

Table A1: Alternative Model Specifications

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Proportion of SOTU	-2.502 (2.671)	-2.638 (2.666)	-2.508 (2.661)
Ideological Distance	2.090*** (0.566)	2.131*** (0.562)	2.109*** (0.569)
Salient	0.473* (0.251)	0.490* (0.253)	0.469* (0.253)
Constitutional Question	-1.964*** (0.429)	-1.947*** (0.432)	-1.969*** (0.430)
Election Year	-0.116 (0.224)	-0.102 (0.220)	-0.113 (0.231)
Margin of Victory	0.0104 (0.0175)	0.0109 (0.0173)	0.0108 (0.0175)
Divided	0.387 (0.307)	0.395 (0.306)	0.381 (0.311)
Presidential Approval	0.00263 (0.00965)	0.00298 (0.00960)	0.00290 (0.00966)
Legal Complexity	0.146 (0.235)	0.148 (0.236)	
Conflict	0.204 (0.181)	0.206 (0.181)	
Dissent in Lower Court		-0.254 (0.274)	
Legal Uncertainty			0.0411 (0.0839)
Constant	-4.172*** (0.991)	-4.172*** (0.996)	-4.075*** (0.934)
Observations	2,068	2,068	2,068

Robust standard errors in parentheses
 For two-tailed test *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Appendix – Descriptive Statistics**Table A2: Summary Statistics for Proportion of SOTU by Topic Area**

Topic	Mean	S.D.	Min	Max
Macroeconomics	0.164	0.088	0.035	0.375
Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties	0.025	0.02	0	0.111
Health	0.042	0.039	0	0.252
Agriculture	0.013	0.017	0	0.054
Labor and Employment	0.03	0.022	0	0.082
Education	0.038	0.043	0	0.196
Environment	0.008	0.013	0	0.068
Energy	0.032	0.072	0	0.333
Immigration	0.003	0.006	0	0.027
Transportation	0.006	0.01	0	0.06
Law, Crime, and Family issues	0.042	0.045	0	0.226
Social Welfare	0.041	0.042	0	0.289
Community Development and Housing Issues	0.007	0.001	0	0.046
Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce	0.008	0.012	0	0.058
Defense	0.123	0.085	0.033	0.432
Space, Science, Technology and Communications	0.015	0.022	0	0.08
Foreign Trade	0.024	0.018	0	0.076
International Affairs and Foreign Aid	0.17	0.093	0	0.387
Government Operations	0.072	0.082	0	0.447
Public Lands and Water Management	0.006	0.009	0	0.039

Table A3: Number of Cases and CVSG per Topic Area

Topic	Frequency	Percent	Cases w/ CVSG
Macroeconomics	59	1.62	2
Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties	534	14.63	33
Health	88	2.41	17
Agriculture	26	0.71	6
Labor and Employment	429	11.76	36
Education	65	1.78	5
Environment	73	2	9
Energy	96	2.63	7
Immigration	70	1.92	3
Transportation	179	4.91	25
Law, Crime, and Family issues	1,032	28.28	19
Social Welfare	63	1.73	9
Community Development and Housing Issues	31	0.85	0
Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce	428	11.73	45
Defense	44	1.21	1
Space, Science, Technology and Communications	50	1.37	3
Foreign Trade	35	0.96	3
International Affairs and Foreign Aid	23	0.63	6
Government Operations	217	5.95	10
Public Lands and Water Management	107	2.93	29
Total	3649		268

Table A4: Descriptive Statistics

Continuous Variables	Mean	S.D.	Min	Max
Ideological Distance	0.518	0.237	0.012	1.008
Margin of Victory	10.035	8.356	-0.51	23.15
Presidential Approval	53.431	11.94	25.294	75.571

Dichotomous Variables	Mean	S.D.
Salient	0.147	0.355
Election Year	0.258	0.437
Divided	0.679	0.467
Constitutional Question	0.377	0.485
