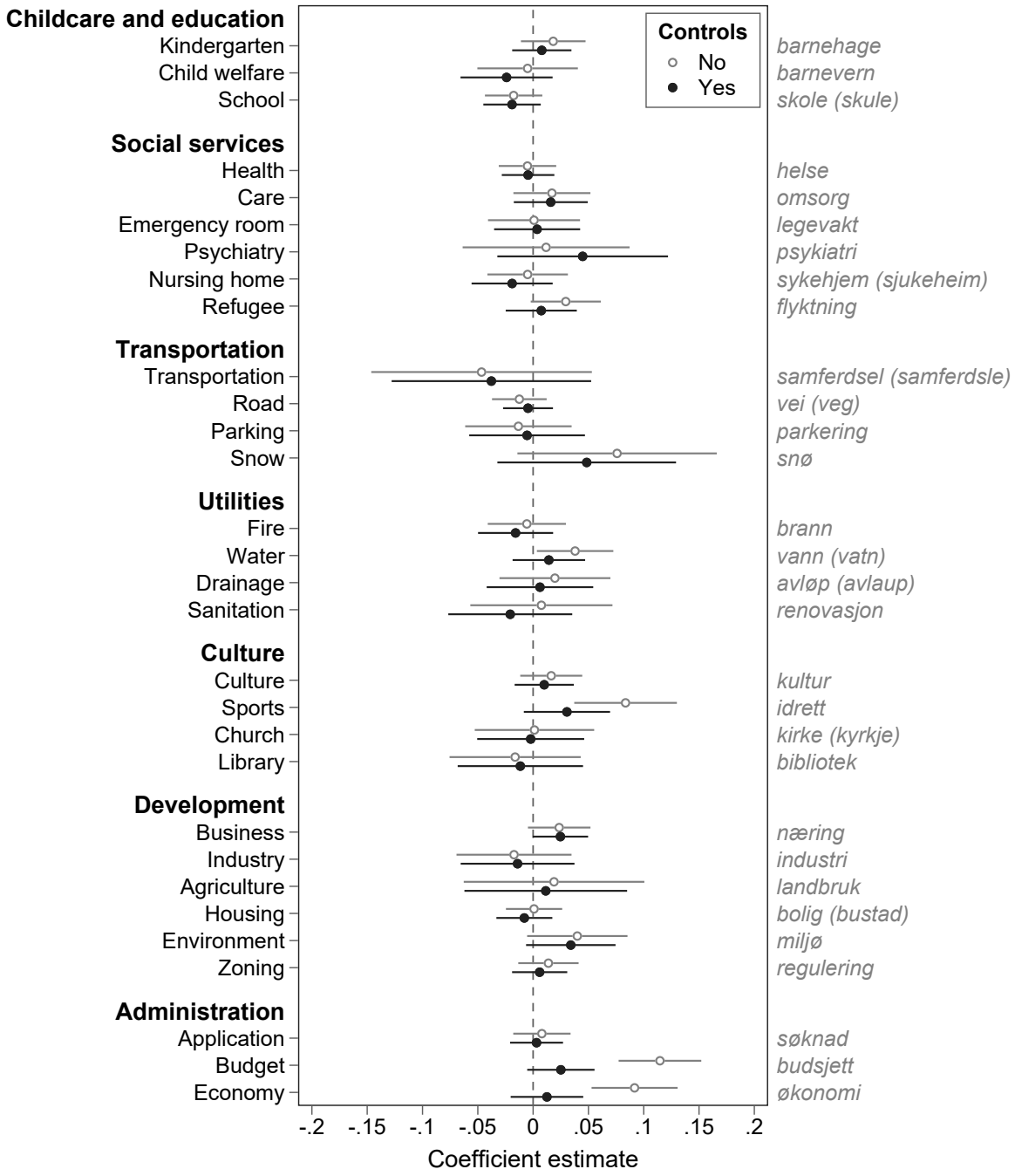
Notes: The figure plots average absence rates by level of the local political hierarchy, based on all 92,687 person-meeting observations in the estimation sample.

Figure A8: Absence rates over the election period, by type



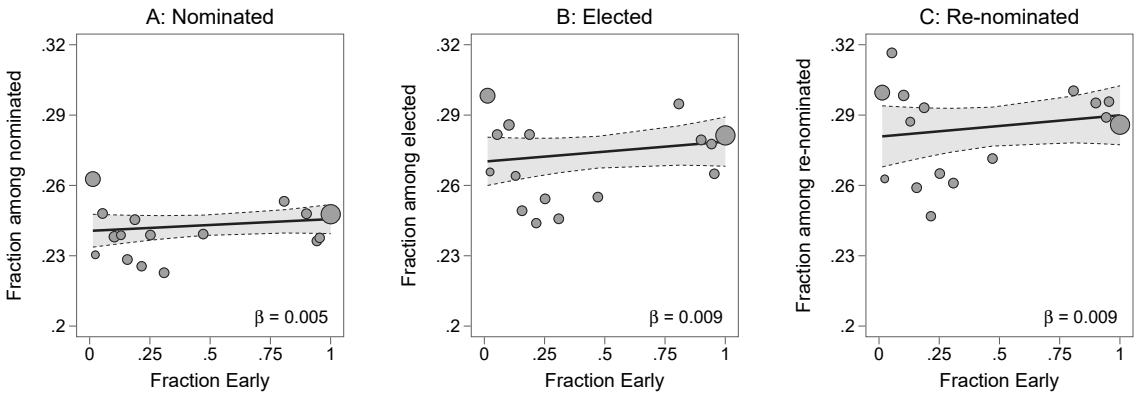
Notes: The figure plots the evolution of absence rates over the 2015–2019 election period. The solid black line shows overall absence, with shaded areas distinguishing between absence types: 'consecutive' absences (five or more consecutive meetings missed), and 'idiosyncratic' absences (all other absences). Absence rates are computed from all 92,687 person-meeting observations in the estimation sample.

Figure A9: Correlations between meeting content and start times



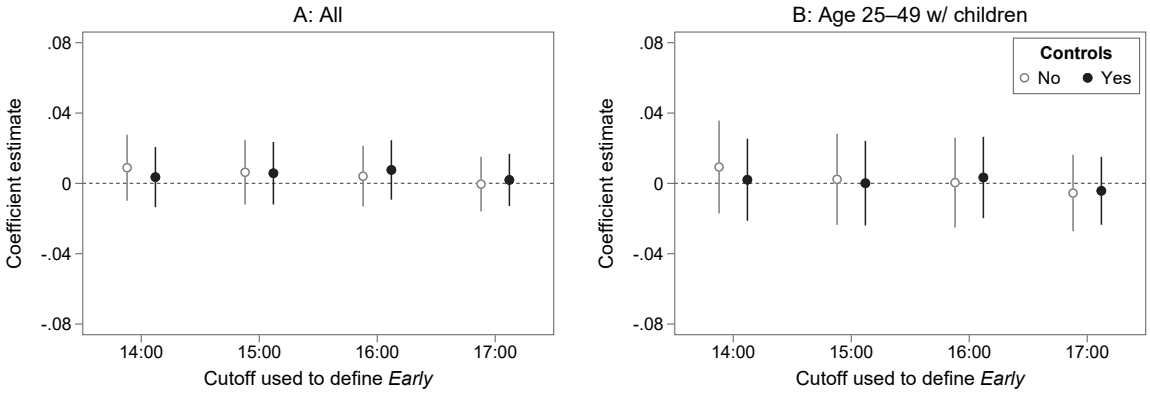
Notes: The figure presents coefficient estimates and 95% confidence intervals for δ in Equation 2, estimated separately with (filled circles) and without (hollow circles) meeting controls (X_{sm}). The independent variable of interest is an indicator for whether keyword j appeared in the agenda from meeting sm. For all other details, see notes to Figure 2.

Figure A10: Meeting times and the representation of men 25–49



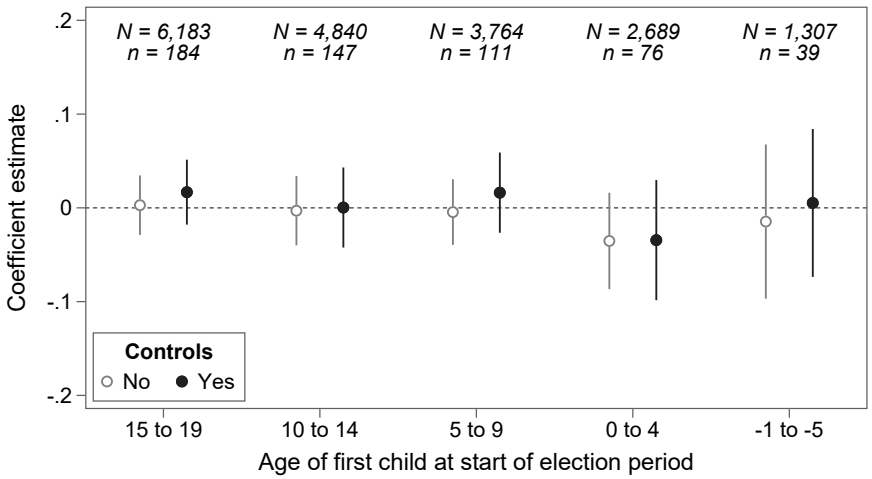
Notes: Each panel plots the year-residualized share of Early meetings in municipality m during election period t against the share of men aged 25–49 in mt. Panel A covers all politicians on nomination lists, Panel B restricts to those elected to office, and Panel C further restricts to those who also appear on a nomination list in the subsequent period. A meeting is classified as Early if it begins before 16:00. Each data point represents a binned average across all 1,643 council-period observations in Norway between 2007 and 2023, weighted by bin size. Solid lines show fitted values from linear regressions, with 95% confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered at the most aggregated, post-merger (2020) municipality level ($n = 356$).

Figure A11: Effects of meeting times on women's absences: alternative treatment definitions



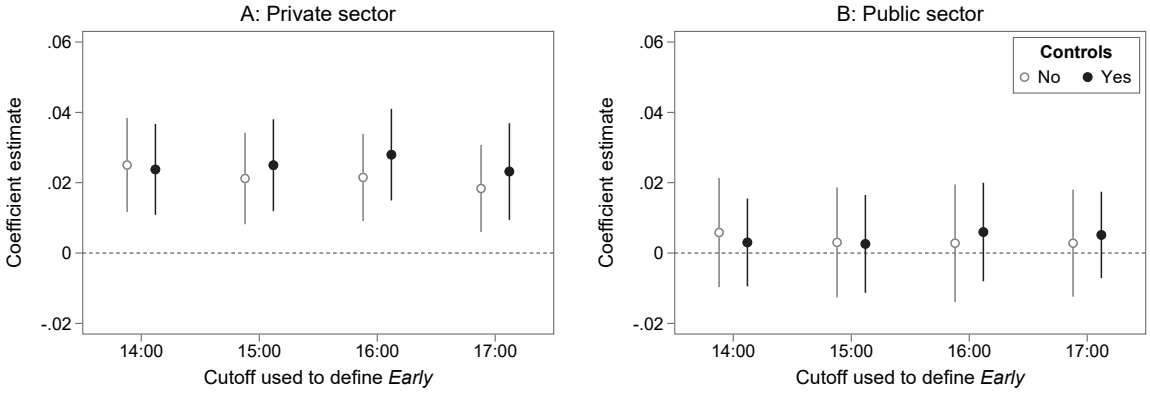
Notes: The figure presents coefficient estimates and 95% confidence intervals for β in Equation 1, using alternative definitions of Early. Each estimate comes from a separate regression. Panel A considers all female politicians in the estimation sample; Panel B focuses on women aged 25–49 with children (as of 2015). Estimates are reported with (filled circles) and without (hollow circles) meeting controls (X_{sm}). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level.

Figure A12: Effects of meeting times on fathers' absences, by age of the first child



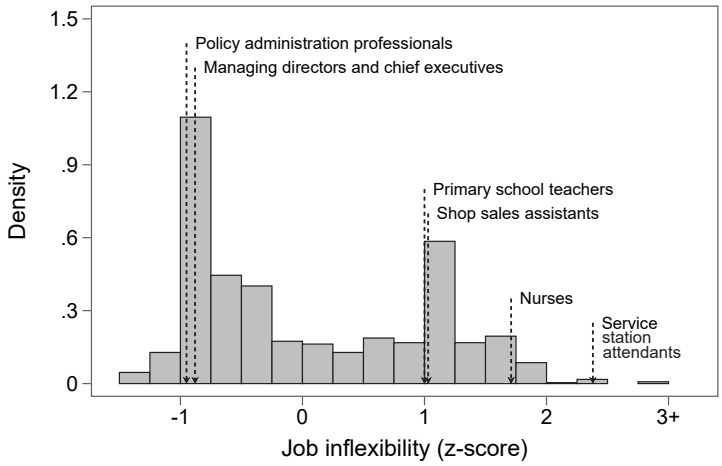
Notes: The figure presents coefficient estimates and 95% confidence intervals for β in Equation 1, estimated with (filled circles) and without (hollow circles) meeting controls (X_{sm}). Each estimate comes from a separate regression for politicians whose first child was of the indicated age at the start of the election period (October 2015). N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, for each age group. Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level.

Figure A13: Effects of meeting times on working politicians' absences, by sector: alternative treatment definitions



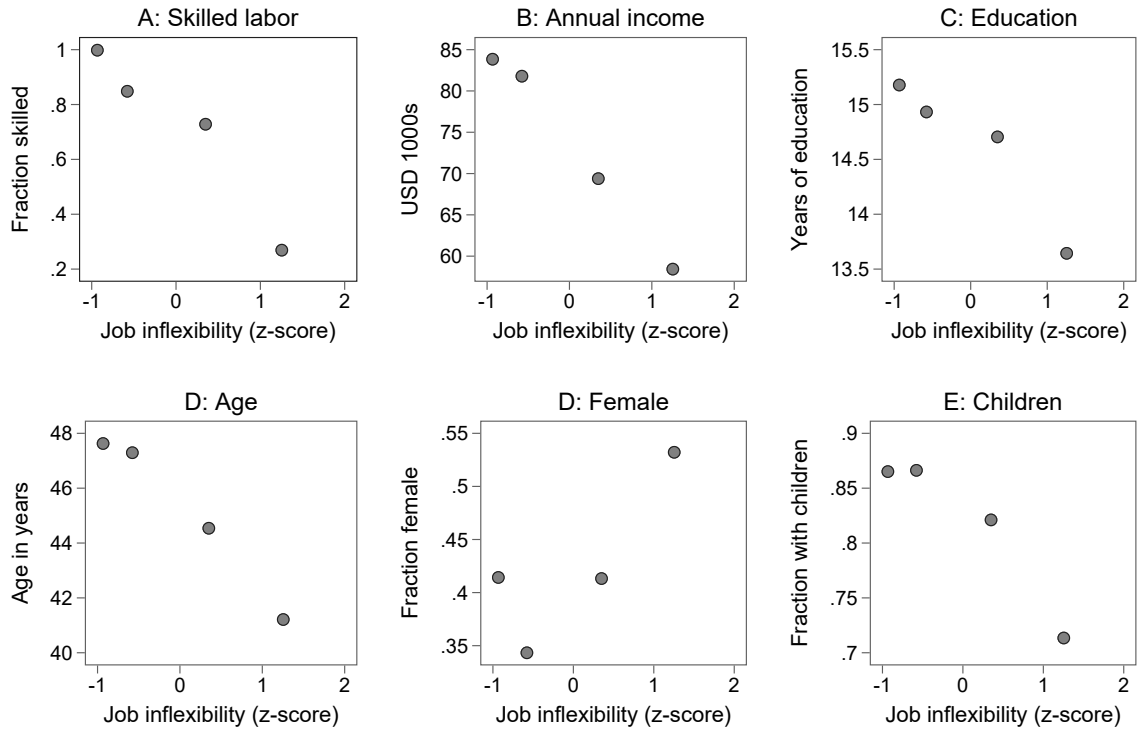
Notes: The figure presents coefficient estimates and 95% confidence intervals for β in Equation 1, using alternative definitions of Early. Each estimate comes from a separate regression. Panels A and B restrict to politicians whose main occupation is registered in the private and public sector, respectively, excluding those employed as 'politicians'. Estimates are reported with (filled circles) and without (hollow circles) meeting controls (X_{sm}). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level.

Figure A14: Distribution of the occupational inflexibility index



Notes: The figure plots the distribution of the occupational inflexibility index. The sample consists of one observation per individual in 2015, conditional on having an occupation registered outside of politics (2,092 individuals). Arrows indicate the relative ranking of six selected occupations. Higher values imply less flexibility.

Figure A15: Correlations between inflexibility and occupational characteristics



Notes: Each panel plots a binned scatter of occupational inflexibility against one of six background characteristics. The sample consists of one observation per individual in 2015, conditional on having an occupation registered outside of politics (2,092 individuals). Each point represents the average within a quartile of the inflexibility index. Higher values imply less flexibility.

Table A1: The *Early* indicator and meeting start time and duration

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A: Start time					
Early	-5.9409***	-5.9489***	-5.7537***	-5.7516***	-5.7354***
	(0.2781)	(0.2785)	(0.2848)	(0.2871)	(0.2885)
		N = 3,546,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 14.18	
B: Duration					
Early	2.2444***	2.2486***	1.6624***	1.6798***	1.5701***
	(0.1796)	(0.1797)	(0.1742)	(0.1745)	(0.1728)
		N = 2,747,	96 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 4.14	
Controls					
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of meeting start time (Panel A) or duration in hours (Panel B) on the Early indicator, at the meeting level. All models include municipality fixed effects, not reported. The sample covers all local council meetings in the estimation sample from October 2015 to September 2019. Meetings with missing end times, for which duration cannot be computed, are dropped from Panel B. Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A2: Comparison of women on councils with vs. without variation in meeting times

A: Overall	Variation	No variation	Diff
Age	44.744	44.600	0.144
Children (%)	81.452	79.396	2.056
3+ children (%)	32.863	36.412	-3.549
Married (%)	66.129	66.075	0.054
Immigrant (%)	3.226	4.085	-0.859
Years of education	14.970	14.882	0.087
Labor income (USD 1,000s)	61.942	62.022	-0.080
Public sector job (%)	58.266	53.996	4.270
Private sector job (%)	25.605	28.242	-2.637
Prior political experience (%)	44.153	41.385	2.768
N	496	563	

B: Age 25-49 w/ children	Variation	No var.	Diff
Age	40.738	40.524	0.213
Children (%)	100.000	100.000	
3+ children (%)	37.705	41.199	-3.494
Married (%)	69.262	67.041	2.221
Immigrant (%)	3.689	3.745	-0.057
Years of education	15.354	15.221	0.133
Labor income (USD 1,000s)	66.030	68.739	-2.709
Public sector job (%)	64.344	63.296	1.048
Private sector job (%)	25.410	25.843	-0.433
Prior political experience (%)	40.984	39.700	1.283
N	244	267	

Notes: The table reports mean outcomes for all female politicians (Panel A), and for women aged 25–49 with children (Panel B), across councils. 'Variation' denotes the 50 councils with identifying variation in meeting times (excluding variation from June and December), while 'No variation' denotes the remaining 57 councils. 'Diff' reports the difference between the two groups, along with the results from a test of statistical significance using standard errors clustered at the council level. None of the differences are statistically significant.

Table A3: Predictability of meeting times within the election period

	No FEs	Municipality FEs				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Previous meeting						
Predicted Early	0.6060***	-0.1136***	-0.1081***	-0.0753***	-0.0773***	-0.0772***
	(0.0374)	(0.0246)	(0.0245)	(0.0241)	(0.0235)	(0.0232)
	N = 3,439, 107 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.49					
B: Most common among all previous meetings						
Predicted Early	0.7590***	0.0063	0.0603**	-0.0200	-0.0306	-0.0310
	(0.0206)	(0.0238)	(0.0259)	(0.0286)	(0.0273)	(0.0264)
	N = 3,439, 107 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.49					
Controls						
Year effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of the Early indicator for meeting s on a forecast of it based on the council's preceding meetings, at the meeting level. In Panel A, the forecast is the Early indicator for the preceding meeting; in Panel B, it is the most common value of Early among all preceding meetings in the election period (ties are broken by the preceding meeting). The sample covers all local council meetings in the estimation sample from October 2015 to September 2019, excluding each council's first meeting. Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A4: Effects of meeting times on men's absences

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Overall						
Early	0.0097	0.0162***	0.0185***	0.0180***	0.0188***	0.0183***
	(0.0065)	(0.0059)	(0.0066)	(0.0065)	(0.0066)	(0.0068)
		N = 53,892,	n = 1,581,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 0.18	
B: Aged 25–49 with children						
Early	-0.0003	0.0056	0.0054	0.0055	0.0064	0.0052
	(0.0105)	(0.0101)	(0.0114)	(0.0114)	(0.0115)	(0.0118)
		N = 19,180,	n = 570,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 0.20	
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1. Panel A covers all male politicians in the estimation sample; Panel B restricts to men aged 25–49 with children at the start of the election period (2015). All models include individual fixed effects, not reported. N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, in each panel (constant across columns). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A5: Effects of meeting times on women's absences: municipality-level FEs

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Overall						
Early	0.0041	0.0127	0.0084	0.0064	0.0070	0.0077
	(0.0087)	(0.0077)	(0.0088)	(0.0084)	(0.0085)	(0.0085)
	$N = 35{,}249$, $n = 1{,}029$, 107 clusters, $\bar{y} = 0.23$					
B: Aged 25–49 with children						
Early	0.0004	0.0109	0.0037	0.0021	0.0031	0.0034
	(0.0129)	(0.0117)	(0.0121)	(0.0119)	(0.0120)	(0.0117)
	$N = 16{,}934$, $n = 497$, 107 clusters, $\bar{y} = 0.23$					
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1, replacing individual fixed effects (α_i) with municipality fixed effects (α_m). Panel A covers all female politicians in the estimation sample; Panel B restricts to women aged 25–49 with children at the start of the election period (2015). N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, in each panel (constant across columns). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A6: Effects of meeting times on women's absences: excluding midday meetings

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Overall						
Early	0.0111	0.0147	0.0085	0.0067	0.0071	0.0068
	(0.0103)	(0.0096)	(0.0107)	(0.0106)	(0.0106)	(0.0106)
	N = 31,296, n = 1,029, 107 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.23					
B: Aged 25–49 with children						
Early	0.0103	0.0131	0.0049	0.0032	0.0037	0.0038
	(0.0145)	(0.0140)	(0.0147)	(0.0147)	(0.0147)	(0.0144)
	N = 14,813, n = 497, 107 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.24					
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1, excluding meetings starting between 12:00 and 16:00. Panel A covers all female politicians in the estimation sample; Panel B restricts to women aged 25–49 with children at the start of the election period (2015). N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, in each panel (constant across columns). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A7: Effects of meeting times on mothers' absences: DiD specifications

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Early	0.0090*	0.0162***	0.0158***	0.0146***	0.0153***	0.0152***
	(0.0051)	(0.0043)	(0.0046)	(0.0044)	(0.0045)	(0.0045)
Early × Women 25–49 w/ children	-0.0086	-0.0074	-0.0071	-0.0067	-0.0064	-0.0061
	(0.0116)	(0.0117)	(0.0117)	(0.0118)	(0.0118)	(0.0118)
	N = 89,141, n = 2,610, 107 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.20					
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression extending Equation 1 with an interaction between Early and an indicator for women aged 25–49 with children. Regressions are estimated on the full estimation sample. All models include individual fixed effects, not reported. N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, in each panel (constant across columns). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A8: Effects of meeting times and duration on absences of mothers aged 25–49

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Early	0.0137	0.0214	0.0083	0.0076	0.0076	0.0061
	(0.0175)	(0.0172)	(0.0176)	(0.0176)	(0.0175)	(0.0171)
Short	0.0220*	0.0180	0.0215*	0.0212*	0.0210	0.0192
	(0.0128)	(0.0121)	(0.0125)	(0.0125)	(0.0130)	(0.0130)
Early × Short	-0.0178	-0.0144	-0.0104	-0.0103	-0.0103	-0.0076
	(0.0172)	(0.0155)	(0.0156)	(0.0157)	(0.0157)	(0.0155)
	N = 13,637, n = 446, 96 clusters, $\bar{y}$ = 0.24					
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression extending Equation 1 with an interaction between Early and an indicator for meetings lasting less than the median duration of four hours (Short). The sample is restricted to female politicians aged 25–49 with children. Around 20% of observations are excluded due to missing meeting end times. N and n denote the number of observations and individuals, respectively, in each panel (constant across columns). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A9: Effects of meeting times on absences of mothers aged 25–49, sample splits

	z = High frequency		z = High absence		z = No spouse		z = No grand-parents in mun.	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Early	-0.0123	-0.0044	0.0018	0.0009	0.0034	0.0046	-0.0024	0.0008
	(0.0157)	(0.0148)	(0.0200)	(0.0185)	(0.0133)	(0.0129)	(0.0166)	(0.0151)
Early × z	0.0187	0.0114	-0.0024	0.0044	-0.0097	-0.0040	0.0065	0.0059
	(0.0233)	(0.0210)	(0.0261)	(0.0229)	(0.0228)	(0.0222)	(0.0222)	(0.0211)
Controls	–	Yes	–	Yes	–	Yes	–	Yes
Observations	16,934	16,934	16,934	16,934	16,934	16,934	16,934	16,934
Clusters	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
Mean DV	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression extending Equation 1 with an interaction between Early and an indicator (z) equal to one for politicians in the specified subgroup. In columns (1)–(2), z indicates membership in a council with an above-median number of meetings per year; in columns (3)–(4), membership in a council with an above-median absence rate; in columns (5)–(6), not being married in 2015; and in columns (7)–(8), having no parent residing in the same municipality in 2015. The sample is restricted to female politicians aged 25–49 with children. All models include individual fixed effects, not reported. 'Controls' are as defined in Table 2, column (6). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A10: Effects of meeting times on working politicians' absences, by sector: municipality-level FEs

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Private sector						
Early	0.0186***	0.0251***	0.0258***	0.0244***	0.0258***	0.0253***
	(0.0063)	(0.0060)	(0.0065)	(0.0065)	(0.0065)	(0.0066)
		$N = 31{,}989$,	$n = 1{,}161$,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y} = 0.21$	
B: Public sector						
Early	0.0030	0.0108	0.0081	0.0073	0.0071	0.0070
	(0.0087)	(0.0072)	(0.0074)	(0.0070)	(0.0071)	(0.0072)
		$N = 35{,}869$,	$n = 1{,}267$,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y} = 0.20$	
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1, replacing individual fixed effects (α_i) with municipality fixed effects (α_m). Panels A and B restrict to politicians whose main occupation is registered in the private and public sector, respectively, excluding those employed as 'politicians'. For all other details, see notes to Table 3. Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A11: Effects of meeting times on working politicians' absences, by sector: excluding midday meetings

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
A: Private sector						
Early	0.0301***	0.0330***	0.0336***	0.0316***	0.0321***	0.0311***
	(0.0077)	(0.0079)	(0.0084)	(0.0086)	(0.0085)	(0.0086)
		N = 27,919,	n = 1,159,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 0.21	
B: Public sector						
Early	0.0076	0.0109	0.0070	0.0077	0.0076	0.0077
	(0.0091)	(0.0081)	(0.0083)	(0.0088)	(0.0089)	(0.0088)
		N = 31,924,	n = 1,267,	107 clusters,	$\bar{y}$ = 0.19	
Controls						
Year effects	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month effects	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Day-of-week effects	–	–	–	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agenda length	–	–	–	–	Yes	Yes
Agenda content	–	–	–	–	–	Yes

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1, excluding meetings starting between 12:00 and 16:00. Panels A and B restrict to politicians whose main occupation is registered in the private and public sector, respectively, excluding those employed as 'politicians'. For all other details, see notes to Table 3. Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Table A12: Effects of meeting times on working politicians' absences, by sector and absence type

A: Private sector	Any absence		Idiosyncratic		Consecutive	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Early	0.0215***	0.0274***	0.0177***	0.0272***	0.0039	0.0008
	(0.0063)	(0.0060)	(0.0062)	(0.0071)	(0.0033)	(0.0034)
Controls	–	Yes	–	Yes	–	Yes
Observations	31,989	31,989	31,989	31,989	31,989	31,989
Clusters	107	107	107	107	107	107
Mean DV	0.21	0.21	0.14	0.14	0.08	0.08
B: Public sector	Any absence		Idiosyncratic		Consecutive	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Early	0.0028	0.0096	-0.0032	0.0031	0.0060**	0.0029
	(0.0084)	(0.0073)	(0.0071)	(0.0066)	(0.0030)	(0.0026)
Controls	–	Yes	–	Yes	–	Yes
Observations	35,869	35,869	35,869	35,869	35,869	35,869
Clusters	107	107	107	107	107	107
Mean DV	0.20	0.20	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.07

*Notes: Each column reports estimates from a separate regression of Equation 1, where the dependent variable is as specified in the column header. Panels A and B restrict to politicians whose main occupation is registered in the private and public sector, respectively, excluding those employed as 'politicians'. All models include individual fixed effects, not reported. 'Controls' are as defined in Table 3, column (6). Standard errors are clustered at the municipality level and reported in parentheses. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Appendix B: Local Council Meetings dataset

The **Local Council Meetings** dataset contains meeting times for over 50,000 political meetings held in Norway between October 2007 and September 2023. The dataset was constructed using official meeting records collected from municipal administrations across the country. There are two versions of the dataset: The **raw** version is structured in long panel format, with each observation representing a separate meeting s in municipality m. The **collapsed** version includes the average meeting times for each council-election period. It functions as a direct add-on to Fiva et al. (2025), and can be merged with these data using an `m:1` merge in Stata with the variables `year` and `knr_loc`.

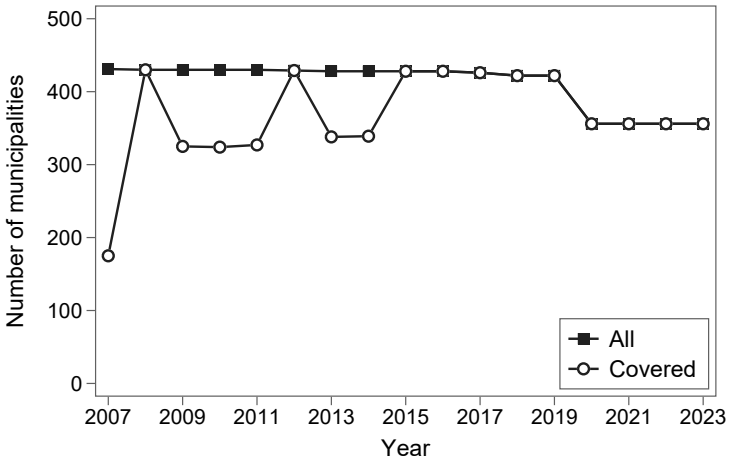
Description

The sample covers local council meetings from October 2007 to September 2023 across all 430 municipalities that existed in Norway during this period. There are no missing municipalities; however, for approximately one quarter of the municipalities, coverage prior to October 2015 includes only two representative years (2008 and 2012). In addition, individual meetings within municipalities may be missing due to technical or clerical errors in document retrieval, or because meetings exempt from public disclosure are not always included in compilations.[B1] Meetings held in the last three months of 2007 are also missing for about 250 councils. Figure B1 illustrates the number of councils per year with data coverage, while Figure B2 provides a map detailing the coverage level for each municipality.

Only officially recorded local council meetings are included in the sample. Other meetings that politicians have to attend, such as committee meetings or executive board meetings, are not covered. In addition, local council sessions without formal deliberations,

[B1] In the 2020 amalgamation reform, local councils for the new municipalities were formed in October 2019, three months before the implementation date on January 1, 2020. During this transition period, some outgoing councils continued to serve their original municipalities until dissolution. Meetings held by outgoing councils after September 2019 are excluded.

Figure B1: Number of municipalities/councils with data coverage, by year



Notes: The figure displays the total number of municipalities and those with data coverage, respectively, by year. Council-years with partial coverage are categorized as 'covered'.

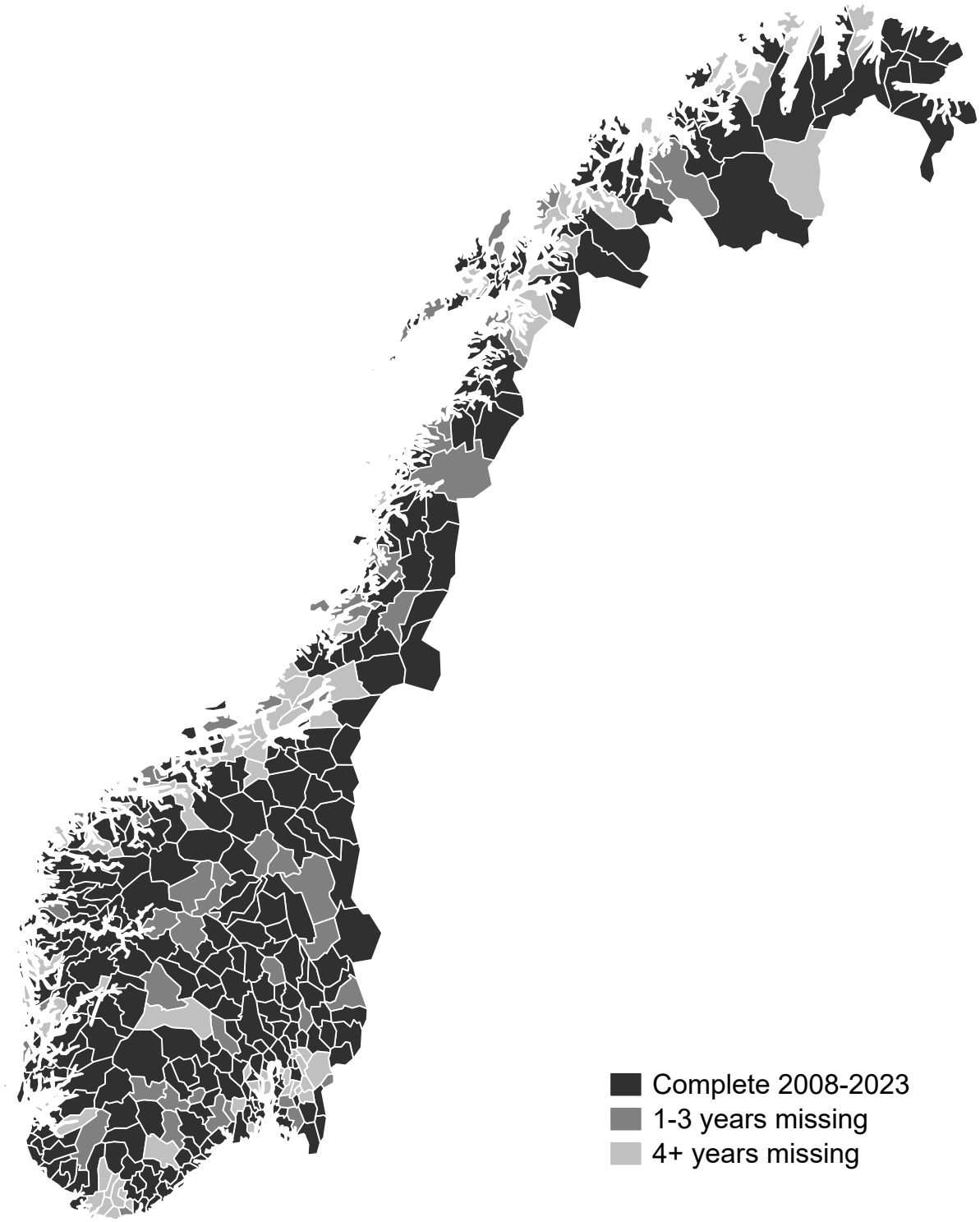
such as training days, site inspections, or briefing meetings, are generally excluded, unless the administrations explicitly document them. Meetings that are scheduled to take place over multiple days (not common) are recorded as separate entries. For about 2/3 of the meetings, end times are reported in addition to the start times.[B2] A handful of records in the dataset contain missing dates or start times, reflecting cases where a meeting is known to have occurred but the details are unknown.

Data sources

Data collection was carried out during spring and summer 2023. I relied primarily on official meeting minutes from local councils that were provided to me directly by the municipal administrations, or downloaded from digital archives accessible from the municipalities' official websites. In some cases, I visited municipal archives to obtain copies of the records directly. I also relied on informal sources – such as meeting calendars and interviews with former politicians – in a small number of cases where document re-

[B2]The accuracy of end times depends on the accuracy of the minute taker. While start times are normally published in official channels several weeks before the meeting, the end times are manually recorded after the meeting, usually by someone from the political secretariat.

Figure B2: Data coverage across Norway



Notes: The figure illustrates the municipal structure of Norway as of January 1, 2015, with colors representing the degree of data coverage for political meetings in each municipality.

trieval proved difficult. The data were processed primarily using computer automation, though hand-coding was employed where necessary (e.g., when reading timestamps in nonstandard formats).

Codebook

Raw version

- **knr** Municipality identifier (ISO 3166-2:NO)
- **knr_str** Municipality identifier in string format
- **kname** Municipality name
- **year** Year identifier
- **date** Meeting date
- **idMeeting** Seq. identifier for meetings within council-year (not an official id)
- **timeStart** Start time of meeting (hh:mm:ss)
- **hStart** Start time of meeting (hours)
- **timeEnd** Meeting end time (hh:mm:ss)
- **hEnd** Meeting end time (hours)
- **hDuration** Duration of meeting (hours)
- **numYr** Number of included meetings in year

Collapsed version

- **knr_loc** Municipality identifier from Fiva et al. (2025)
- **year** Election-period identifier, corresponding to Fiva et al. (2025)
- **fracEarly** The fraction of meetings in the election period convening before 16:00
- **hStart_avg** Average start time of meetings in period (hours)
- **hStart_med** Median start time of meetings in period (hours)
- **hStart_mod** Modal start time of meetings in period (hours)
- **numEp** Number of included meetings in election period

Appendix C: Attendance dataset

The **Attendance** dataset reports individual meeting-by-meeting attendance at political meetings from October 2015 to September 2019 from a 25% random sample of Norwegian municipalities (107 of the 428 municipalities existing in 2015). It also contains meeting-level variables describing the content of each meeting, including the full agenda as a text string (in Norwegian).

Description

The dataset is arranged in panel format, with each observation representing an individual council member at a specific meeting. There are 92,735 person-meeting observations from 2,718 individuals and 3,546 meetings.[C1] This includes the full roster of politicians in the sample municipalities at the start of the 2015 election period. While I have aimed to include every official council session held between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2019, a small number of meetings may be sporadically omitted where minutes are missing or attendance records are unavailable.

The main outcome is a binary indicator for meeting attendance. Typically, the minutes report separate lists of members present and absent at the roll call conducted at the start of the meeting. In some cases, the reporting is more detailed and includes information on partial attendance. When the minutes explicitly report partial presence, a member is coded as attending if they were present at the start of the meeting or if they arrived within the first hour. If a person was on leave or had received a permanent exemption from official duties at the time of the meeting, their attendance is coded as 0.

The complete agenda for each meeting is consolidated into a single string variable, with items delineated by "//". Each segment, marked by this separation, begins with a series of digits (x/yy) denoting the official item ID in a format that has been harmo-

[C1] The de-identified version of the dataset used for matching with administrative registers contains 92,687 observations from 2,717 individuals, as one individual's records were lost during the matching process.

nized across councils.[C2] Only official agenda items (*protokollsaker*) are included; items explicitly labeled as 'briefing items' (*orienteringssaker*) or 'matters for reporting' (*referatsaker*) are generally not included unless they are assigned an official item ID. Different practices may result in some inconsistencies across councils. The agenda items generally appear as written in the minutes, i.e., in Norwegian *Bokmål* or *Nynorsk*, including (if any) punctuation or spelling errors. To streamline processing, all '/' embedded in the text strings – except item numbers – have been re-coded as '-', excess spaces have been eliminated, and all letters have been converted to lowercase.

Table C1 reports balance checks for the random sample using 2015 municipality-level outcomes from Fiva et al. (2023). A map illustrating the geographic distribution of the covered municipalities is shown in Figure C1.

Data sources and accuracy

The data originate from the same sources as those discussed in Appendix B. Meeting-level outcomes such as the date, time and agenda were extracted from the minutes using computer-assisted methods. Attendance was hand-coded by a team of research assistants, each working independently on separate sets of councils in fall 2023. I then manually inspected the data for consistency, and found an accuracy rate of 99.3%.[C3]

[C2] Item numbers are formatted in an x/yy pattern, where $x = 1, 2, ..., n$ is the official sequential ID, and $yy = 15, 16, ..., 19$ denotes the year the case was brought to the agenda. Numbers may not always align sequentially, as some items may have been added, removed, postponed or addressed out of sequence. A small gap between items may not indicate a missing item, but larger gaps in some cases do.

[C3] The manual inspection covered more than 500 arbitrarily selected meetings (at least four per council-period). Every detected mistake was corrected, and led to a subsequent review of more meetings from that council. The final accuracy rate is therefore likely above 99.3%.

Table C1: Balance checks

	Sample	Excluded	Diff.
Demographic outcomes			
Population (in Logs)	8.549	8.508	0.041
Share 0-6 years	0.077	0.077	0.001
Share 7-15 years	0.110	0.110	0.000
Share 16-20 years	0.066	0.067	-0.000
Share 21-25 years	0.060	0.061	-0.000
Share 26-30 years	0.055	0.054	0.001
Share 31-35 years	0.056	0.054	0.002
Share 36-40 years	0.059	0.058	0.000
Share 41-45 years	0.070	0.070	0.000
Share 46-50 years	0.071	0.071	-0.000
Share 51-55 years	0.066	0.067	-0.001
Share 56-60 years	0.066	0.066	0.000
Share 61-65 years	0.063	0.063	-0.001
Share 66-70 years	0.061	0.061	-0.000
Share 71-75 years	0.042	0.042	-0.001
Share 76-80 years	0.031	0.031	-0.000
Share 81+ years	0.047	0.048	-0.001
Share women	0.491	0.492	-0.000
Unemployment	0.022	0.020	0.002*
Geographic outcomes			
Latitude	62.143	62.245	-0.102
Longitude	10.503	10.604	-0.101
Political outcomes			
Turnout	0.656	0.663	-0.007
Council size (seats)	25.755	24.925	0.830
Share women councilors	0.388	0.375	0.013
Share of votes, right	0.569	0.581	-0.013
Share of votes, left	0.351	0.348	0.002
Parties in council	5.897	6.022	-0.125
Spending share			
Cultural services	5.016	5.147	-0.130
Transport and infra.	2.712	2.912	-0.200
Health and social serv.	13.923	13.613	0.311
Central administration	8.629	8.448	0.181
Education	20.765	20.863	-0.098
Elderly care	27.310	27.892	-0.581
Childcare	10.152	9.847	0.305
Other purposes	11.492	11.279	0.213
N	107	321	

*Notes: The table reports mean outcomes (in 2015) at the municipality level using data from Fiva et al. (2023). 'Sample' includes the 107 randomly selected municipalities, whereas 'Comp.' denotes the rest. 'Diff' reports the difference between the preceding columns, along with the results from a test of statistical significance using robust standard errors. *p < 10%, **p < 5%, ***p < 1%.*

Figure C1: Map of randomly selected municipalities in Norway



Notes: The figure illustrates the municipal structure of Norway as of January 1, 2015, with municipalities that were selected to be part of the 25% random sample colored in red.

Codebook

- **knr** Municipality identifier (ISO 3166-2:NO)
- **knr_2015** Municipality identifier as of Jan 1, 2015
- **kname_2015** Municipality name as of Jan 1, 2015
- **year** Year identifier
- **date** Meeting date
- **date_str** Meeting date in string format
- **idMeeting** Seq. identifier for meetings within councils (not an official ID)
- **timeStart** Start time of meeting (hh:mm:ss)
- **hStart** Start time of meeting (hours)
- **timeEnd** Meeting end time (hh:mm:ss)
- **hEnd** Meeting end time (hours)
- **hDuration** Duration of meeting (hours)
- **itemsNum** Number of items on the agenda
- **itemsFrom** The first item on the agenda (official item no.)
- **itemsTo** The last item on the agenda (official item no.)
- **itemsStr** String containing all items on the agenda, separated by '//'
- **idPers** Unique person ID
- **candidatename_std** Name of candidate from Fiva et al. (2025)
- **pid_lcd** Candidate ID from Fiva et al. (2025)
- **present** Present at meeting (1=present, 0 = absent)
- **absent** Absent from meeting (0=present, 1 = absent)