

Online Appendices

Table A.1: Descriptive Statistics

	1st round	2nd round
All districts (N=13,910)		
Turnout	0.63 (0.12)	0.61 (0.13)
Share of blank and null votes	0.02 (0.01)	0.03 (0.02)
Share of valid votes	0.60 (0.11)	0.58 (0.13)
Number of candidates	6.85 (3.08)	2.07 (0.36)
Districts with 2 candidates in 2nd round (N=12,494)		
Turnout	0.62 (0.12)	0.61 (0.12)
Share of blank and null votes	0.02 (0.01)	0.03 (0.02)
Share of valid votes	0.60 (0.12)	0.58 (0.12)
Districts with 3 candidates in 2nd round (N=1,416)		
Turnout	0.66 (0.08)	0.65 (0.09)
Share of blank and null votes	0.03 (0.01)	0.02 (0.01)
Share of valid votes	0.64 (0.08)	0.62 (0.08)

Note: Entries are means of the variables of the legislative and cantonal districts included in the analysis. Standard deviations are in parentheses. The second column is for the first round, and the third column is for the second round.

Alliances and Dropouts

Which candidates drop out between rounds? To answer this question, we code the candidates in four ideological groups based on the party name given by the *Ministère de l'Intérieur*: EXTREME LEFT (*Parti Communiste, Front de Gauche, Extrême Gauche*), LEFT (*Parti Socialiste, Les Verts, Parti Radical de Gauche, Divers Gauche*), RIGHT (RPR/UMP, UDF/MODEM, and *Divers Droite*), and EXTREME RIGHT (*Front National, and Extrême Droite*).¹⁶ We acknowledge that the ideological divisions in French politics are more complex, and cannot be fully captured by four categories. Unfortunately, we are not able to use a technique estimating the ideological position of the candidates from their party manifesto because, in France, there is a substantial portion of candidates who do not compete under any party label, and use a generic label instead (e.g., *Divers Gauche*, which translates into ‘Various Left’), especially in cantonal elections.

Table A.2: Alliances and Dropouts Between The Two Rounds

PARTY	EXTREME LEFT	LEFT	RIGHT	EXTREME RIGHT
EXTREME LEFT	100% (N=1)	95% (N=384)	14% (N=275)	4% (N=76)
LEFT	95% (N=471)	70% (N=483)	55% (N=1085)	5% (N=489)
RIGHT	89% (N=514)	56% (N=1322)	77% (N=830)	5% (N=543)
EXTREME RIGHT	41% (N=17)	8% (N=144)	16% (N=116)	- (N=0)

Note: Entries are proportions of times a third-ranked candidate of the column’s party drops out when competing against a candidate from the row’s party in districts for which there are three candidates qualified. For example, the last row of the second column shows that, when qualified as third, extreme-left candidates do not participate in the second round in which an extreme-right candidate also qualified 41% of the time.

Table A.2 shows the alliances between the candidates across the two rounds by ideological group. We concentrate on the districts in which there are three qualified candidates ($N = 4,033$).¹⁷ The first column shows the proportion of districts in which

¹⁶Details of the ideological classification of each party across elections can be found in Tables A.3 and A.4 in the appendices.

¹⁷4,033 is the number of districts in which three candidates pass the qualifying threshold. Because of

an EXTREME LEFT candidate is qualified as the third candidate, but drops out when it is competing against at least one candidate from the ideological group of the row. The second column shows the same proportion for third ranked candidates from the LEFT, and so forth. First, not surprisingly, we observe that the highest proportion of dropouts occurs when two candidates of the same ideological group compete against each other (always above 70%). Second, we see that LEFT and EXTREME LEFT third candidates drop out more often when they compete against each other than candidates from RIGHT and EXTREME RIGHT. Third, we observe very few drop outs of third ranked EXTREME RIGHT candidates (not more than 5%).

dropouts, there are 1,416 districts in which three candidates effectively participate in the second round, see Table A.1.

Table A.3: Classification of Parties by Ideological Groups in Legislative Elections

Year	Party	Ideology	Year	Party	Ideology
1978	COM	Ex.Left	1997	COM	Ex.Left
1978	EXG	Ex.Left	1997	EXG	Ex.Left
1978	PSMRG	Left	1997	PRG	Left
1978	DVG	Left	1997	SOC	Left
1978	DVD	Right	1997	DVG	Left
1978	RPR	Right	1997	ECO	Left
1978	UDF	Right	1997	RPR	Right
1978	EXD	Ex.Right	1997	UDF	Right
1978	ECO	N/A	1997	DVD	Right
1978	FAG	N/A	1997	FRN	Ex.Right
1978	GAULOPP	N/A	1997	EXD	Ex.Right
1981	EXG	Ex.Left	2002	COM	Ex.Left
1981	DVG	Left	2002	EXG	Ex.Left
1981	RDG	Left	2002	PRG	Left
1981	SOC	Left	2002	SOC	Left
1981	DVD	Right	2002	DVG	Left
1981	RPR	Right	2002	ECO	Left
1981	UDF	Right	2002	UMP	Right
1981	UDFRPR	Right	2002	UDF	Right
1981	EXD	Ex.Right	2002	DVD	Right
1981	FRN	Ex.Right	2002	FRN	Ex.Right
1981	ECO	N/A	2002	EXD	Ex.Right
1981	REG	N/A	2007	COM	Ex.Left
1988	COM	Ex.Left	2007	EXG	Ex.Left
1988	EXG	Ex.Left	2007	PRG	Left
1988	RDG	Left	2007	SOC	Left
1988	SOC	Left	2007	DVG	Left
1988	MAJ	Left	2007	ECO	Left
1988	DVG	Left	2007	UMP	Right
1988	RPR	Right	2007	MODEM	Right
1988	UDF	Right	2007	DVD	Right
1988	DVD	Right	2007	FRN	Ex.Right
1988	FRN	Ex.Right	2007	EXD	Ex.Right
1988	EXD	Ex.Right	2012	COM	Ex.Left
1993	COM	Ex.Left	2012	FDG	Ex.Left
1993	EXG	Ex.Left	2012	EXG	Ex.Left
1993	RDG	Left	2012	PRG	Left
1993	SOC	Left	2012	SOC	Left
1993	MAJ	Left	2012	DVG	Left
1993	VEC	Left	2012	ECO	Left
1993	DVG	Left	2012	UMP	Right
1993	RPR	Right	2012	MODEM	Right
1993	UDF	Right	2012	DVD	Right
1993	DVD	Right	2012	NouvC	Right
1993	FRN	Ex.Right	2012	FRN	Ex.Right
1993	EXD	Ex.Right	2012	EXD	Ex.Right

Note: EG=Extreme Gauche, PC=Parti Communiste, MDC=Mouvement des Citoyens, PS=Parti Socialiste, RDG=Radicaux de Gauche, DG=Divers Gauche, VER=Verts, AECO=Autre Ecologie, DIV=Divers, RPR=Rassemblement pour La Republique, UPDF=Union pour la Democratie Francaise, DD=Divers Droite, FN=Front National, ED=Extreme Droite, GE=Generation Ecologie, REG=Regionalistes, MAJ=Majorite

Table A.4: Classification of Parties by Ideological Groups in Cantonal Elections

Year	Party	Ideology	Year	Party	Ideology
1988	PC	Ex.Left	2001	PRG	Left
1988	EG	Ex.Left	2001	SOC	Left
1988	VER	Left	2001	DVG	Left
1988	RDG	Left	2001	RPR	Right
1988	PS	Left	2001	CPNT	Right
1988	DG	Left	2001	RPF	Right
1988	RPR	Right	2001	UDF	Right
1988	UPDF	Right	2001	DVD	Right
1988	DD	Right	2001	FN	Ex.Right
1988	FN	Ex.Right	2004	COM	Ex.Left
1988	ED	Ex.Right	2004	EXG	Ex.Left
1992	PC	Ex.Left	2004	ECO	Left
1992	EG	Ex.Left	2004	VEC	Left
1992	VER	Left	2004	RDG	Left
1992	MAJ	Left	2004	SOC	Left
1992	RDG	Left	2004	DVG	Left
1992	PS	Left	2004	UMP	Right
1992	DG	Left	2004	CPNT	Right
1992	RPR	Right	2004	UDF	Right
1992	UPDF	Right	2004	DVD	Right
1992	DD	Right	2004	FN	Ex.Right
1992	FN	Ex.Right	2004	EXD	Ex.Right
1992	ED	Ex.Right	2008	COM	Ex.Left
1994	PC	Ex.Left	2008	EXG	Ex.Left
1994	EG	Ex.Left	2008	VEC	Left
1994	VER	Left	2008	RDG	Left
1994	RDG	Left	2008	SOC	Left
1994	PS	Left	2008	DVG	Left
1994	DG	Left	2008	UMP	Right
1994	RPR	Right	2008	UDFD	Right
1994	UPDF	Right	2008	DVD	Right
1994	DD	Right	2008	M-NC	Right
1994	FN	Ex.Right	2008	FN	Ex.Right
1994	ED	Ex.Right	2008	EXD	Ex.Right
1998	PC	Ex.Left	2011	COM	Ex.Left
1998	EG	Ex.Left	2011	EXG	Ex.Left
1998	VER	Left	2011	PG	Ex.Left
1998	RDG	Left	2011	VEC	Left
1998	PS	Left	2011	RDG	Left
1998	DG	Left	2011	SOC	Left
1998	RPR	Right	2011	DVG	Left
1998	UPDF	Right	2011	ECO	Left
1998	DD	Right	2011	UMP	Right
1998	FN	Ex.Right	2011	MODM	Right
1998	ED	Ex.Right	2011	DVD	Right
2001	COM	Ex.Left	2011	M-NC	Right
2001	EXG	Ex.Left	2011	M	Right
2001	ECO	Left	2011	FN	Ex.Right
2001	VER	Left	2011	EXD	Ex.Right

Note: EG=Extreme Gauche, PC=Parti Communiste, MDC=Mouvement des Citoyens, PS=Parti Socialiste, RDG=Radicaux de Gauche, DG=Divers Gauche, VER=Verts, AECO=Autre Ecologie, DIV=Divers, RPR=Rassemblement pour La Republique, UPDF=Union pour la Democratie Francaise, DD=Divers Droite, FN=Front National, ED=Extreme Droite, GE=Generation Ecologie, REG=Regionalistes, MAJ=Majorite

Internal Validity

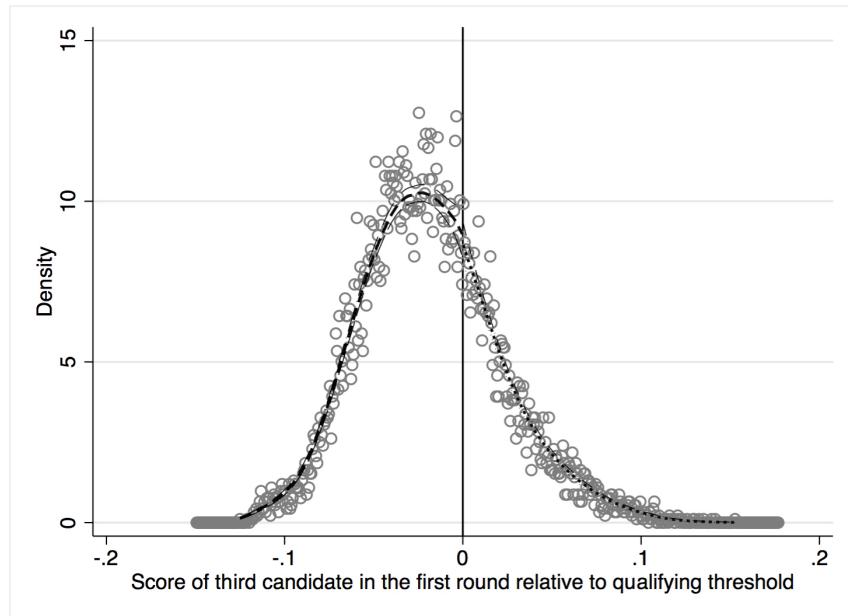
We conduct two sets of tests to show that our analysis is internally valid. First, the validity of our research design relies on the assumption that it is impossible for candidates to manipulate the discontinuity of the electoral rule. To test this assumption, we look at the distribution of the scores of the third candidates, and whether there is an accumulation of observations just above or below the threshold, which could suggest the existence of a manipulation. Figure A.1 shows that there is no discontinuity of the running variable density function at the threshold. The formal test developed by [McCrary \(2008\)](#) confirms this: the log difference in height is -0.029, and the standard error is 0.057. The difference is not statistically significant. Evidence thus indicates that candidates themselves are not able to manipulate the running variable.

Second, the internal validity of our analysis relies on another key assumption: the assignment of the treatment around the qualifying threshold is uncorrelated with districts', elections' and candidates' characteristics. Crucially, it assumes that the candidates just below the qualifying threshold are similar to those just above this threshold ([Caughey and Sekhon \(2011\)](#)). To check the validity of this assumption, we test whether some key characteristics show a discontinuity around the qualifying threshold. As districts' characteristics, we include the number of registered voters as a measure of its size, its degree of urbanization (=share of people employed in the agricultural sector), the average income (=share of workers, and share of individuals with upper employee status (*cadre supérieur*)), and age (=share of individuals over 80 years old).¹⁸ As elections' characteristics, we include the number of candidates and turnout in the first round. Finally, as candidates' characteristics, we include the number of votes of the first and second candidate in the first round, and the margin of victory between the two in the first and second round.

¹⁸Note that for the last three districts' characteristics, we have to restrict our sample to legislative elections due to the lack of data available. We use the latest 2013 census data from the *Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques* (INSEE) that are only available for legislative districts.

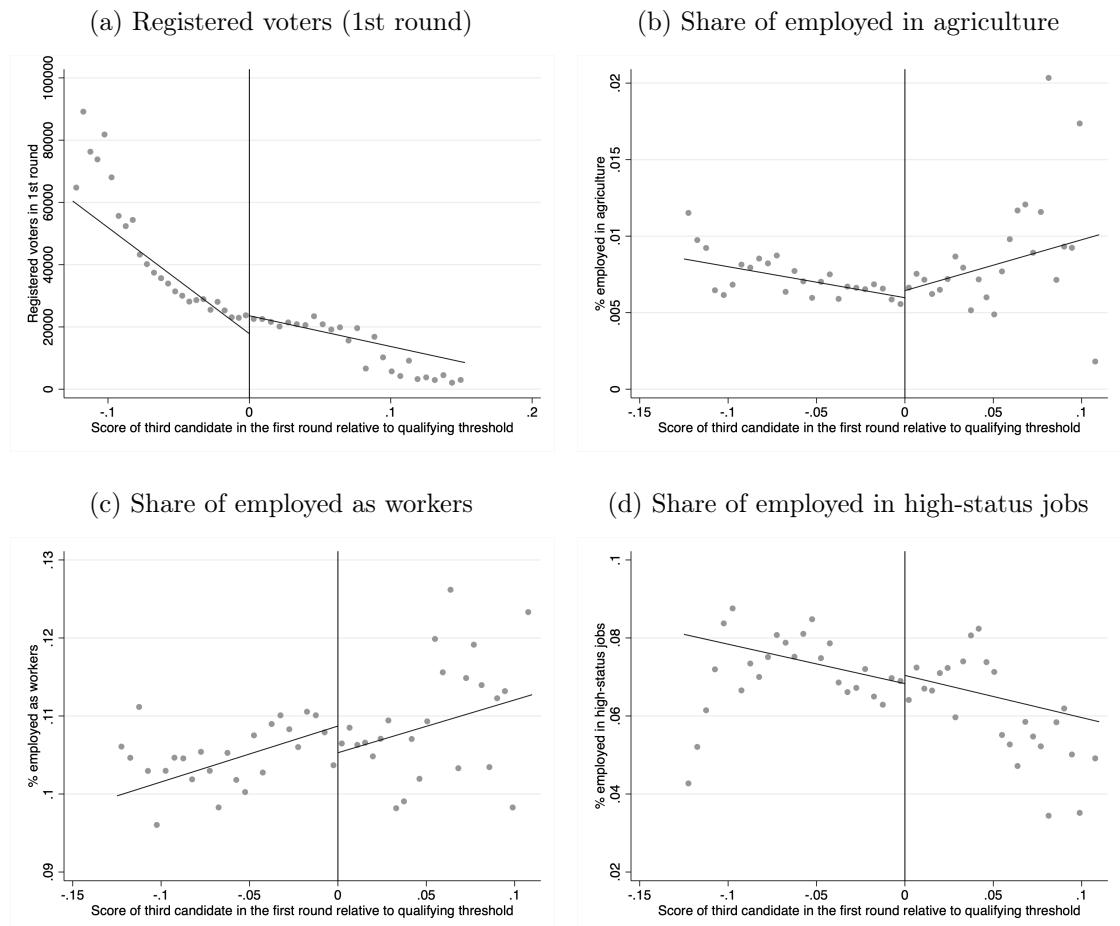
Figures A.2, A.3 and A.4 demonstrates that none of the characteristics associated with the districts, elections, or candidates exhibit a discontinuity at the qualifying threshold. The accompanying regressions are shown in Tables A.5, A.6 and A.7. This confirms the credibility of the RDD.

Figure A.1: McCrary Density Test



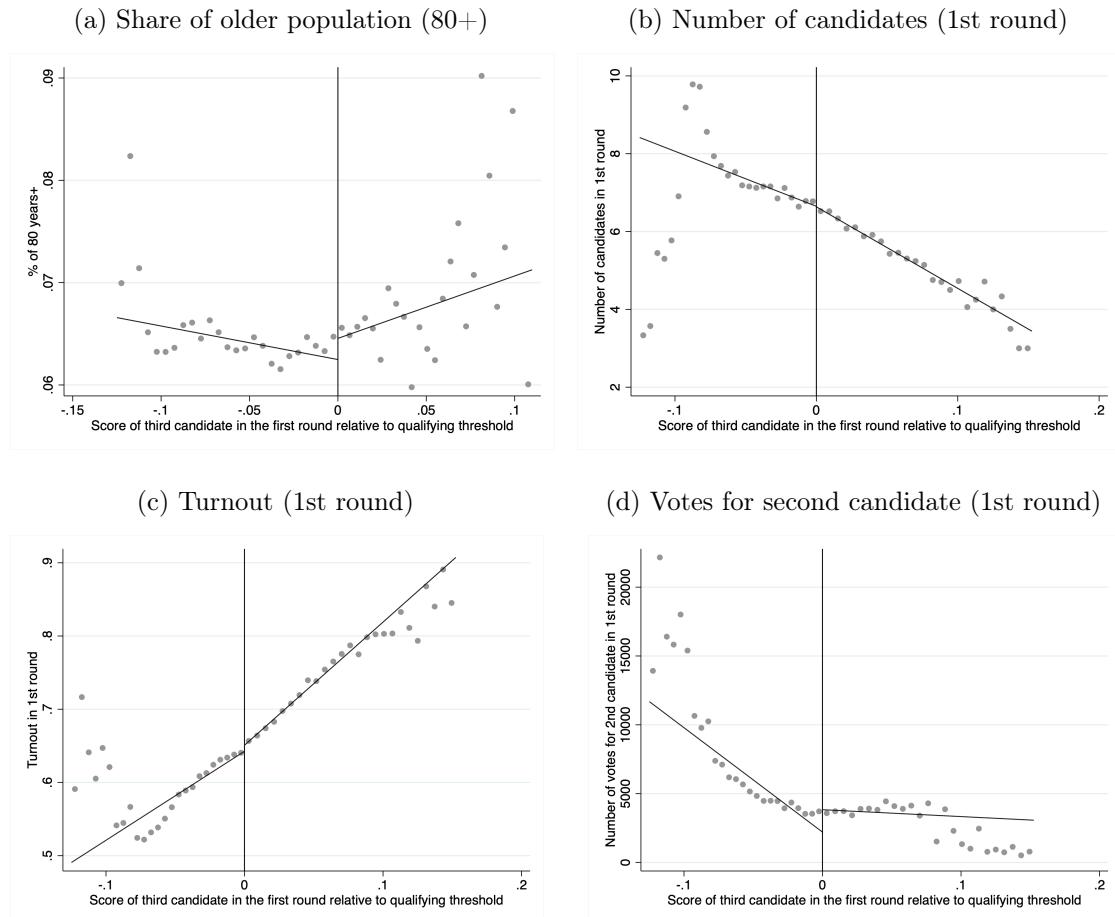
Note: Log difference in height per the discontinuity McCrary test=-0.0293, standard error=0.0567.

Figure A.2: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold (Visual)



Note: Dots represent means of grouped data into 25 bins on each side of the threshold. Lines are estimated mean functions smoothed using a local linear polynomial fit, and weighted using a kernel (uniform) function. The accompanying regressions are shown in Tables A.6, A.7, and A.5.

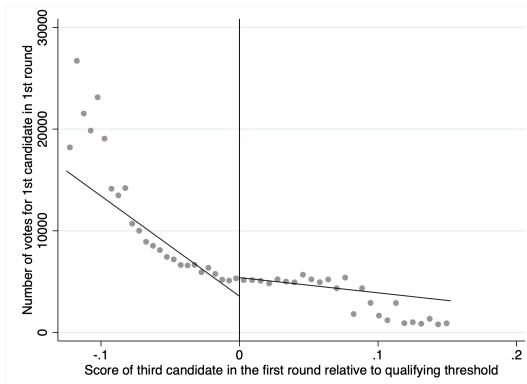
Figure A.3: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold (Visual, Continued)



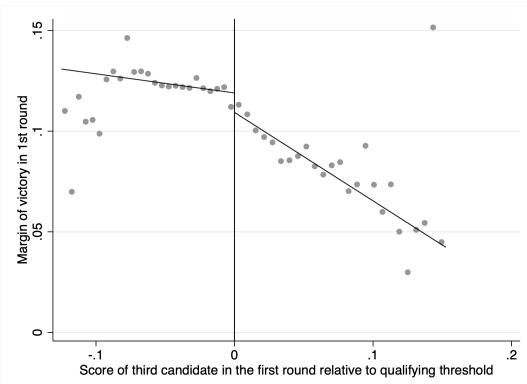
Note: Dots represent means of grouped data into 25 bins on each side of the threshold. Lines are estimated mean functions smoothed using a local linear polynomial fit, and weighted using a kernel (uniform) function. The accompanying regressions are shown in Tables A.6, A.7, and A.5.

Figure A.4: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold (Visual, Continued)

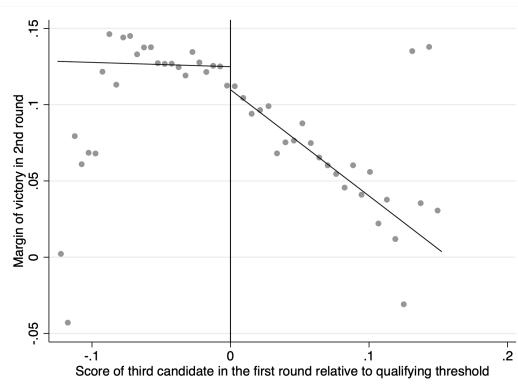
(a) Votes for first candidate (1st round)



(b) Margin of victory (1st round)



(c) Margin of victory (2nd round)



Note: Dots represent means of grouped data into 25 bins on each side of the threshold. Lines are estimated mean functions smoothed using a local linear polynomial fit, and weighted using a kernel (uniform) function. The accompanying regressions are shown in Tables A.6, A.7, and A.5.

Table A.5: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	% employed in agriculture	% employed as workers	% employed in high-status jobs	% of 80 years+
RDD Estimate	0.004 (0.003)	0.006 (0.013)	-0.009 (0.018)	0.002 (0.007)
First Stage Estimate	0.355	0.337	0.339	0.368
First Stage SE	0.050	0.052	0.052	0.047
Robust 95% CI	[-.003 ; .011]	[-.021 ; .037]	[-.053 ; .028]	[-.013 ; .017]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.023	0.020	0.021	0.027
Right Bandwidth	0.023	0.020	0.021	0.027
Observations	3461	3461	3461	3461
Effective Observations (Left)	624	527	536	757
Effective Observations (Right)	351	323	324	385
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.6: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold (Continued)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Registered voters, 1st round	Number of candidates, 1st round	Turnout, 1st round
RDD Estimate	1772.780 (2788.290)	-0.068 (0.308)	0.010 (0.009)
First Stage Estimate	0.426	0.423	0.433
First Stage SE	0.018	0.018	0.017
Robust 95% CI	[-3683.753 ; 9696.92]	[-.798 ; .6830000000000001]	[0 ; .043]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.037	0.034	0.042
Right Bandwidth	0.037	0.034	0.042
Observations	13910	13910	13908
Effective Observations (Left)	5202	4801	6002
Effective Observations (Right)	2861	2742	3068
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.7: Continuity of Covariates at the Qualifying Threshold (Continued 2)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Votes for 1st candidate, 1st round	Votes for 2nd candidate, 1st round	Margin, 1st round	Margin, 2nd round
RDD Estimate	534.122 (672.111)	323.023 (480.801)	0.004 (0.009)	-0.004 (0.014)
First Stage Estimate	0.426	0.427	0.422	0.476
First Stage SE	0.018	0.018	0.019	0.020
Robust 95% CI	[-917.577 ; 2317.463]	[-735.027 ; 1574.31]	[-.012 ; .031]	[-.031 ; .034]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.037	0.038	0.033	0.036
Right Bandwidth	0.037	0.038	0.033	0.036
Observations	13910	13910	13910	12802
Effective Observations (Left)	5191	5302	4609	4690
Effective Observations (Right)	2856	2896	2676	2441
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Robustness tests

To evaluate the robustness of the main effects, we first test whether it is sensitive to changes in the statistical specification and to choices in the sample. Firstly, we modify the bandwidth: either by applying a different method of optimal bandwidth selection (Coverage Error Rate) or by manually fixing it at $h = 0.05$ (that is five percentage points around the threshold). Secondly, we change the polynomial fit of our running variables to a linear and cubic one. Thirdly, we modify the weighting function used to construct the local-polynomial estimator: either by using the uniform weighting function that assigns equal weights within the bandwidth or by using an Epanechnikov weighting function that assigns weights parabolically decreasing with the distance from the threshold. Fourthly, we reproduce the analysis using a sharp RDD with the full sample, with a sample reduced to ‘compliers’ (i.e., we remove the districts in which the third candidate qualifies to the second but does not participate), with a sample in which we removed the few districts in which official results contain mistakes (i.e., the third candidate competes in the second round although they did not reach the vote share threshold in the first round, see above), and by re-introducing the few districts in which there are four candidates competing in the second round (and include them in the treatment group). Tables [A.8](#) (alternative polynomial fit), [A.9](#) (alternative bandwidth), [A.10](#) (alternative kernel weighting function), [A.11](#) (sharp RDD), [A.12](#) (where we remove the few observations where the third candidate ran despite being below the threshold), and [A.13](#) (estimating the effect of three or four candidates) show that the local average treatment effect remains largely unchanged for all three outcome variables.

Second, we also conduct a series of simpler analyses that use OLS regressions to further show the robustness of our results. Firstly, we run OLS regressions predicting the outcome variables by the number of candidates in the second round (two or three), with district and election fixed effects. Secondly, we use the same OLS specification,

except that we reduce the sample to districts where the third candidate scored $-/+ 3\%$ points around the qualifying threshold in the first round (replicating in a sense the RDD strategy). Table A.14 reveals that our results, although slightly smaller in magnitude, remain in the same direction and statistically at a level of $p < 0.01$ for all three outcome variables.

Third, we run two placebo tests. In the first one, we invert the qualifying thresholds: elections where the threshold is at 10% are set to 12.5%, and vice versa. In the second one, we replace the outcome variables with those in the preceding election for the same district. Table A.15 (inverted thresholds) and Table A.16 (lagged outcome variables) shows a null local average treatment effect for all outcome variables in those settings.

Table A.8: Robustness: Changing Polynomial Functions

	Quadratic Fit (p=2)			Cubic Fit (p=3)		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)	(4) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(5) Turnout (2nd)	(6) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.036*** (0.004)	0.039** (0.018)	0.075*** (0.019)	-0.037*** (0.004)	0.041** (0.018)	0.078*** (0.019)
First Stage Estimate	0.404	0.405	0.404	0.400	0.398	0.398
First Stage SE	0.023	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.025	0.025
Robust 95% CI	[-.046 ; -.025]	[-.005 ; .078]	[.028 ; .117]	[-.047 ; -.026]	[-.001 ; .083]	[.032 ; .122]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.044	0.040	0.039	0.072	0.070	0.070
Right Bandwidth	0.044	0.040	0.039	0.072	0.070	0.070
Observations	13906	13906	13909	13906	13906	13909
Effective Observations (Left)	6275	5581	5503	8932	8789	8787
Effective Observations (Right)	3129	2956	2937	3746	3717	3718
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	2	2	2	3	3	3
Order Bias (q)	3	3	3	4	4	4

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.9: Robustness: Changing Bandwidths

	CER Bandwith						Manual Bandwith (h=0.05)		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) 0.036*** (0.003)	(3) 0.035** (0.016)	(4) 0.071*** (0.019)	(5) -0.037*** (0.002)	(6) 0.028*** (0.010)	Valid Turnout (2nd)	Turnout (2nd)	Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.036*** (0.003)	0.035** (0.016)	0.071*** (0.019)	-0.037*** (0.002)	0.028*** (0.010)	0.065*** (0.010)			
First Stage Estimate	0.418	0.416	0.412	0.441	0.441	0.441			
First Stage SE	0.020	0.022	0.024	0.016	0.016	0.016			
Robust 95% CI	[-.044 ; -.029]	[.004 ; .071]	[.033 ; .112]	[-.044 ; -.029]	[.011 ; .068]	[.046 ; .106]			
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular			
BW Type	cerrd	cerrd	cerrd	Manual	Manual	Manual			
Left Bandwidth	0.028	0.021	0.018	0.050	0.050	0.050			
Right Bandwidth	0.028	0.021	0.018	0.050	0.050	0.050			
Observations	13906	13906	13909	13906	13906	13906			
Effective Observations (Left)	3865	2918	2388	6959	6959	6959			
Effective Observations (Right)	2411	1998	1784	3306	3306	3306			
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2			

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.10: Robustness: Changing Kernels

	Kernel: Uniform			Kernel: Epanechnikov		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)	(4) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(5) Turnout (2nd)	(6) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.037*** (0.003)	0.034*** (0.012)	0.079*** (0.014)	-0.037*** (0.002)	0.036*** (0.013)	0.074*** (0.015)
First Stage Estimate	0.437	0.420	0.416	0.446	0.422	0.420
First Stage SE	0.017	0.018	0.019	0.015	0.019	0.020
Robust 95% CI	[-.043 ; -.031]	[.013 ; .073]	[.049 ; .119]	[-.042 ; -.031]	[.012 ; .072]	[.042 ; .112]
Kernel Type	Uniform	Uniform	Epanechnikov	Epanechnikov	Epanechnikov	Epanechnikov
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.035	0.028	0.025	0.050	0.031	0.026
Right Bandwidth	0.035	0.028	0.025	0.050	0.031	0.026
Observations	13906	13906	13909	13906	13906	13909
Effective Observations (Left)	4912	3958	3458	6917	4297	3621
Effective Observations (Right)	2780	2452	2257	3300	2574	2321
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.11: Robustness: Sharp RDD

RDD Estimate	Sharp RDD						Sharp RDD: Excluding Non-Compliers		
	Null/Blank Votes (2nd)		Turnout (2nd)		Valid Turnout (2nd)		Null/Blank Votes (2nd)		Turnout (2nd)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)			
Robust 95% CI	[-.018 ; -.011]	[.002 ; .03]	[.016 ; .045]	[-.026 ; -.02]	[-.009 ; .021]	[.013 ; .043]			
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular			
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd			
Left Bandwidth	0.028	0.024	0.024	0.037	0.026	0.028			
Right Bandwidth	0.028	0.024	0.024	0.037	0.026	0.028			
Observations	13906	13906	13909	11284	11284	11284			
Effective Observations (Left)	3884	3305	3359	5197	3717	3862			
Effective Observations (Right)	2427	2199	2230	1132	979	999			
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2			

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.12: Robustness: Removing always takers

	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDR Estimate	-0.036*** (0.003)	0.037** (0.015)	0.073*** (0.016)
First Stage Estimate	0.422	0.422	0.422
First Stage SE	0.020	0.021	0.021
Robust 95% CI	[-.044 ; -.028]	[.004 ; .074]	[.038 ; .111]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.028	0.024	0.024
Right Bandwidth	0.028	0.024	0.024
Observations	13897	13897	13900
Effective Observations (Left)	3880	3293	3354
Effective Observations (Right)	2429	2194	2233
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.13: Alternative Treatment: Three or Four Candidates Running in the Second Round

	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.037*** (0.003)	0.035*** (0.012)	0.073*** (0.014)
First Stage Estimate	0.426	0.426	0.422
First Stage SE	0.018	0.018	0.019
Robust 95% CI	[-.044 ; -.029]	[.012 ; .07]	[.044 ; .11]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.036	0.036	0.032
Right Bandwidth	0.036	0.036	0.032
Observations	13970	13970	13973
Effective Observations (Left)	5056	4979	4448
Effective Observations (Right)	2865	2850	2663
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three or four candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.14: Robustness: Fixed Effects OLS Regressions

VARIABLES	Fixed Effects			Fixed Effects with 0.03 Bandwidth		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)	(4) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(5) Turnout (2nd)	(6) Valid Turnout (2nd)
Three Candidate Election	-0.02*** (0.00)	0.02*** (0.00)	0.04*** (0.00)	-0.02*** (0.00)	0.02*** (0.00)	0.04*** (0.00)
Observations	12,299	12,299	12,302	4,751	4,751	4,752
R-squared	0.56	0.85	0.81	0.56	0.83	0.78
Canton FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Election FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Note: Entries are coefficient estimates from OLS regressions of having three candidates in the second round on outcome variables in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.15: Placebo: Inverted Threshold

	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.062 (0.064)	-0.179 (0.239)	-0.183 (0.305)
First Stage Estimate	-0.041	-0.043	-0.039
First Stage SE	0.034	0.032	0.035
Robust 95% CI	[-.213 ; .084]	[-.794 ; .293]	[-.96 ; .338]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.015	0.016	0.014
Right Bandwidth	0.015	0.016	0.014
Observations	13906	13906	13909
Effective Observations (Left)	1743	1895	1563
Effective Observations (Right)	1186	1256	1102
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.16: Placebo: Lagged Outcome Variable

	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd), T-1	(2) Turnout (2nd), T-1	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd), T-1
RDD Estimate	0.000 (0.005)	0.034 (0.025)	0.035 (0.026)
First Stage Estimate	0.433	0.436	0.434
First Stage SE	0.035	0.032	0.033
Robust 95% CI	[-.011 ; .013]	[-.017 ; .091]	[-.02 ; .093]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.017	0.020	0.019
Right Bandwidth	0.017	0.020	0.019
Observations	8350	8350	8353
Effective Observations (Left)	1281	1587	1479
Effective Observations (Right)	925	1026	993
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.17: Alternative Outcome: Margin of Victory

	(1)	(2)
	Voteshare difference 1st-2nd cand	Voteshare difference 1st-2nd cand
RDD Estimate	0.004 (0.009)	-0.004 (0.014)
First Stage Estimate	0.422	0.476
First Stage SE	0.019	0.020
Robust 95% CI	[-.012 ; .031]	[-.031 ; .034]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.033	0.036
Right Bandwidth	0.033	0.036
Observations	13910	12802
Effective Observations (Left)	4609	4690
Effective Observations (Right)	2676	2441
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.18: Sub-Sample Analysis: Pivotality (Low and High Competition)

	Low Competition (High 1st Round Share)			High Competition (Low 1st Round Share)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
RDD Estimate	-0.041 *** (0.005)	0.093 *** (0.021)	0.054 ** (0.021)	-0.032 *** (0.004)	0.054 *** (0.021)	0.023 (0.020)
First Stage Estimate	0.464	0.442	0.440	0.395	0.396	0.397
First Stage SE	0.029	0.035	0.037	0.026	0.026	0.027
Robust 95% CI	[-.052 ; -.029]	[.053 ; .151]	[.012 ; .111]	[-.041 ; -.021]	[.003 ; .098]	[-.027 ; .065]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.033	0.021	0.020	0.027	0.027	0.026
Right Bandwidth	0.033	0.021	0.020	0.027	0.027	0.026
Observations	3907	3909	3907	9999	10000	9999
Effective Observations (Left)	1496	1091	1001	2527	2471	2353
Effective Observations (Right)	1146	860	802	1371	1356	1322
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.19. Sub-Sample RDD: Left-Right-Left and Right-Left-Right

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	Turnout (2nd)	Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.018*** (0.003)	0.024 (0.019)	0.041** (0.018)
First Stage Estimate	0.446	0.448	0.450
First Stage SE	0.033	0.032	0.032
Robust 95% CI	[-.025 ; -.01]	[-.018 ; .073]	[.001 ; .088]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.032	0.033	0.034
Right Bandwidth	0.032	0.033	0.034
Observations	5246	5246	5248
Effective Observations (Left)	1647	1718	1774
Effective Observations (Right)	859	878	891
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2

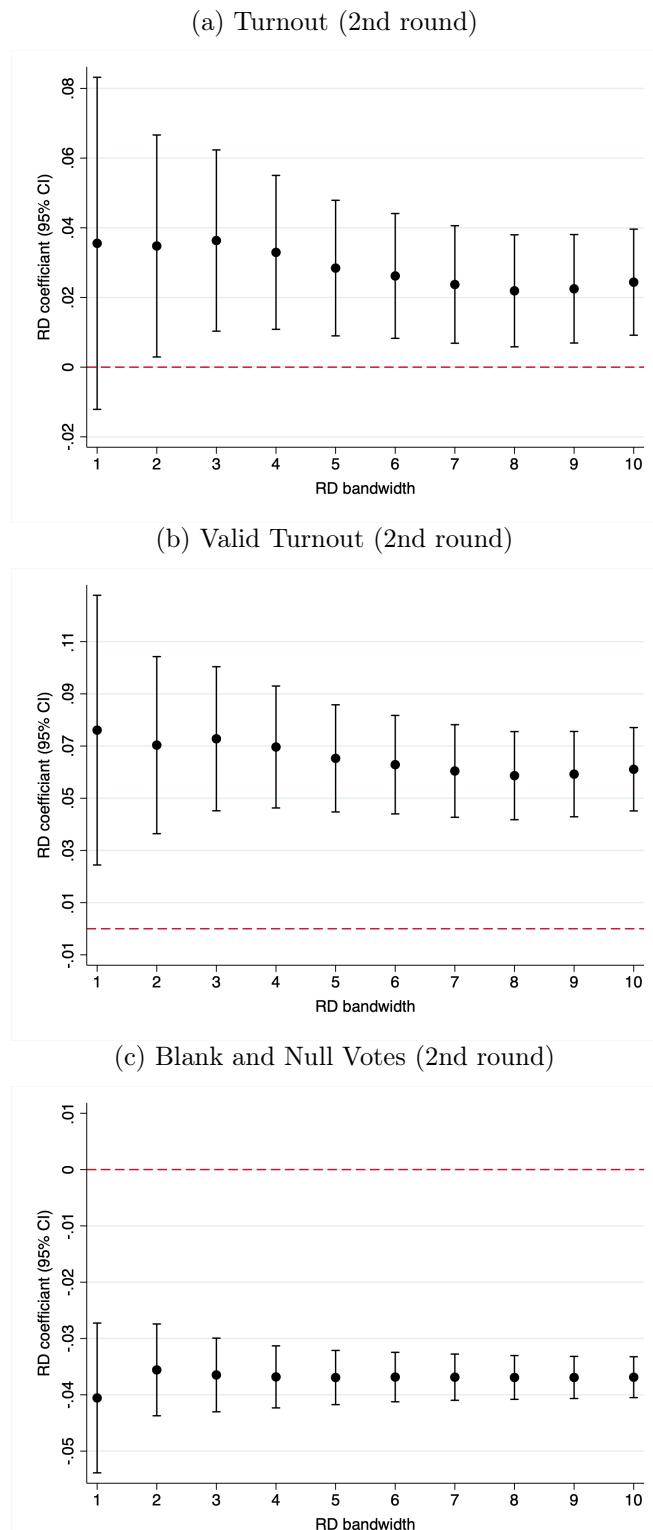
Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.20: Survey Analysis: Mechanism

	(1) Voting (Yes/No) More Distant to 3rd Cand.	(2) Voting (Yes/No) Closer to 3rd Cand.	(3) Voting (Yes/No) More Distant to 3rd Cand.	(4) Voting (Yes/No) Closer to 3rd Cand.	(5) Voting (Yes/No) More Distant to 3rd Cand.	(6) Voting (Yes/No) Closer to 3rd Cand.
Number of Candidates	0.051 (0.057)	-0.183*** (0.055)	0.053 (0.060)	-0.150** (0.063)	0.066 (0.065)	-0.136* (0.077)
Proximity to Third Candidate	-0.005 (0.009)	0.015 (0.020)	-0.005 (0.009)	0.006 (0.019)	0.001 (0.008)	-0.008 (0.025)
Number of Candidates × Proximity to Third Candidate	-0.004 (0.021)	0.117*** (0.022)	-0.003 (0.019)	0.090*** (0.032)	-0.004 (0.018)	0.106*** (0.041)
Socio-demographic Controls	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Attitudinal Controls	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Observations	606	154	606	154	606	154
R-squared	0.006	0.019	0.053	0.089	0.113	0.175

Note: Entries are coefficient estimates from linear probability OLS regressions. Socio-demographic controls include: age, gender, education, and income, and region. Attitudinal controls include self-reported interest in politics, subjective importance of the election, partisan identity, perception that voting is a duty rather than a choice, and the margin of victory. Standard errors are in parentheses. * $p < 1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Figure A.5: Sensitivity Analysis across Bandwidths



Note: This graph plots the RDD coefficients and their 95% confidence intervals of ten specifications across a series of RDD bandwidths from 0.01 to 0.10 (or the equivalent of 1pp to 10pp around the threshold), as applied in [Hainmueller, Hall and Snyder Jr \(2015\)](#). The specifications use a local linear polynomial fit and are weighted using a kernel (uniform) function.

Table A.21: Heterogeneity: Legislative and Cantonal Elections

	Cantonal			Legislative		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
RDD Estimate	-0.033*** (0.003)	0.028** (0.013)	0.064*** (0.015)	-0.034*** (0.012)	0.058* (0.032)	0.111*** (0.038)
First Stage Estimate	0.446	0.432	0.430	0.374	0.375	0.373
First Stage SE	0.019	0.021	0.023	0.042	0.042	0.042
Robust 95% CI	[-.041 ; -.028]	[.006 ; .067]	[.033 ; .103]	[-.078 ; -.026]	[-.023 ; .119]	[.018 ; .182]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.045	0.033	0.028	0.032	0.033	0.032
Right Bandwidth	0.045	0.033	0.028	0.032	0.033	0.032
Observations	10181	10181	10181	3725	3725	3728
Effective Observations (Left)	4812	3655	3046	968	1000	954
Effective Observations (Right)	2584	2219	1996	465	473	463
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.22: Heterogeneity: Before and After 2002

	Before 2002			After 2002		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)	(4) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(5) Turnout (2nd)	(6) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.037*** (0.004)	0.052*** (0.017)	0.090*** (0.019)	-0.031*** (0.005)	0.009 (0.018)	0.041** (0.020)
First Stage Estimate	0.400	0.391	0.390	0.475	0.486	0.490
First Stage SE	0.019	0.021	0.022	0.045	0.036	0.040
Robust 95% CI	[-.044 ; -.027]	[.016 ; .099]	[.05 ; .141]	[-.041 ; -.018]	[-.027 ; .051]	[0 ; .084]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.043	0.034	0.032	0.016	0.029	0.022
Right Bandwidth	0.043	0.034	0.032	0.016	0.029	0.022
Observations	8370	8373	536	5536	5536	5536
Effective Observations (Left)	3827	3050	2897	718	1387	1018
Effective Observations (Right)	2177	1907	1844	503	740	615
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.23: Sub-Sample RDD: Mainstream and Extreme Right Third Candidate

	All Three Candidates Mainstream			Third Candidate Extreme Right		
	(1) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(2) Turnout (2nd)	(3) Valid Turnout (2nd)	(4) Null/Blank Votes (2nd)	(5) Turnout (2nd)	(6) Valid Turnout (2nd)
RDD Estimate	-0.040*** (0.009)	0.029 (0.031)	0.070** (0.033)	-0.019*** (0.001)	0.012* (0.007)	0.031*** (0.007)
First Stage Estimate	0.248	0.254	0.253	0.903	0.903	0.903
First Stage SE	0.027	0.025	0.025	0.019	0.019	0.019
Robust 95% CI	[-.062 ; -.019]	[-.038 ; .112]	[.001 ; .161]	[-.021 ; -.015]	[-.012 ; .027]	[.006 ; .044]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.033	0.041	0.040	0.119	0.119	0.119
Right Bandwidth	0.033	0.041	0.040	0.119	0.119	0.119
Observations	4521	4521	3740	3740	3740	3740
Effective Observations (Left)	1404	1693	1656	3247	3247	3247
Effective Observations (Right)	1046	1191	1167	492	492	492
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.

Table A.24: Sub-Sample RDD: Different Ideological Bloc and Second Candidate Extreme Right

	Third Candidate Different Bloc			Second Candidate Extreme Right		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
RDD Estimate	-0.098*** (0.011)	0.091*** (0.026)	0.189*** (0.030)	-0.044*** (0.004)	0.004 (0.018)	0.048*** (0.017)
First Stage Estimate	0.501	0.504	0.504	0.918	0.932	0.932
First Stage SE	0.048	0.046	0.046	0.033	0.037	0.037
Robust 95% CI	[-.125 ; -.071]	[.044 ; .167]	[.132 ; .274]	[-.054 ; -.028]	[-.049 ; .045]	[-.005 ; .084]
Kernel Type	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
BW Type	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd	mserd
Left Bandwidth	0.032	0.034	0.035	0.032	0.018	0.018
Right Bandwidth	0.032	0.034	0.035	0.032	0.018	0.018
Observations	1940	1940	1940	854	854	854
Effective Observations (Left)	614	655	659	281	172	170
Effective Observations (Right)	548	576	580	180	138	138
Order Loc. Poly. (p)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Order Bias (q)	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: RDD estimates are local average treatment effects of having three candidates running in the district in the second round in % points. Robust standard errors in parentheses. * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$.