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Voting Behaviour and Corruption

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ABSTRACT

The causes and the consequences of corruption have been extensively studied by economists both theoretically and empirically. Typically these studies find that corruption reduces the social welfare. Despite these findings and the common dislike against corruption, it existed for centuries. The voters in democracies can punish corrupted politicians by not re-electing them, and thus give incentives to politicians who want to be re-elected to remain clean. However, politicians involved in corruption scandals keep getting re-elected throughout the world. This paper examines how corruption affects voting behavior in Turkey. A survey is designed and administered in all regions of Turkey. Consequently we use a data directly drawn from electorate to understand how they reflect information about corruption to their votes. We found that even if the corruption is publicly known, a corrupt politician will increase his vote share if he produces more public goods.

KEYWORDS corruption; elections; accountability; voting behaviour

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