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# Biographies of the Russian governors, 1993-2018

Sources: Two major stages of data search were performed. At the first stage (summer 2011), research assistants used the “Labyrinth” database[[1]](#footnote-1). Party affiliation variables were gathered using materials from the “United Russia” website. Data not explicitly mentioned in these two sources was treated as missing. At the second stage, we tried to fill in as much of the missing information as possible – this time through a massive Internet search. Priority was given to official biography (published at the personal website, or the regional administration’s website[[2]](#footnote-2)). Further updates (the first one in summer 2012) were introduced using the same strategy – searching for relevant information, starting from the official regional websites.

Format of data entry: Special forms were created using OpenOffice database tool, with drop-out lists where possible, to make it easier for the research assistants to fill in necessary information into relevant fields and to minimize mistakes. After transforming filled-in forms into an Excel spreadsheet for further use, updates and changes were introduced when necessary, into this Excel dataset.

Description of variables***:***

### Basic information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Region ID | reg\_id |  | continuous |
| Governor ID | gov\_id |  | continuous |
| Region ID (ISO standard) | ISO\_id | Region’s code according toGOST7.67-2003 (ISO 3166-2:2007-numeric-3 codes) | continuous |
| Region | reg |  | nominal |
| Last name | last\_n |  | nominal |
| Patronymic | patr\_n |  | nominal |
| First name | first\_n |  | nominal |
| Gender | gen |  | nominal |
| Year of birth | birth\_y |  | continuous |
| Place of birth: city | birth\_city |  | nominal |
| Place of birth: region (if RSFSR) | birth\_reg |  | nominal |
| Place of birth: other socialist republic (if not RSFSR) | birth\_rep |  | nominal |
| Place of birth: other country (if not USSR) | birth\_count |  | nominal |
| Nationality | nation | Nationality is only listed if it is noted in the biography. No inferences are made based on name or region of birth | nominal |
| Lived in region prior to election/ appointment | ties\_reg | Marks whether the governor has any (childhood etc.) connections to the region (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Notes | Notes | Any useful notes, comments, sources of information | nominal |

### Election and appointment to the post of governor

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Confirmed or Elected – term 1 | procedure\_1 | Marks whether the governor was appointed (confirmed by the legislature after being nominated by the president) or elected (Values: Confirmed, Elected) | dichotomous |
| Start of term 1 (day) | day\_begin\_1 |  | continuous |
| Start of term 1 (month) | month\_begin\_1 |  | continuous |
| Start of term 1 (year) | year\_begin\_1 |  | continuous |
| End of term 1 (day) | day\_end\_1 |  | continuous |
| End of term 1 (month) | month\_end\_1 |  | continuous |
| End of term 1 (year) | year\_end\_1 |  | continuous |
| For each of the 5 (five) possible terms in office[[3]](#footnote-3) we noted the same characteristics. Based on information about all the terms of a given governor, we created variables ‘srokstart’ and ‘srokend’ (below).  |
| Year started as a governor | srokstart | Year a governor started serving in this position (the year his first term began) | continuous |
| Year quit office | srokend | Year a governor finished serving in this position (the year his last term ended). The year one governor quits and his successor steps in coincide[[4]](#footnote-4) | continuous |
| Gaps between terms | returner | Marks the governors who had gaps between terms – that is, quit their position for some time to return later (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |

### Leaving Office

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Reason for leaving office | reason\_left | Possible values: not included into the list of candidates for nomination (for appointment), included into the list, but not appointed, is currently in office, died, resigned, fired, lost elections, other (note what)  | nominal |
| Name of position taken after leaving office | after\_pos | Позиция, которую человек занял после ухода с поста губернатора | nominal |
| Name of organization | after\_org |  | nominal |
| Year started working in the new position | after\_year\_begin |  | continuous |
| Year finished working in the new position | after\_year\_end |  | continuous |

Education[[5]](#footnote-5)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Name - first place of higher education | heduc1\_univ | University name | nominal |
| Facultet - first place of higher education | heduc1\_facultet | Department name | nominal |
| Specialty - first place of higher education | heduc1\_specialty | Profession/ specialty taught | nominal |
| Zaochnaya - first place of higher education | heduc1\_zaochnaya | Marks whether it was distance education (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Starting year - first place of higher education Education | heduc1\_start |  | continuous |
| Ending year - first place of higher education | heduc1\_end |  | continuous |
| MBA | MBA | Does a governor have MBA degree (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Candidatskaya / Doctorskaya | post\_degree | Marks whether a governor has any postgraduate degrees (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |

Professional experience[[6]](#footnote-6)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Name - position 1[[7]](#footnote-7) | pos1\_name | Name of the position (director, engineer etc). | nominal |
| Organization - position 1 | pos1\_org |  | nominal |
| Region - position 1[[8]](#footnote-8) | pos1\_reg |  | nominal |
| Starting year - position 1 | pos1\_start |  | continuous |
| Ending year - position 1 | pos1\_end |  | continuous |
| Major ownership of firm at time of initial election/appointment[[9]](#footnote-9) | owner\_before | Values: 1 – yes, 0 – no | dichotomous |
| Text box: if so which | owner\_details | Name of the company/other details about firm/firms owned at the time of appointment/election | nominal |
| Manager at initial election | manager\_before | Marks whether a governor was a manager of a company at the moment of election/appointment (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Managed organization at initial election | manager\_details | Name of the company/other details about firm/firms a governor was manager in at the time of appointment/election | nominal |
| Board of directors | board\_dir | List of all companies, on the boards of directors of which a governor ever was, indicating the years | nominal |

### Other experience

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| Military service (as a conscript) | army\_prizyv | Values: 1 – yes, 0 – no | dichotomous |
| Military service – starting year | army\_prizyv\_start |  | continuous |
| Military service – end year | army\_prizyv\_end |  | continuous |
| Security services | security | Work in the security services (KGB, FSB etc) and professional army (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Security services - starting year | security\_start |  | continuous |
| Security services - ending year | security\_end |  | continuous |
| Criminal experience | crim | Marks whether a governor had any criminal experience before or during his term in office (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Criminal details | crim\_details | Details of criminal experience: accusations, court decisions, years | nominal |
| Jail start year | jail\_start | If was in jail – year term started | continuous |
| Jail end year | jail\_end | If was in jail – year term ended | continuous |

Party affiliations[[10]](#footnote-10)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Variable name in the database | Description | Variable type |
| United Russia |
| Party membership in UR | ur\_member | Values: 1 – yes, 0 – no | dichotomous |
| Year entered UR | ur\_start |  | continuous |
| Member of legislative fraction (regional) | ur\_reg\_leg | UR fraction member in the regional legislature (at any time) (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Member of legislative fraction (national) | ur\_duma | UR fraction member in the federal legislature (at any time) (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| On party list for regional elections | ur\_list\_ reg | Included into UR party list for regional elections (at any time) (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| On party list for national elections | ur\_list\_ fed | Included into UR party list for federal elections (at any time) (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Headed party list (regional elections) | ur\_list\_ reg\_leader | Headed UR party list for regional elections (at any time) (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Nominated by UR for governor | ur\_gov | Was nominated for governor by UR - for appointed governors (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Leadership position | ur\_leader | Any position in the party leadership (values: 1 – yes, 0 – no) | dichotomous |
| Leadership position specific | ur\_leader\_details |  | nominal |
| CPSU |
| Member of Communist Party of Soviet Union | CPSU\_member | Values: 1 – yes, 0 – no | dichotomous |
| Highest position achieved in CPSU | CPSU\_leader |  | nominal |
| Year joined CPSU | CPSU\_start |  | continuous |
| Прочие политические партии[[11]](#footnote-11) |
| Other political party affiliation | party1 | Party name | nominal |
| Other political party start year | party1\_start | Year joined | continuous |
| Other political party end year | party1\_end | Year quit | continuous |

1. “Labyrinth” is a commercial reference database (http://www.labyrinth.ru/content/content.asp?type=about), which contains biographies of the Russian public persons, information on state structures, political, commercial and other organizations from 1992 onwards. Information is cross-referenced and structured by types of actors and organizations. Their data sources include official information provided by public authorities and political parties, as well as media publications and information based on questionnaires that “Labyrinth” gathered from people and organizations. It’s been advised to us by experts as a reliable data source. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For earlier governors, it was possible to use WayBackMachine Internet Archive (http://archive.org/web/) to retrieve biographies of the previous governors, if they were deleted from the current versions of the sites [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The names for subsequent variables are created by changing the number of the term (Confirmed or Elected - Term 2 etc.) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The rule we followed when creating those variables was that whoever occupies governor position as of January 1st in a given year, is governor for this year. Other coding schemes may be used based on the given data about specific term dates. Time spent as an acting governor is regarded as the first term, if he then becomes a governor. Acting governors that weren’t appointed/elected as governors are not included into database [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Up to 3 (three) places of higher education, in direct chronological order [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. For each governor we gathered information about 20 years of professional experience prior to becoming the governor (or all of it, if he had less that 20 years of work experience) – up to 10 positions, in reverse chronological order. Position 1 is the one the governor occupied immediately prior to his appointment or nomination to that post. For each position, we same list of characteristics was filled in [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Separate positions within companies were counted as separate work experiences. Does not include committee assignments, board of director positions, government advisory boards., and positions held ex officio (e.g. governors who were members of the Federation Council by virtue of their positions from 1996-2001). Governors who previously served as acting governor of their regions did not have this listed as job experience. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Region where position was held if obvious from the company name or context. If the subject worked in a subsidiary company, the region in which the subsidiary is based was listed for this. Duma deputies elected to single member districts had this variable listed as the region in which their district belonged. Federation Council members are listed as having worked in the region that nominated them. Duma deputies elected on a party list have this variable listed as Moscow (see also comments above about Federation Council membership). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. See Gehlbach, Scott and Sonin, Konstantin and Zhuravskaya, Ekaterina, Businessman Candidates (June 24, 2010). American Journal of Political Science, Vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 718-736, July 2010. Available at SSRN: [http://ssrn.com/abstract=917778](http://ssrn.com/abstract%3D917778) for more information on coding this variable [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Separate groups of variables describe governors' membershio in United Russia, CPSU and other political parties [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Any other parties, up to 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)