

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

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Appendix A – The survey and sampling strategy

The aim of the survey was to interview a sample of roughly 600 respondents that are representative of the general population in each of the eight metropolitan areas. Due to administrative circumstances, we had to rely on two different recruitment strategies in the four countries.

In Switzerland, a random sample of 2257 valid individual addresses of the resident population (aged 18 to 75) in the Bern and Zurich metropolitan areas could be drawn by the Swiss Statistical Office. For the field phase we relied on the Swiss Survey Institute MIS Trend. Invitation letters to fill in an online questionnaire were sent to all these individuals, together with an unconditional incentive of 10 Swiss Francs (~10.12 US\$). A first reminder was sent two weeks after the initial letter, a second reminder was sent after one month to those individuals who had not replied by then. The second reminder included a paper version of the questionnaire and a prepaid return envelope. Individual identifiers were used for each potential respondent in order to exclude multiple responses to the survey. All in all, 1162 respondents filled in the questionnaire, either online (n=936) or on paper (n=226). The response rate (calculated on the valid addresses) is 52 percent. The field phase of the survey in Switzerland lasted from mid-September 2015 to early January 2016.

In the remaining three countries, respondents were recruited from online-access panels and a quota-sampling strategy was applied to mirror the distribution of core features of the basic population (i.e. residence in the center city or the surrounding area, gender, age, employment status and education level). In these three countries, the survey was fielded by the international survey institute TNS Infratest. The field phase lasted from beginning of October to end of November. In this period between 606 and 667 complete interviews were conducted in each metropolitan area. Respondents were incentivized through coupons by the panel providers. Due to the quota sampling procedure used in Germany, France and the UK,

response rates for these countries are not available, as the sample composition (i.e. the contacted people) changes in the course of the field phase to meet the quotas.

Table A.1 presents an overview of the composition of the eight metropolitan samples and their representativeness of the respective metropolitan population before and after weighting based on the aforementioned indicators. The biggest differences between the samples and the target populations are present for education level. Highly educated individuals are over- and less educated individuals under-represented in all eight metropolitan samples. While this non-response pattern constitutes a problem, it is a common issue in population-based surveys that can be countered to a certain extent with the assignment of weights. The weights are calculated based on the indicators shown in Table A.1 with the `-ipfweight-` package in Stata. The largest weights are constrained to not exceed 5 and the lowest weights are constrained to be greater or equal to 0.2.

	Bern					Zurich					Berlin					Stuttgart				
	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$
Female	47.5	51	51	3.5	0.1	43.9	49.8	49.8	5.9	0	48.9	49.9	49.9	1	0	48.3	49.9	49.9	1.6	0
Age Cohorts																				
<25	7.9	10.1	10.1	2.2	0	7.5	10	9.7	2.2	-0.3	7.6	9.8	9.8	2.2	0	9.8	10.6	10.6	0.8	0
25-34	16.1	19	19	2.9	0	16.2	20.2	20.6	4.4	0.4	23.2	18.6	18.7	-4.5	0.1	19.8	17	17	-2.8	0
35-44	21.8	19.3	19.3	-2.5	0	19.5	21.2	21.6	2.1	0.4	20.7	17.9	17.9	-2.8	0	21.4	19.5	19.5	-1.9	0
45-54	19.4	20.2	20.2	0.8	-0.1	26	19.6	20.2	-5.9	0.5	19.3	21.7	21.7	2.4	0	20.2	21.6	21.5	1.3	-0.1
55-64	19.4	17	17	-2.4	0	15.5	14.8	15.1	-0.4	0.3	19.7	16.1	16.1	-3.6	0	18.6	15.7	15.7	-2.9	0
>65	15.1	14.4	14.4	-0.7	0	15	14.2	12.8	-2.2	-1.4	9.4	15.9	15.9	6.5	0	10	15.6	15.6	5.6	0
Education																				
Low	7.4	13.3	13.5	6.1	0.2	7.3	15.1	15	7.7	-0.1	10.5	12.8	12.8	2.3	0	14.4	15.8	15.8	1.4	0
Medium	46.5	47	47.1	0.6	0.1	48.4	44.6	44.1	-4.3	-0.5	55.7	52.2	52.2	-3.5	0	50.1	51.7	51.7	1.6	0
High	45.9	39.7	39.5	-6.4	-0.2	44.2	40.3	40.9	-3.3	0.6	33.6	35	35	1.4	0	35.4	32.5	32.5	-2.9	0
Employed	74.2	72.6	72.6	-1.6	0	79.6	73.1	72.7	-6.9	-0.4	68.9	56	56	-12.9	0	70	68	68	-2.0	0
Center	34.1	35.4	35.9	1.8	0.5	29.2	30.3	31.8	2.6	1.5	76	68.4	69	-7.0	0.6	25.1	23.4	23	-2.1	-0.4
	Paris					Lyon					London					Birmingham				
	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$	U	W	P	$\Delta 1$	$\Delta 2$
Female	46.5	51.8	51.5	5	-0.3	52.6	51.5	51.4	-1.2	-0.1	53.9	50.6	50.6	-3.3	0	52.6	51.6	50.7	-1.9	-0.9
Age Cohorts																				
<25	7.1	13.4	13.2	6.1	-0.2	10.9	15.7	15.1	4.2	-0.6	4.9	12.7	12.6	7.7	-0.1	5.5	12.8	13.6	8.1	0.8
25-34	20.7	21	21.2	0.5	0.2	22	19.6	19.8	-2.2	0.2	20.4	24.3	24.2	3.8	-0.1	18.7	18.9	18.9	0.2	0
35-44	21.6	20.7	20.8	-0.8	0.1	23.2	19.6	19.8	-3.4	0.2	21.9	21	21.1	-0.8	0.1	23.1	19.2	19.3	-3.8	0.1
45-54	20.8	18.8	18.9	-1.9	0.1	20.8	18	18.2	-2.6	0.2	20	18.4	18.3	-1.7	-0.1	20.8	18.9	19	-1.8	0.1
55-64	16.9	15.6	15.9	-1.0	0.3	11.7	15.6	15.7	4	0.1	19.4	13.3	13.3	-6.1	0	20.3	15.4	15.5	-4.8	0.1
>65	12.8	10.5	10	-2.8	-0.5	11.2	11.4	11.4	0.2	0	13.2	10.4	10.4	-2.8	0	11.4	15	13.6	2.2	-1.4
Education																				
Low	9	19.4	19.3	10.3	-0.1	4.2	17.5	17.5	13.3	0	23.2	28	28	4.8	0	33	40.5	40.5	7.5	0
Medium	33.1	38.1	38.3	5.2	0.2	37.3	42.9	42.9	5.6	0	17.7	26.3	26.3	8.6	0	23.8	31.1	31.2	7.4	0.1
High	57.9	42.4	42.4	-15.5	0	58.5	39.5	39.5	-19.0	0	58.9	45.7	45.7	-13.2	0	43.1	28.3	28.3	-14.8	0
Employed	69.3	65.3	65	-4.8	-0.3	68.6	63.8	63.8	-4.8	0	66.7	67.3	68	1.3	0	63.5	57.7	57	-6.5	-0.7
Center	18.8	20.1	20	1.2	-0.1	28.8	28	29	0.2	1	33.7	24.2	24.2	-9.5	0	52.2	41.6	42	-10.2	-0.6

Table A.1. Sample-population comparison for selected indicators

Note. Cell entries are percentages; U=Sample unweighted, W= Sample weighted, P=Population, $\Delta 1$ =Difference population-sample unweighted, $\Delta 2$ =Difference population-sample weighted; *Italics*=Difference population-sample unweighted > 5 %-points.

Appendix B – Randomization checks, descriptive frequencies, missing values and carryover effects

Appendix B reports on basic elements of the conjoint experiment. Figures B.1 through B.4 show that each of the attribute levels for the five attributes was administered to the respondents with equal frequency, independent of their gender, age, political ideology or political interest and randomization was thus successful. Moreover, the rating dependent variable is normally distributed (figure B.5). Figure B.7 displays the results with different attribute baselines and figure B.8 shows that there were no carryover effects across the three rounds of the conjoint experiment (i.e. significantly different effect of an attribute in one round compared to another).



Figure B.1. Randomization check by Gender

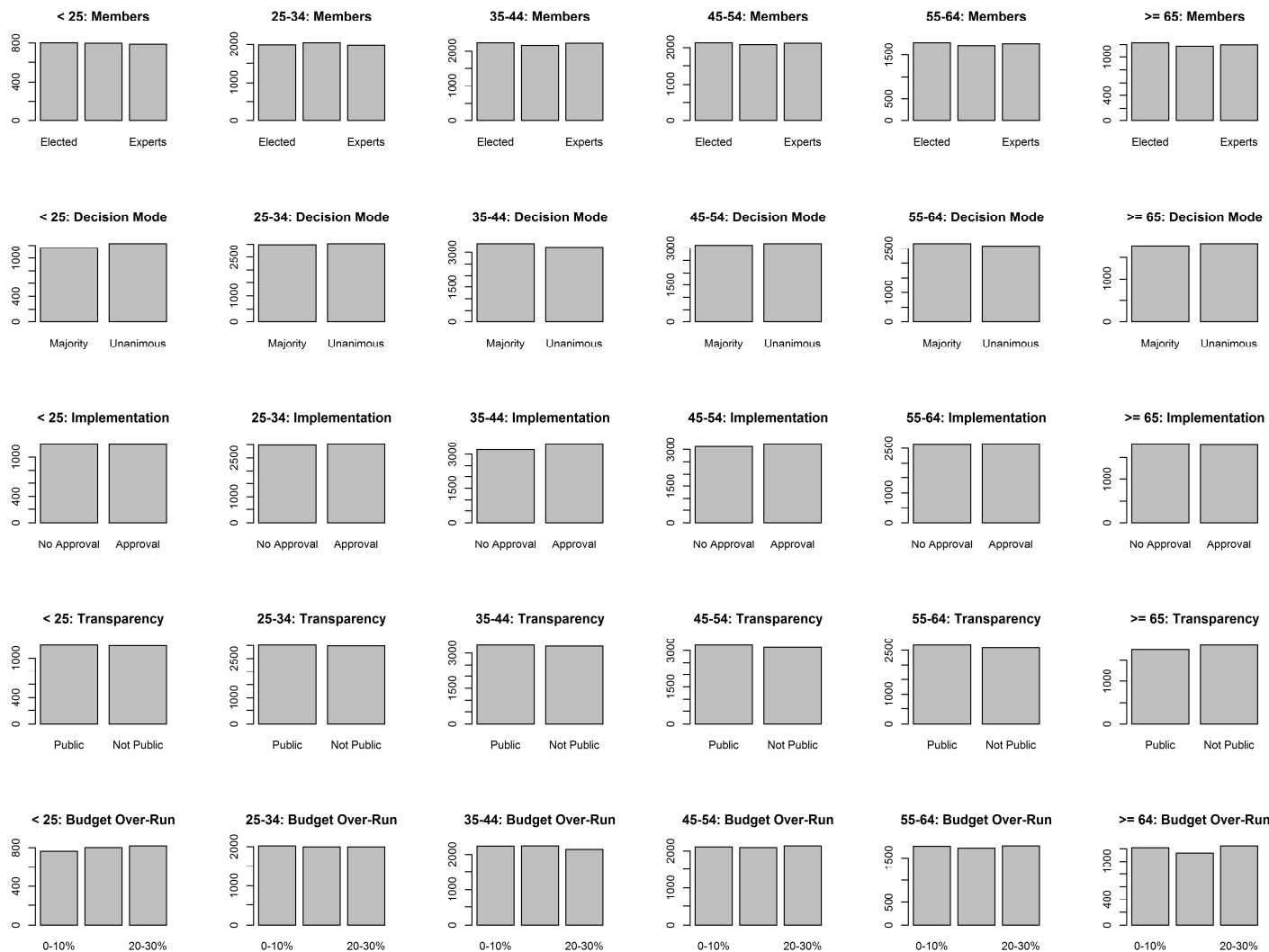


Figure B.2. Randomization check by Age Cohort



Figure B.3. Randomization check by Left-Right Orientation

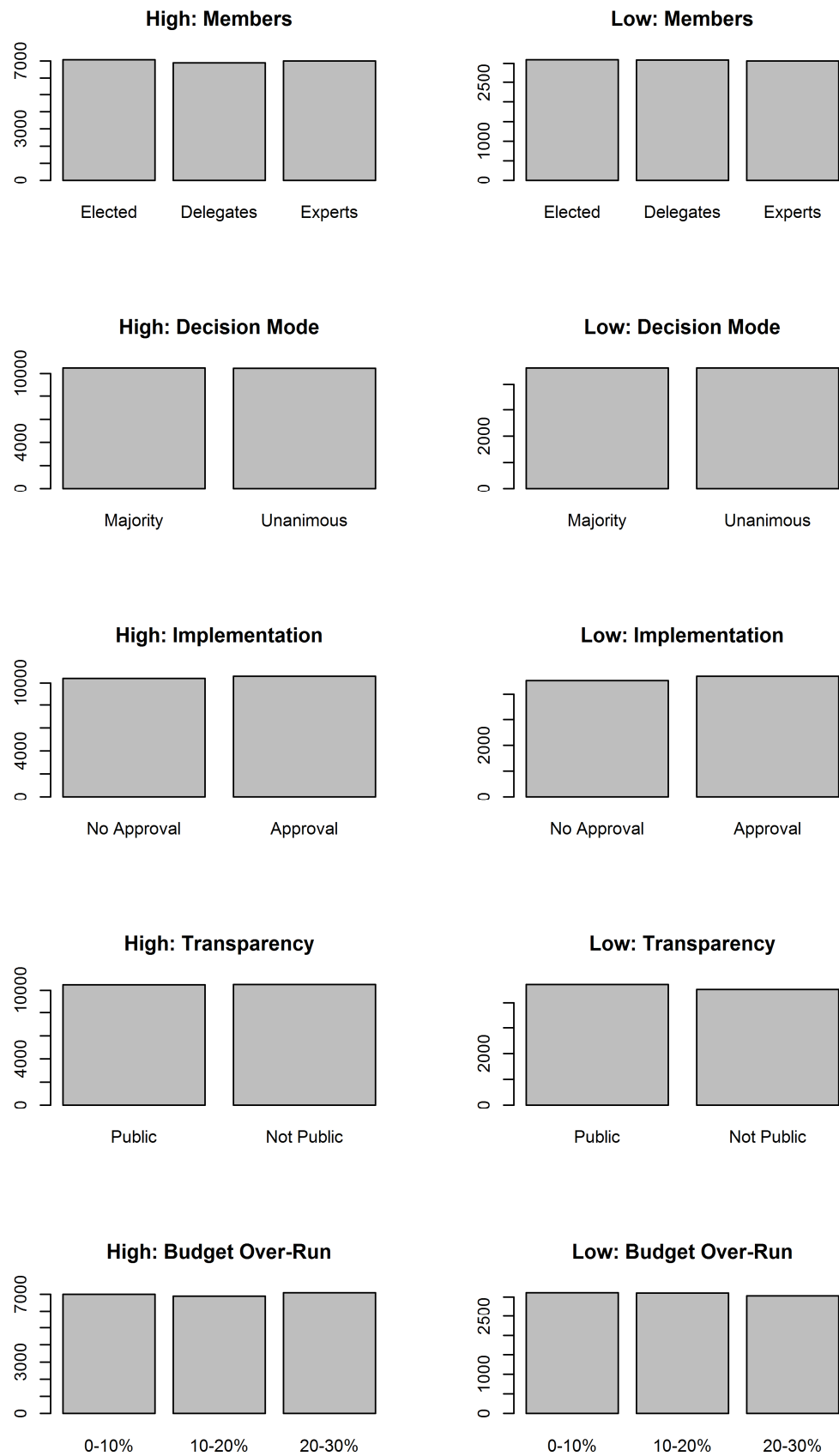


Figure B.4. Randomization check by Political Interest

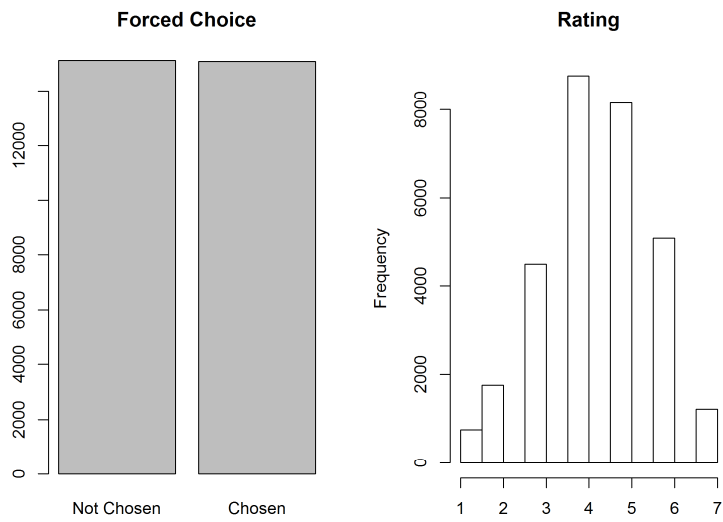


Figure B.5. Frequencies dependent variables

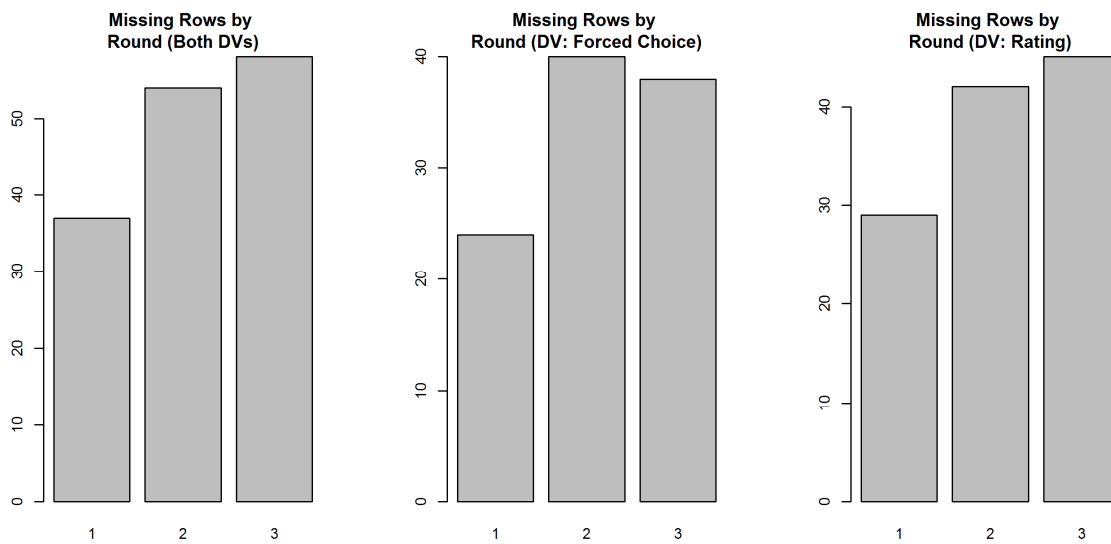


Figure B.6. Missing rows

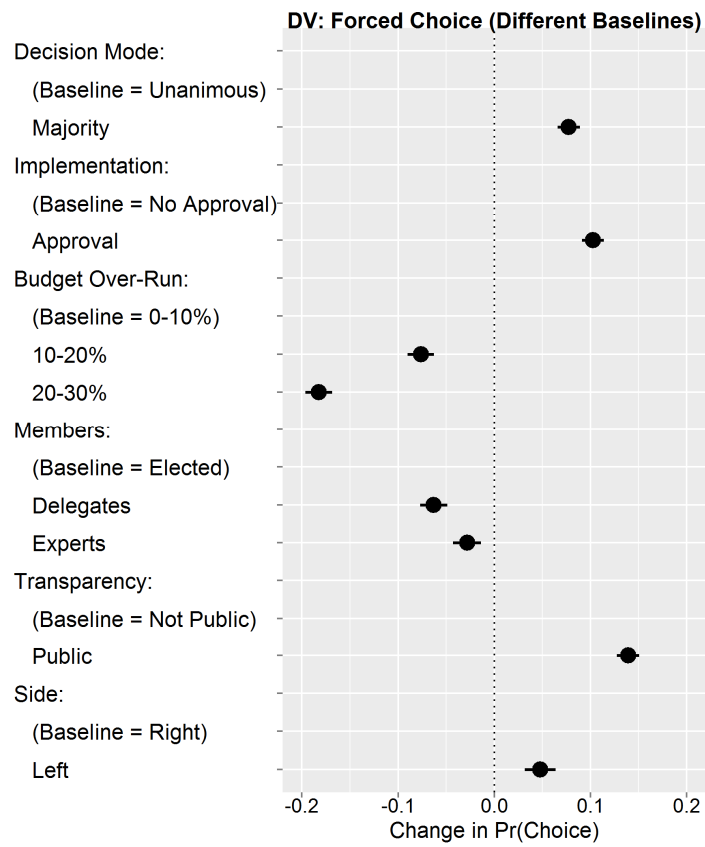


Figure B.7. Basic results with different baselines

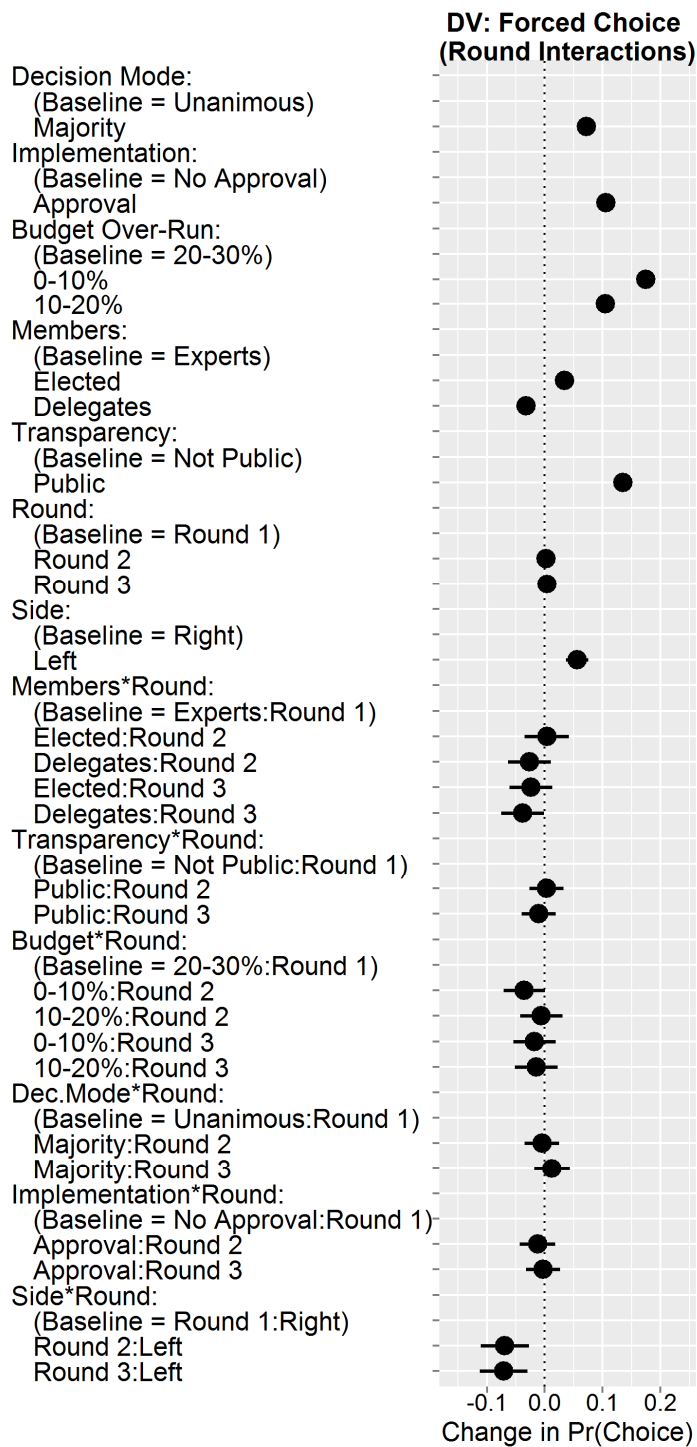


Figure B.8. Carryover effects – interaction with round of choice task

Appendix C – Respondent characteristics

Appendix C reports the results for different types of respondents. First, we separate people who use public transport from people who do not use public transport and people who use a car from people who do not use a car to get to work. One might expect that public transport users demand different things from such a commission than people who do not use public transport. For example, the public transport non-users might be much more concerned with the budget question than with the question of the composition or the transparency of the commission. This is not the case, however (see figure C.1 and C.2). A second test concerns the differences between respondents with low and with high trust in local institutions. Here, we find some small differences in the effect sizes but not in the relative strength of the attributes when they are compared to each other (see figure C.3). Furthermore, the substantive results do not differ when we compare respondents that participated online to those filling in a paper questionnaire (figure C.4).

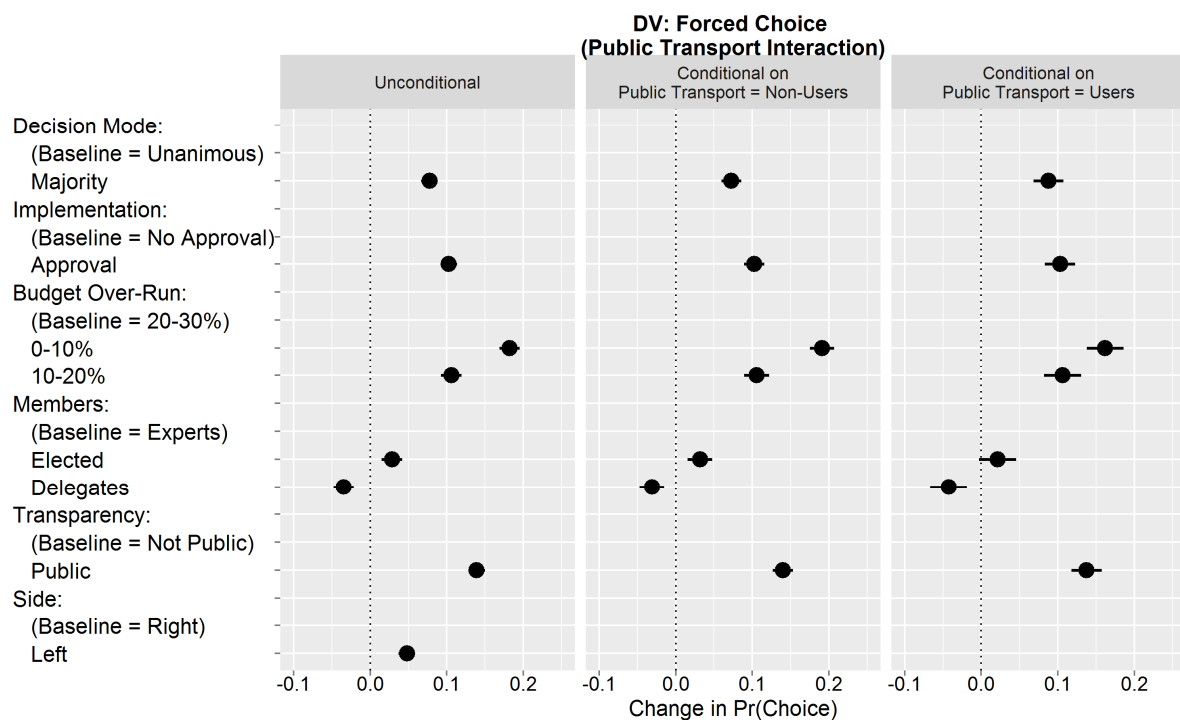


Figure C.1. Public transport

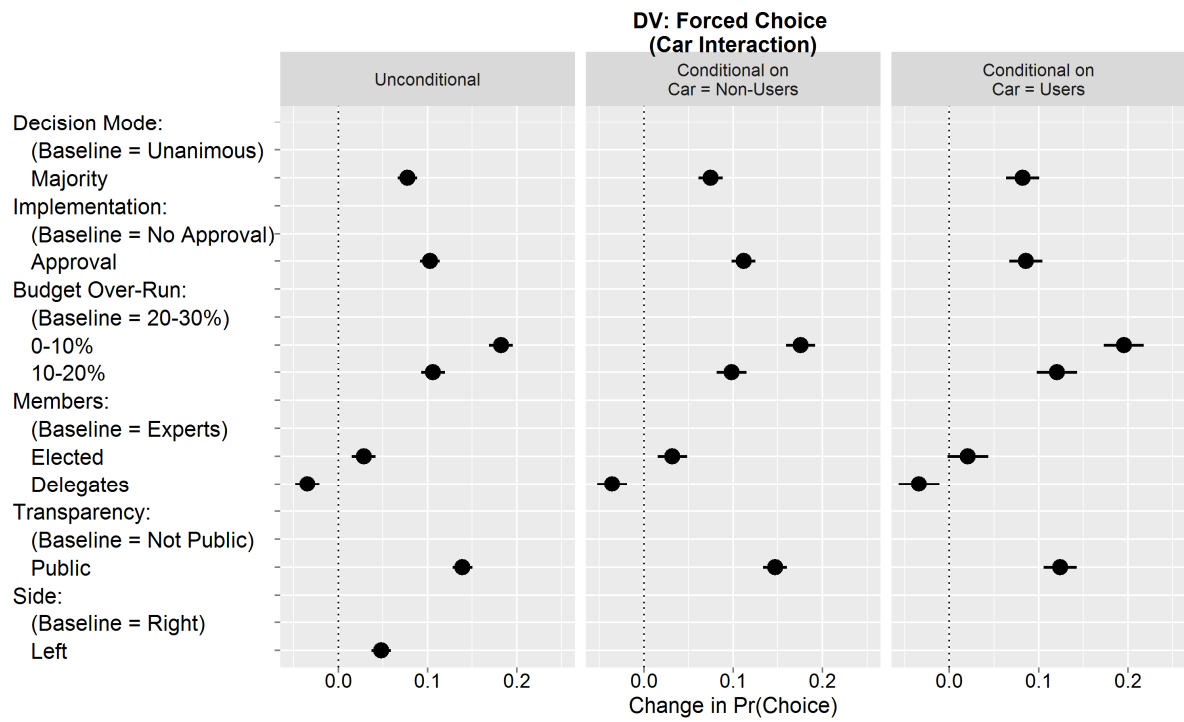


Figure C.2. Car

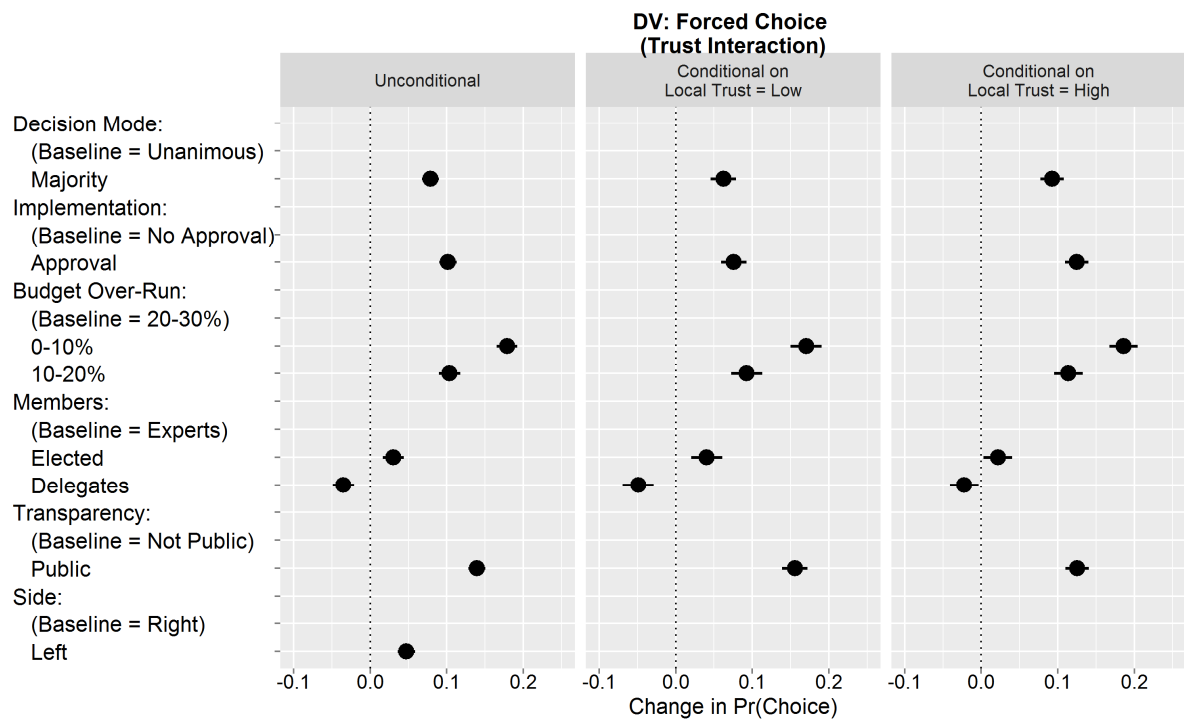


Figure C.3. Local trust

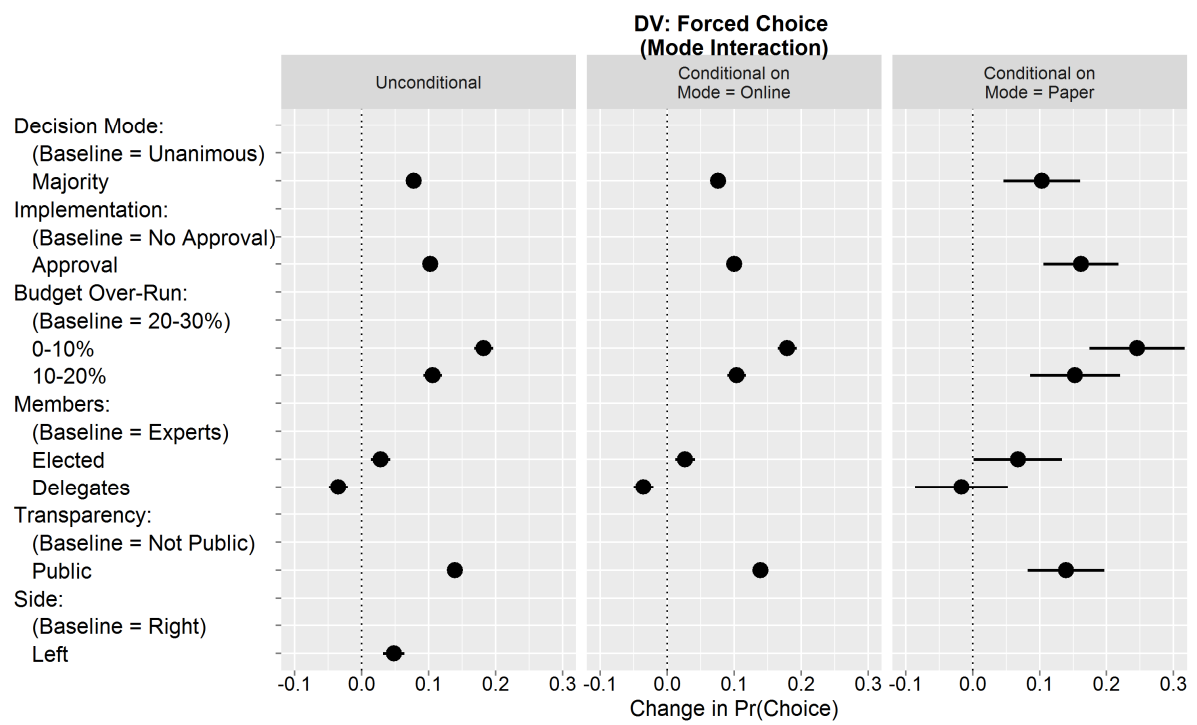


Figure C.4. Online vs. paper questionnaire

Appendix D – Inconsistent, neutral and opinionated subsets

Appendix D reports the results for different types of response patterns. We checked whether the results differ for respondents with inconsistent (i.e. choice of commission B and higher rating for commission A), neutral (i.e. choice of commission B and same rating for commission A) and opinionated evaluations (i.e. choice of commission B and higher rating for commission B) (see figure D.3). Not surprisingly, the effects are somewhat more pronounced for opinionated respondent-commissions. However, the overall pattern remains the same and we thus decided to use all complete respondent evaluations for our analysis. Figure D.1 and D.2 show the amount of inconsistent, neutral and opinionated respondent-commissions for the overall sample and for the individual regions. Figure D.2 shows that inconsistent and especially neutral answers are more common among French and British respondents than among Swiss and German ones. This might reflect the greater acquaintance of the latter with local governance in general. Figures D.4-D.7 display the results for opinionated respondents only.

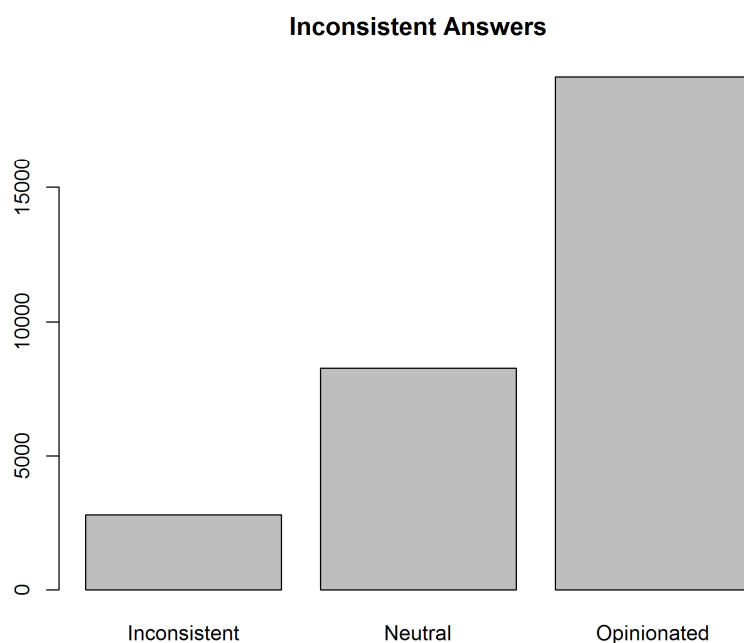


Figure D.1. Inconsistent, neutral and opinionated answers – overall

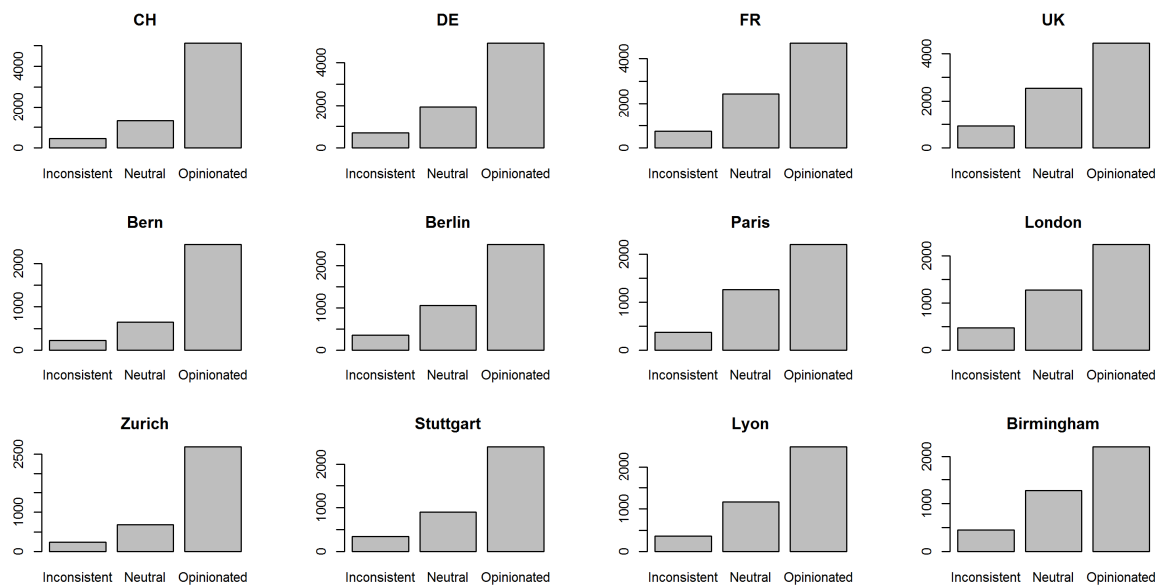


Figure D.2. Inconsistent, neutral and opinionated answers – countries and regions

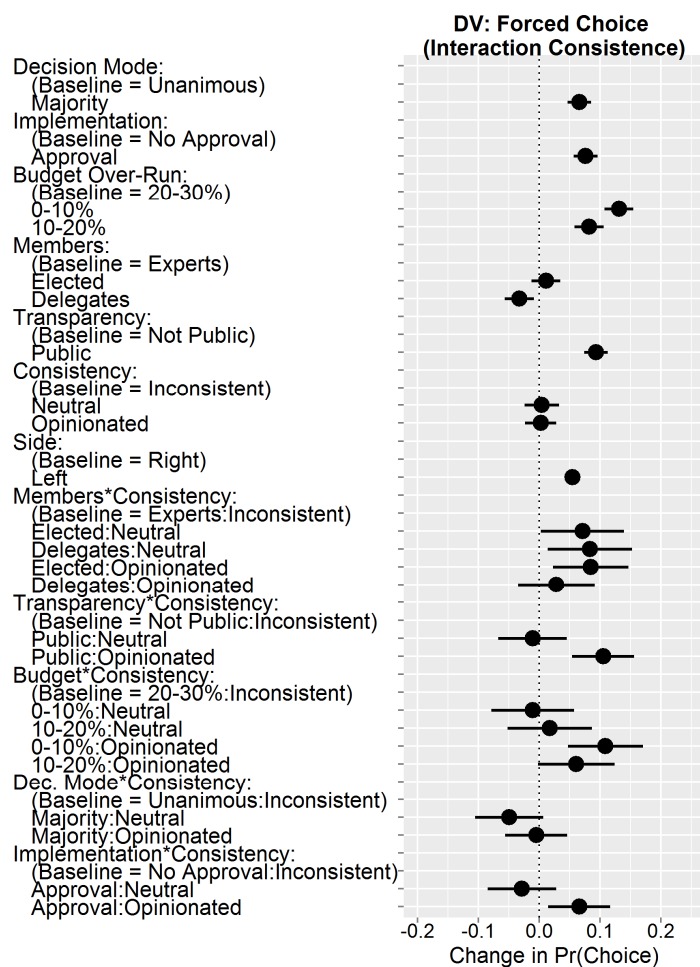


Figure D.3. Interaction effects – consistency

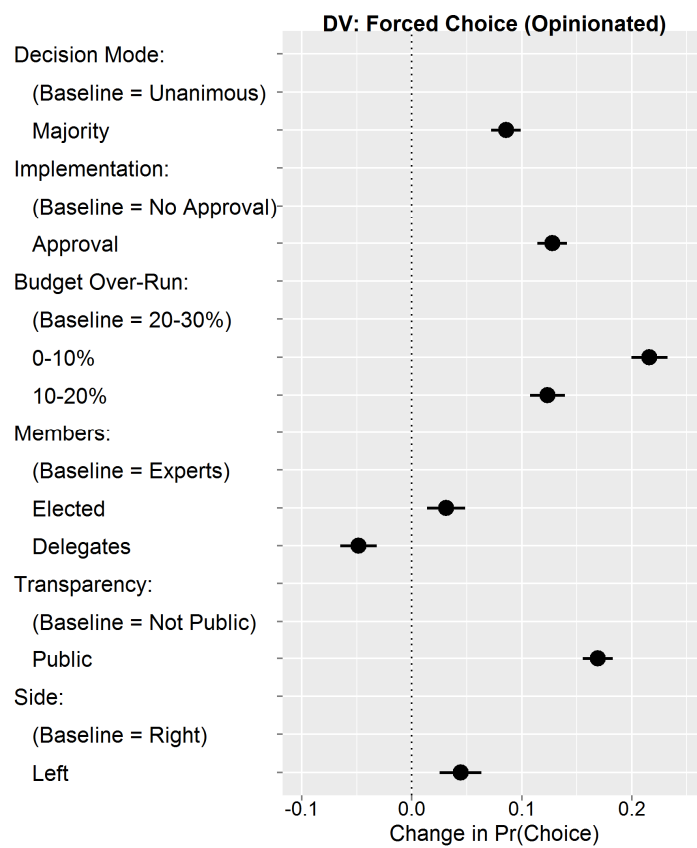


Figure D.4. Opinionated only – overall

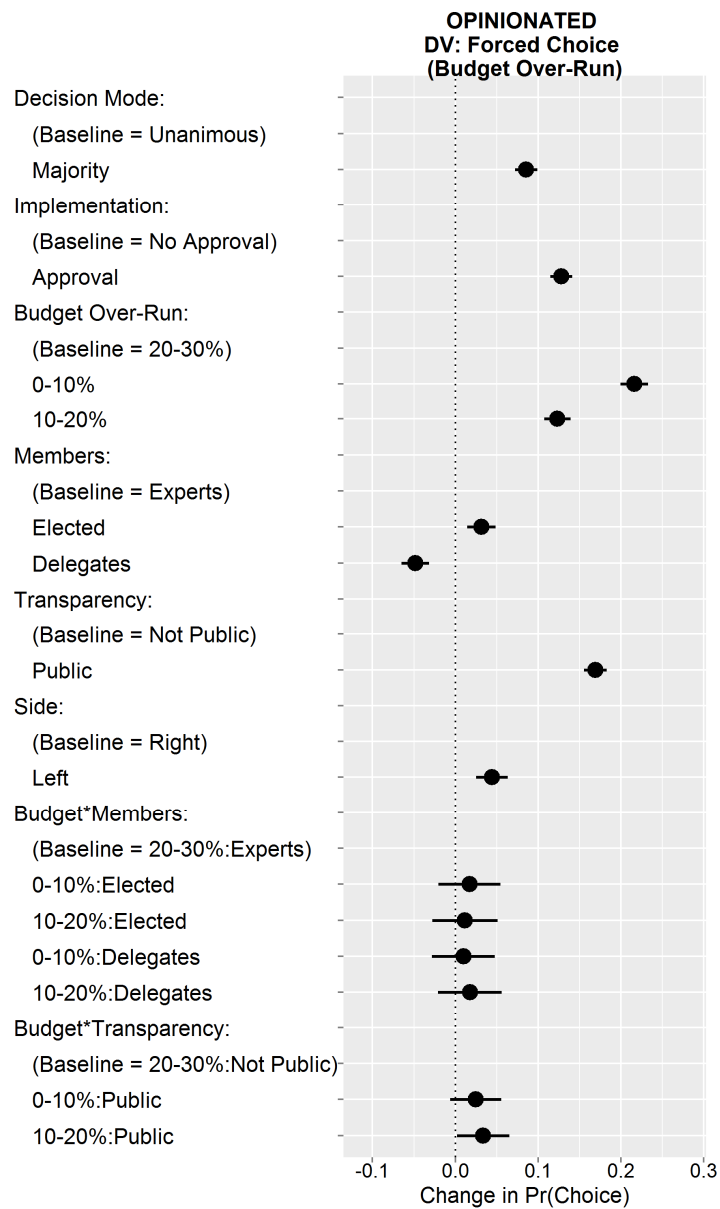


Figure D.5. Budget over-run interaction – opinionated only

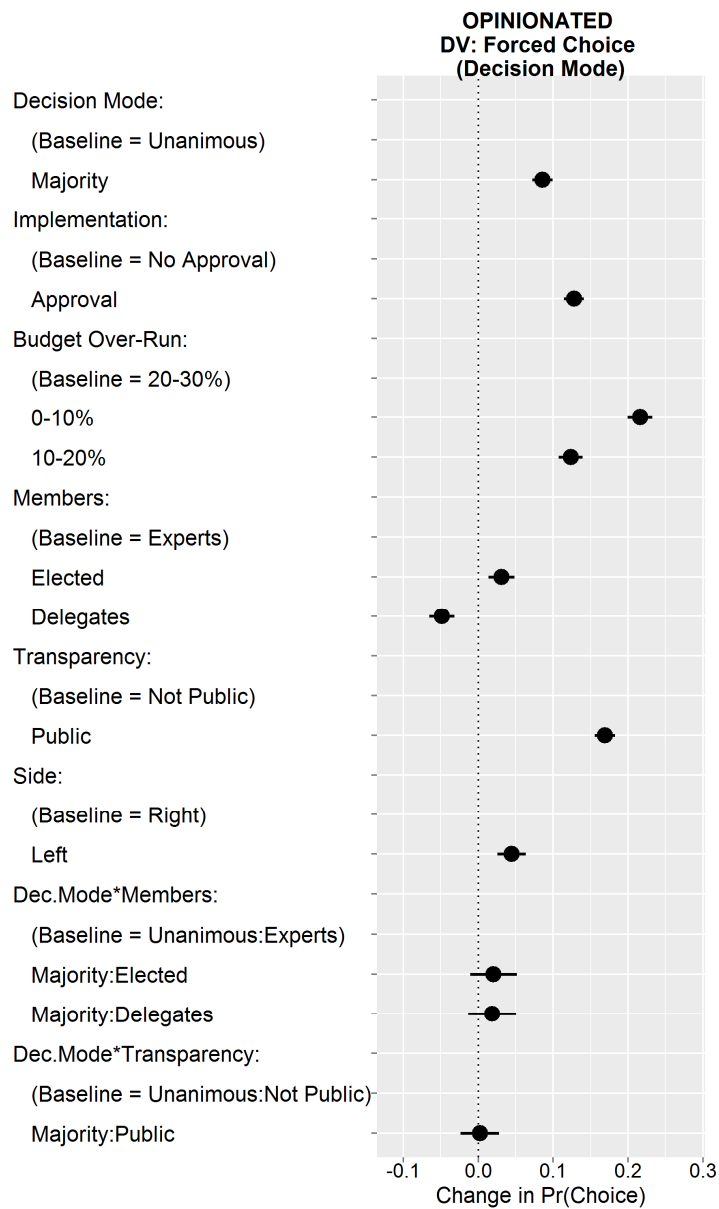


Figure D.6. Decision mode interaction – opinionated only

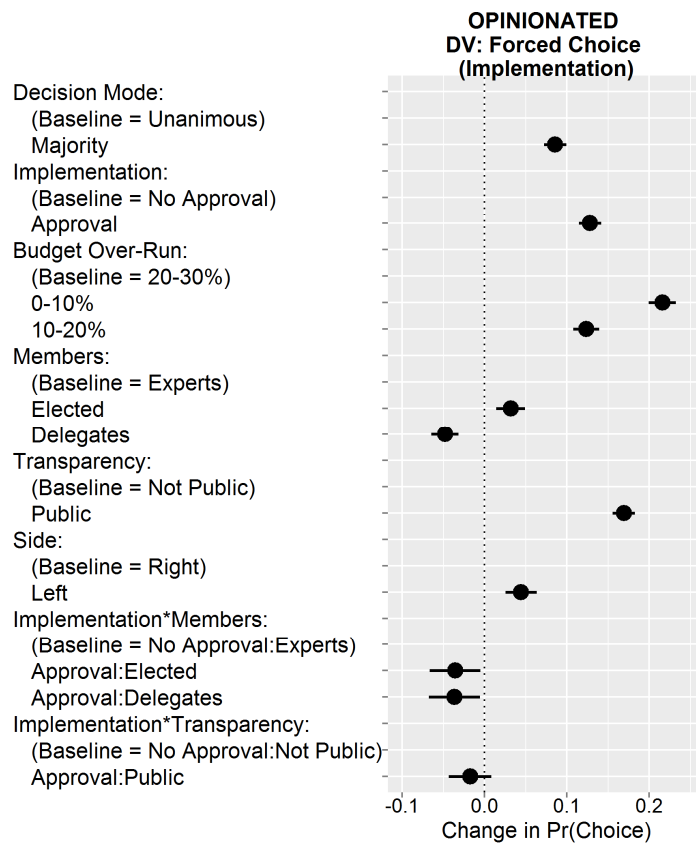


Figure D.7. Implementation interaction – opinionated only

Appendix E – Results for Rating Variable

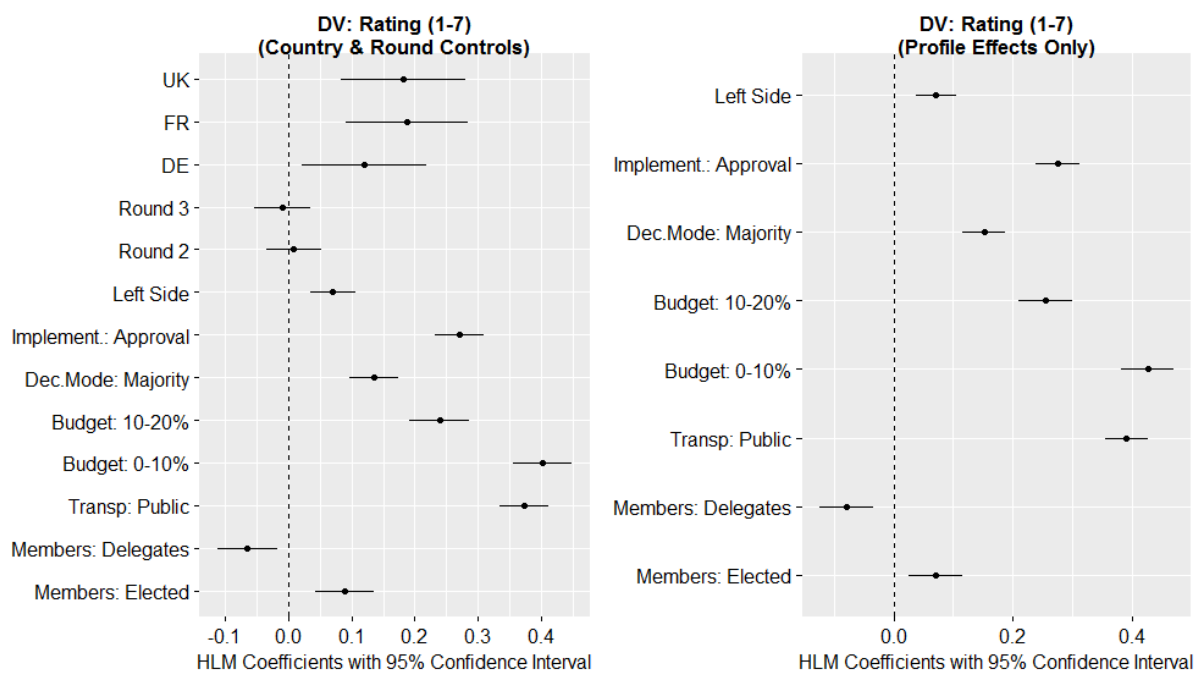


Figure E.1. Rating variable with and without controls

Appendix F – Cross-National and Cross-Regional Differences

Appendix F shows the results for the four countries and eight metropolitan areas individually (figure F.1 and F.2). The general picture does not differ markedly across countries, except for Switzerland. Here, we find that citizens deem ex-post approval by local governments more important and care less about the composition of the commission than citizens in the other three countries. This difference reflects the direct democratic referendum-logic of the Swiss political system where representation can be substituted to a certain extent by popular veto possibilities. We do not find substantive additional variation when we compare metropolitan areas within a country.

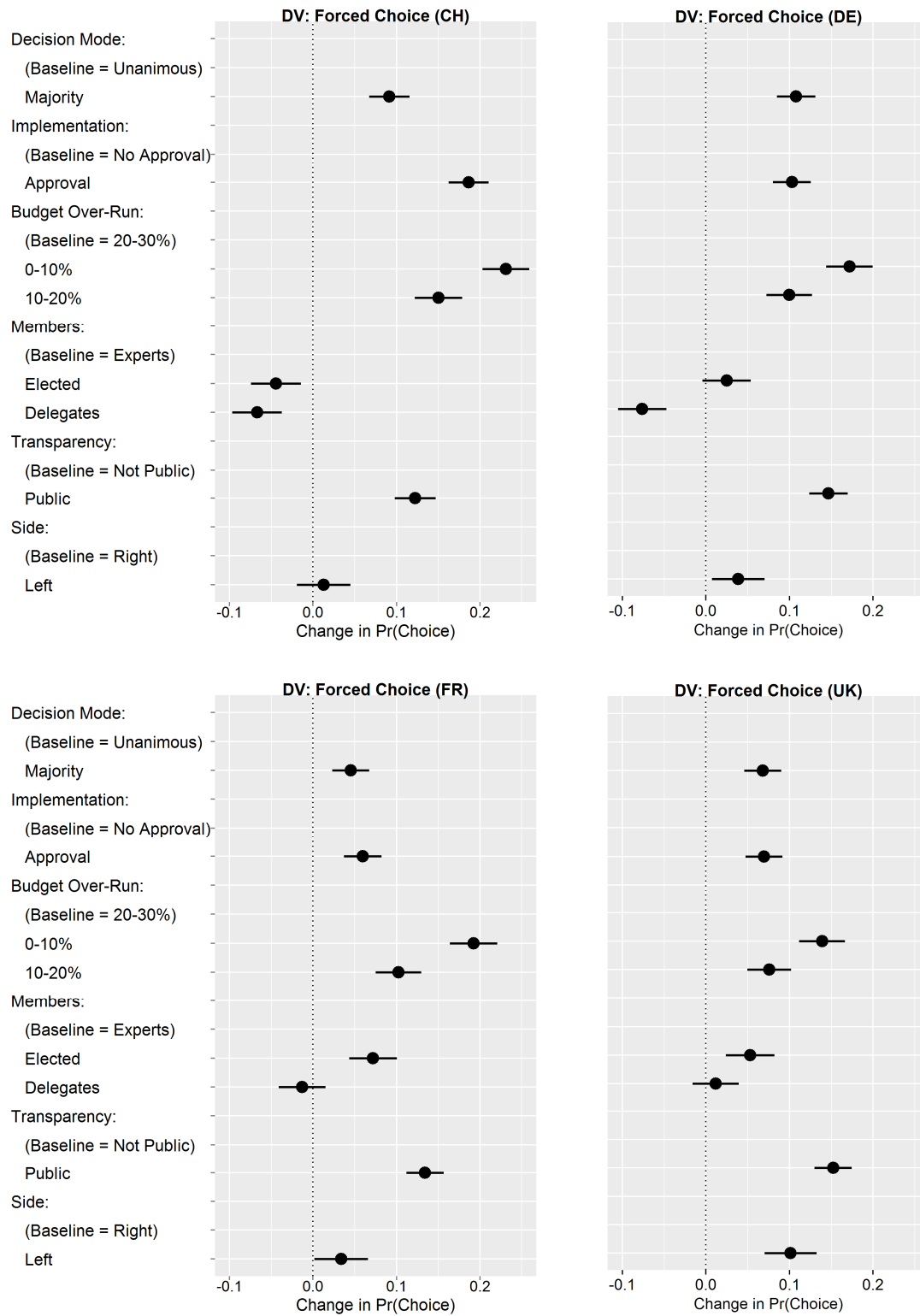


Figure F.1. Forced choice variable across countries

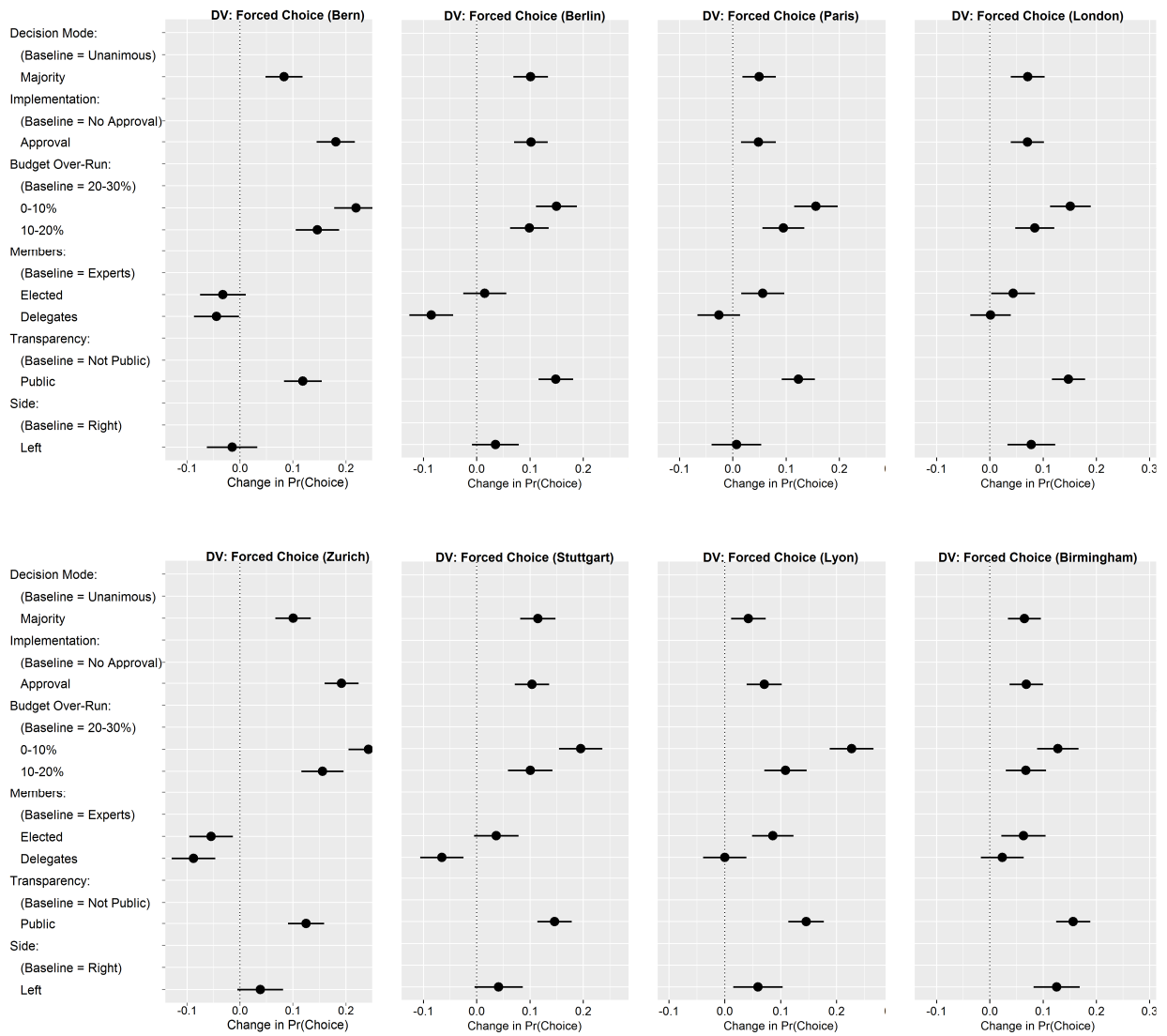


Figure F.2. Forced choice variable across regions