

Description of GHP Scores

{Please cite, Micheal W. Giles, Virginia Hettinger and Todd Peppers, "Picking Federal Judges: A Note on Policy and Partisan Selection Agendas." *Political Research Quarterly*. 54 (September): 623-641 when using the GHP scores }

GHP (Giles, Hettinger & Peppers) scores provide a measure of the ideological preferences of judges of the U.S. Courts of Appeals. The logic of the scores rests on the assumptions (1) that those participating in the appointment of federal judges seek to appoint judges who reflect their policy preferences, (2) that a strong model of senatorial courtesy prevails and (3) that Poole and Rosenthal Common Space scores provide valid and reliable estimates of the preferences of the selectors.¹

The first assumption may not apply strictly to all appointments of lower court judges, but even if the motivation is simply partisan, it is likely that the appointee and the actors significant in the appointment will be closely aligned ideologically. For example, if a Democratic Senator recommends the appointment of his former law partner, it is likely that the partner is also a Democrat, is politically active, and shares the general ideological orientation of the Senator.

The second assumption means that in constructing the scores we assume that if the appointment is drawn from a state where one or more of the Senators are of the President's party, the Senator(s) will control the appointment. The GHP scores assigned to the judges will take the value of the Common space score of the Senator (or the average if there are two Senators of the President's party). When an appointment occurs from a state without a Senator of the President's party, the GHP score for the judge is assigned the value of the Common space score for the appointing President. The Common Space scores as their name implies allows the judges appointed under either condition to be placed in a common ideological space. The second assumption, of course, may not hold for all appointments. Some senators of different parties have shared control of the selection of judges in their state regardless of the party of the President. Likewise, some Senators of the same party rotate control of the appointment when a President of their party is in office meaning that taking an average introduces error. Senatorial control may also wax and wane with the desire of different Presidents to control the selection of judges. To the extent that the realities of judicial selection depart from our assumption of a strong senatorial model, then error is introduced into our measure. This, of course, will result in the measure being less strongly correlated with dependent variables than if we had been able to incorporate the nuances of the selection process.

¹ Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York: Oxford University Press. Poole, Keith T. 1998. "Recovering a Basic Space From a Set of Issue Scales." *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 954-993. See also <http://voteview.com/default.htm>.

The Common Space Scores are updated after each session of Congress necessitating an update of the GHP scores. They are scaled from -1 (liberal) to +1 (conservative). The GHP scores archived here are through the 110th Congress and include scores assigned to Court of Appeals judges appointed through 2008. GHP Scores are available for presidents beginning with Eisenhower. Since President Truman served as a U.S. Senator we have substituted his senatorial score as a Presidential Common Space score and extend the coverage back through his presidency. While there is no Common Space score for President Roosevelt and he did not serve in the Congress, we have assigned GHP scores to Court of Appeals judges appointed during his presidency where the condition of senatorial courtesy was met since we do have Common Space scores for Senators during this period. Scholars who are concerned by these extensions can simply delete judges based on the appointing president.

The data are provided both in Excel and Stata formats. The codebook for the variables is relatively straightforward:

Ids=the id scores for Court of Appeals judges used in Songer's Court of Appeals dataset and its extension. For judges appointed after the extension, 2007-2008, we have simply assigned numbers sequentially by appointment date within circuit. This variable can be used to merge the data with the Court of Appeals data set.

Sids==Also drawn from the codebook for the Songer Court of Appeals dataset this is a secondary id which essentially identifies the judges that shifted from the 5th to the 11th circuit when the 5th was divided in 1981.

Name=Name of judge. Note the name of a few judges change through their career but their id remains the same. (e.g. John P. Moore became John Carbone Profilio).

Circuit=Number of Circuit. 12=DC

Amon=Month of appointment

Ayear=Year of Appointment

Aubstate=Name of State with which the judge principally associated with at the time of appointment.

Sticpsr=Id for the state (see below)

P_id==An id score for the president.

Presname=Name of the Appointing President

Pparty==Party of the appointing president 100=Democrat and 200=Republican

GHP==The score computed for the judge in the manner described above.

The code used above is the state icpsr code (sticpsr).

POSTAL	ALPHA	ICPSR
AL	1	41
AK	2	81
AZ	3	61
AR	4	42
CA	5	71
CO	6	62
CT	7	1
DE	8	11
DC	51	55
FL	9	43
GA	10	44
HI	11	82
ID	12	63
IL	13	21
IN	14	22
IA	15	31
KS	16	32
KY	17	51
LA	18	45
ME	19	02
MD	20	52
MA	21	03
MI	22	23
MN	23	33
MS	24	46
MO	25	34
MT	26	64
NE	27	35
NV	28	65
NH	29	04
NJ	30	12
NM	31	66
NY	32	13
NC	33	47
ND	34	36
OH	35	24
OK	36	53
OR	37	72
PA	38	14
RI	9	05
SC	40	48
SD	41	37
TN	42	54
TX	43	49
UT	44	67
VT	45	06
VA	46	40
WA	47	73
WV	48	56
WI	49	25
WY	50	68

