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Local parties facilitate electoral competition in local elections

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Introduction

About me

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Finish

About me

- PhD Candidate at Uppsala University.
- Dissertation about fiscal policy and the accumulation of debt.
- Ambition to write something about Swedish Politics for each SWEPSA conference.



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Puzzling observation

- The largest local parties are found in northern municipalities like Dorotea, Jokkmokk, Kiruna and Åsele.
- But local parties have also been remarkably successful in municipalities like Sjöbo, Mullsjö and Lidingö.
- What unites these seemingly different cases?
- I found no satisfactory answer in the literature.



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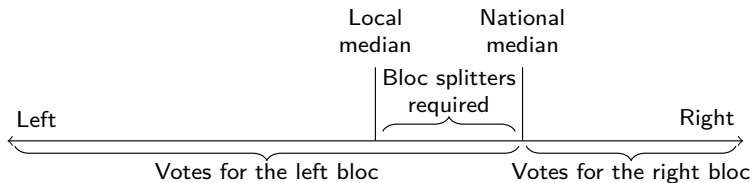
Finish

- Local parties appear to prosper where one bloc is dominant in the national elections.
- Unless people split their votes, these municipalities will be characterized by a lack of electoral competition.



Results

A municipality with left-wing majority in national elections





Introduction

Why local parties?

- Maybe national parties cannot converge around the median voter in local elections.
 - National parties cannot adjust their policies.
 - Voters find it difficult to support different blocs.
- These problems do not affect local parties.



Introduction

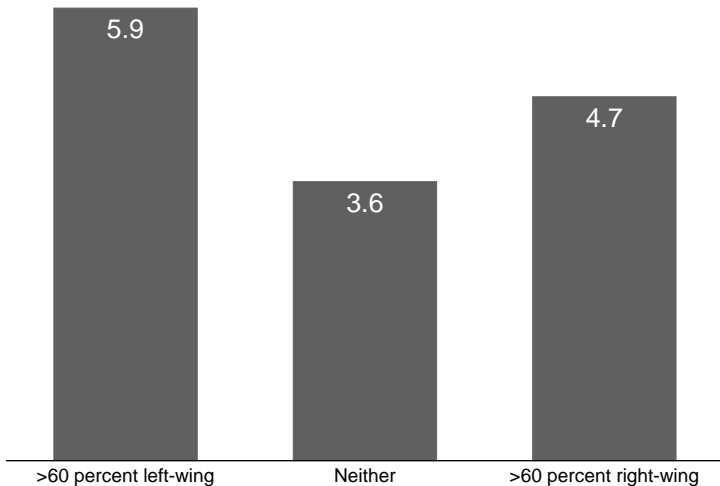
Hypotheses

- **H₂** : Local parties are larger in municipalities where one bloc is dominant on the national level.
- **H₃** : When local parties grow large, they increase electoral competition through their willingness to co-operate with both the left-wing and the right-wing bloc.
- Main method is regression analysis, but I will use illustrative graphs here.



Results

Average vote share for local parties



About me

Hypotheses

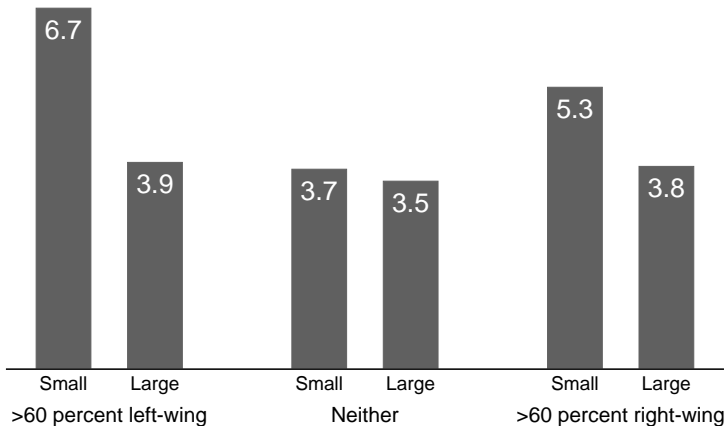
Results

Finish



Results

Results conditioned on the size of Centerpartiet

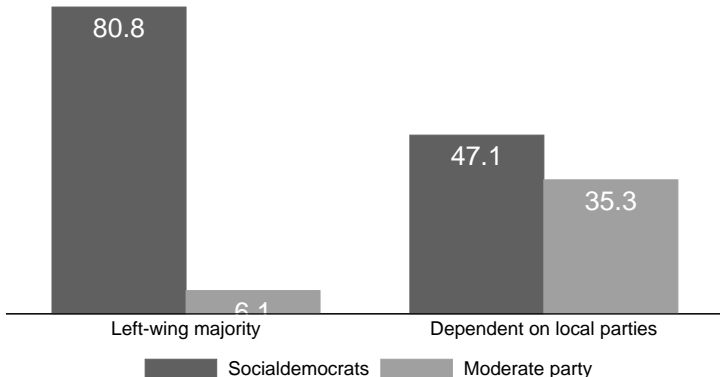




Results

Probability of being in incumbent coalition

>60 percent left-wing in national elections

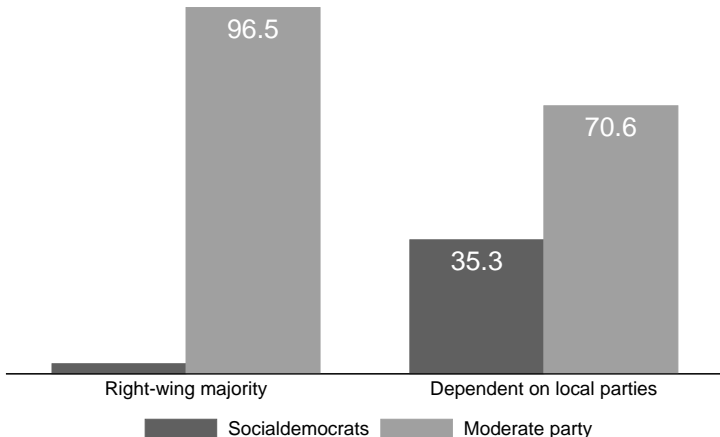




Results

Probability of being in incumbent coalition

>60 percent right-wing in national elections





Possible extensions

- Analyse individual data to see if ideological position is in line with theory (centrist voters from dominant bloc).
- Use the "Kommun- och landstingsfullmäktigeundersökningen" to analyse local party positions.
- RD design to analyse the policy effects.



All comments are welcome

- I might be unaware of important literature.
- The paper was written in a hurry, so also bold comments and major revisions are welcome.