Vetting for Virtue: Democracy's Challenge in Excluding Criminals from Office

Sigurd S. Arntzen¹ Jon H. Fiva² Rune J. Sørensen³

ASSA — January 3, 2024

¹Norwegian Business School

²Norwegian Business School

³Norwegian Business School

Friday, May 31, 2024 Today's Paper

The New Hork Times

Nasdag -1.08% +

U.S. V World V Business V Arts V Lifestyle V Opinion V

Audio V Games V Cooking V Wirecutter V

TRUMP GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Jury Hands Down Historic Conviction in Hush-Money Case

- ' Donald Trump was convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal that threatened his ascent to the White House in 2016.
- He is the first American president to be declared a felon, a stain he will carry as he seeks to regain the presidency.





the conviction of former President Trump.

4 MIN READ

Pool photo by Seth Wenig

Here's the verdict, count by count.

Can Donald Trump still run for president? 7 MIN READ

After his conviction, Donald Trump blamed the judge, the jury and a country "gone to hell."

This is what it was like inside the courtroom when the Trump verdict was read

Friday, May 31, 2024 Today's Paper

The New Hork Times

Nasdag -1.08% +

U.S. V World V Business V Arts V Lifestyle V Opinion V

Audio V Games V Cooking V Wirecutter V

TRUMP GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Jury Hands Down Historic Conviction in Hush-Money Case

- ' Donald Trump was convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal that threatened his ascent to the White House in 2016.
- He is the first American president to be declared a felon, a stain he will carry as he seeks to regain the presidency.





4 MIN READ

the conviction of former President Trump.

Pool photo by Seth Wenig

Here's the verdict, count by count.

Can Donald Trump still run for president? 7 MIN READ

After his conviction, Donald Trump blamed the judge, the jury and a country "gone to hell"

This is what it was like inside the courtroom when the Trump verdict was read

Friday, May 31, 2024 Today's Paper

The New Hork Times

Nasdag -1.08% +

U.S. V World V Business V Arts V Lifestyle V Opinion V

Audio V Games V Cooking V Wirecutter V

TRUMP GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Jury Hands Down Historic Conviction in Hush-Money Case

- ' Donald Trump was convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal that threatened his ascent to the White House in 2016.
- He is the first American president to be declared a felon, a stain he will carry as he seeks to regain the presidency.





the conviction of former President Trump.

4 MIN READ

Pool photo by Seth Wenig

Here's the verdict, count by count.

Can Donald Trump still run for president? 7 MIN READ

After his conviction, Donald Trump blamed the judge, the jury and a country "gone to hell"

This is what it was like inside the courtroom when the Trump verdict was read



A.magasinet Duhai: «Sponsing av hetebolger må stoppe»

46 convicted persons are governing Norwegian municipalities.

Many did not know that they cast their vote for a person who had recently been convicted. Convicted individuals have both the duty and the right to remain in their position.



Why Norway?

Why Norway?

 Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

We focus on local politics

Party-centered setting with nine main political parties

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

- Party-centered setting with nine main political parties
- Flexible-list PR
 - Voters choose which party to vote for, and can cast personal votes on any party list

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

- Party-centered setting with nine main political parties
- Flexible-list PR
 - Voters choose which party to vote for, and can cast personal votes on any party list
 - Parties can give certain candidates a "head start"

Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

- Party-centered setting with nine main political parties
- Flexible-list PR
 - Voters choose which party to vote for, and can cast personal votes on any party list
 - Parties can give certain candidates a "head start"
 - Median number of candidates with a head start is two
 - Top-ranked candidate is party's mayoral candidate

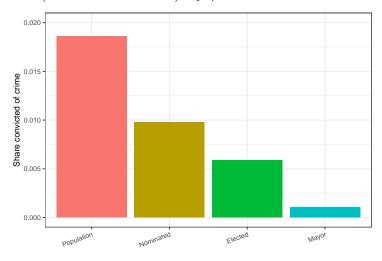
Why Norway?

- Access to the full criminal history of the whole Norwegian population (including politicians)
 - We focus only on crimes that led to a court-issued legal sanction
- No restrictions for criminals running for office

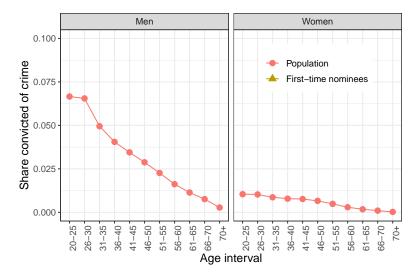
- Party-centered setting with nine main political parties
- Flexible-list PR
 - Voters choose which party to vote for, and can cast personal votes on any party list
 - Parties can give certain candidates a "head start"
 - Median number of candidates with a head start is two
 - Top-ranked candidate is party's mayoral candidate
- ightarrow We can test for the relative importance of voter's and parties' in excluding criminal from office

Crimes (in t-5 to t-1) by politician status

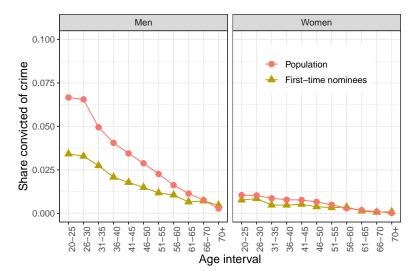
Crimes (in t-5 to t-1) by politician status



Initial nomination

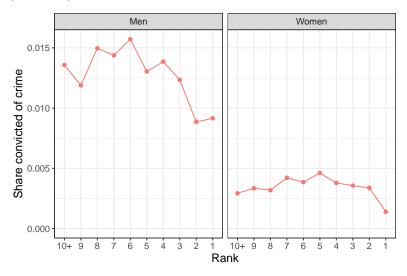


Initial nomination



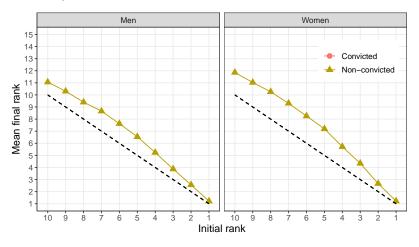
Do parties prioritize lawful candidates?

Do parties prioritize lawful candidates?

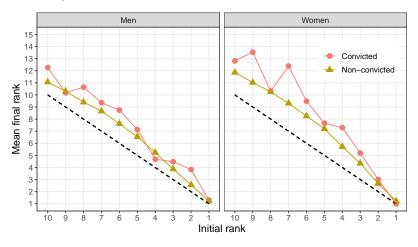


Do voters prioritize lawful candidates?

Do voters prioritize lawful candidates?



Do voters prioritize lawful candidates?



Norwegian politicians are more lawful than the population they represent

Norwegian politicians are more lawful than the population they represent

Party screening processes are crucial for filtering out candidates with criminal records, whereas voters seem to play a minimal role

Norwegian politicians are more lawful than the population they represent

Party screening processes are crucial for filtering out candidates with criminal records, whereas voters seem to play a minimal role

 Caveat: Lenient party screening might have changed voter behavior

Norwegian politicians are more lawful than the population they represent

Party screening processes are crucial for filtering out candidates with criminal records, whereas voters seem to play a minimal role

 Caveat: Lenient party screening might have changed voter behavior

Our paper underscores the challenges in relying on electoral mechanisms to keep criminals out of office

ullet Weak parties + no restrictions o dangerous combination

Thanks!

sigurd.s.arntzen@bi.no