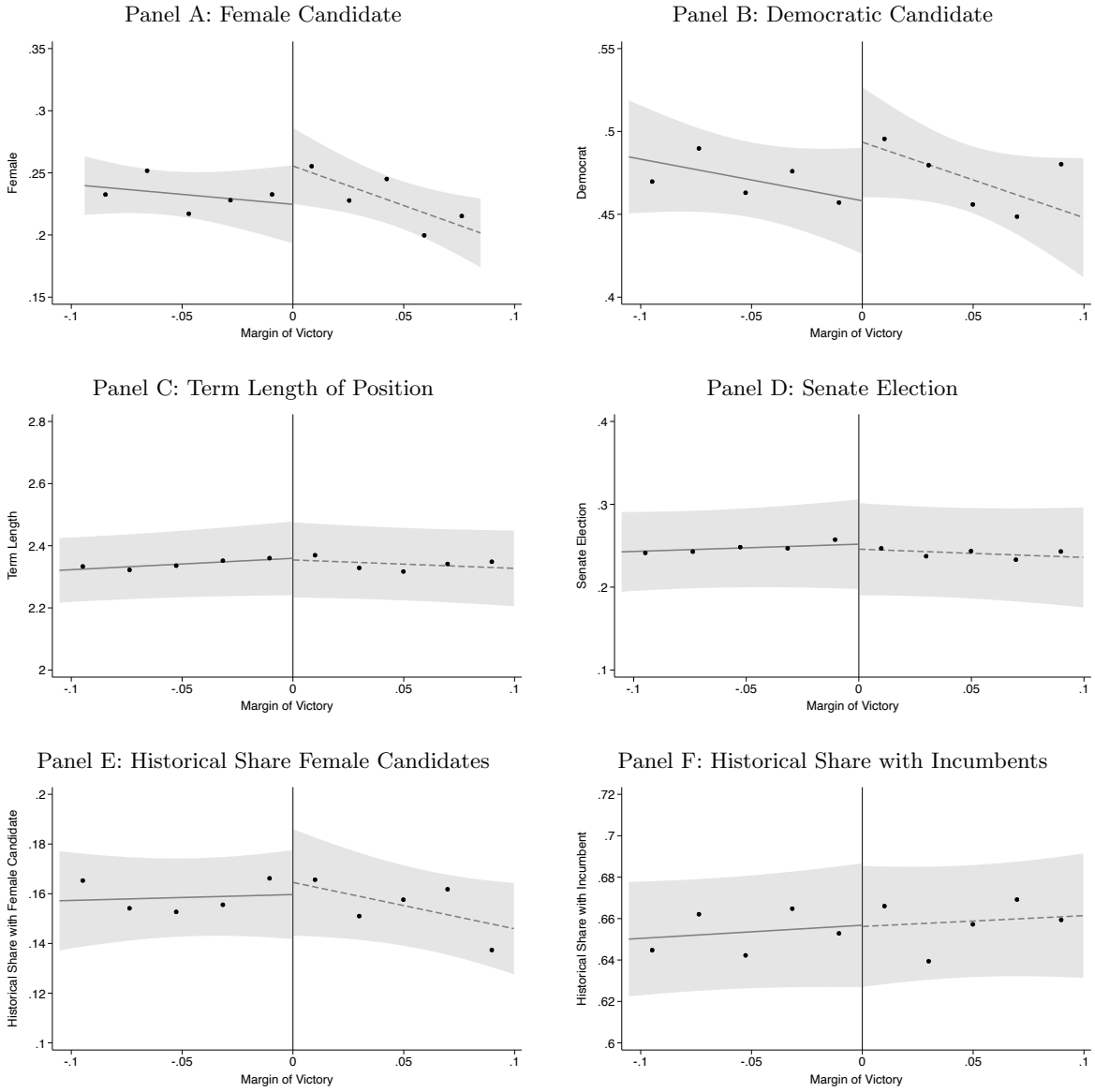
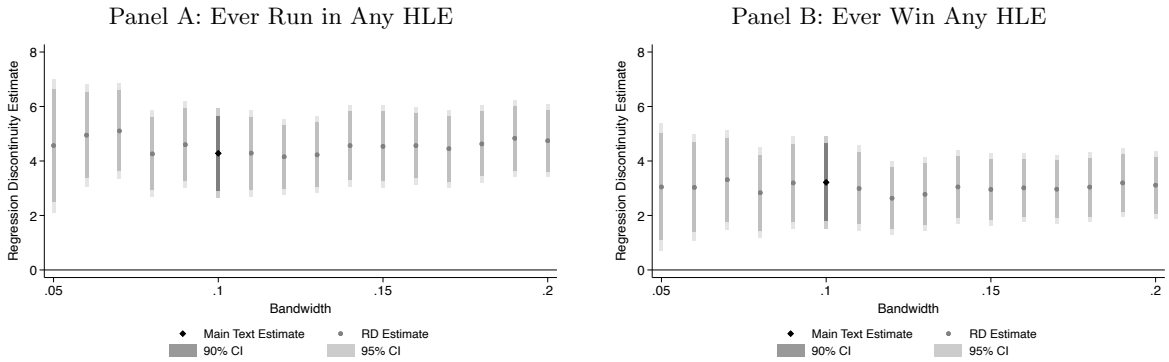
Appendix: Additional Results

Appendix Figure 1: Graphical Evidence of Balance of Candidate and Electoral Characteristics



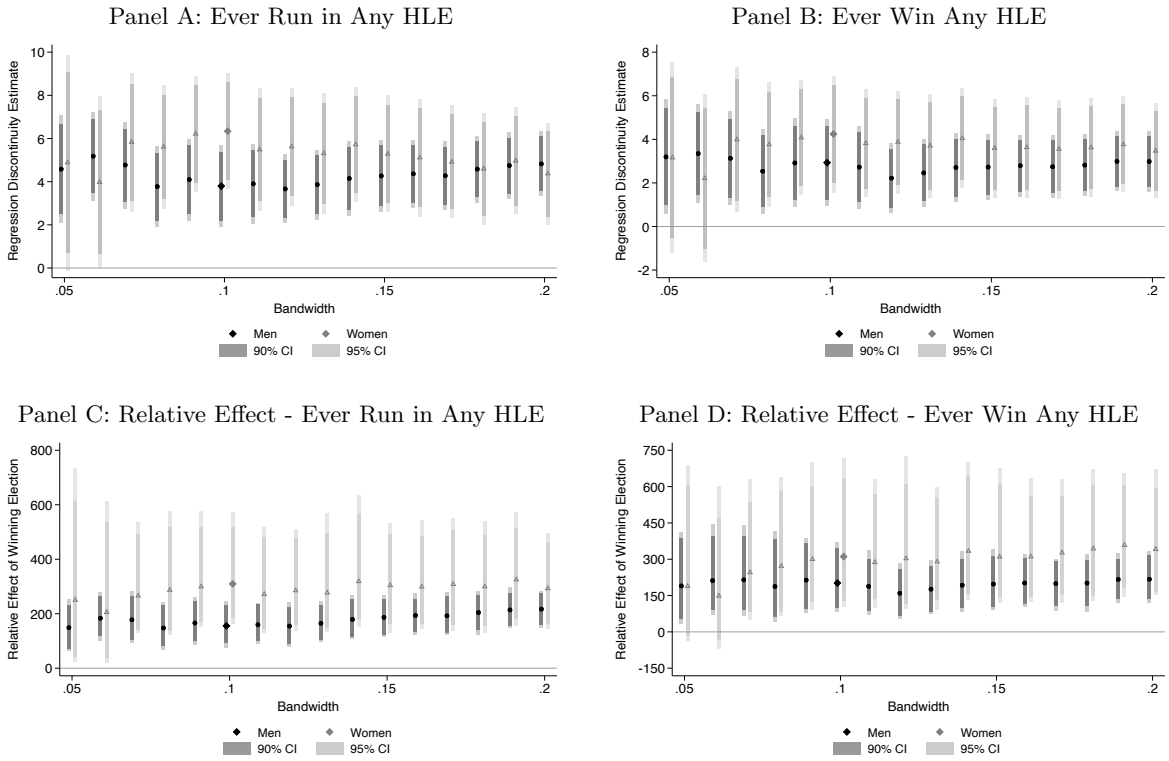
Notes: This figure reports graphical evidence of the smoothness of candidate, election, and historical district characteristics across the discontinuity. The outcome is listed in each panel title. Each panel uses five equally sized bins using candidates within the optimal bandwidth which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. Panel A uses the optimal bandwidth for female candidates. The vertical line denotes the zero margin of victory threshold. Each dot reports the within-bin mean and bin midpoint. Solid and dashed black lines denote the lines of best fit with associated 95 percent confidence intervals indicated by gray shaded areas.

Appendix Figure 2: Robustness of Regression Discontinuity Estimates to Alternative Bandwidths



Notes: This figure reports robustness checks for the regression discontinuity estimates across different bandwidths. Panel A reports results for ever running in a higher-level (Congressional or gubernatorial) election, including primaries and general elections, and Panel B reports results for ever winning a higher-level election. Each point represents a separate regression discontinuity point estimate. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. The larger black diamond denotes the main text estimate using the optimal bandwidth, which (rounded) ranges from [-0.105, 0.10] for male candidates and [-.094, .085] for female candidates. Lighter and darker vertical shaded regions denote 95 and 90 percent confidence intervals with standard errors clustered at the state level.

Appendix Figure 3: Robustness of Relative Regression Discontinuity Estimates by Candidate Gender to Alternative Bandwidths



Notes: This figure reports robustness checks for the direct and relative regression discontinuity estimates across different bandwidths, estimated separately by candidate gender. Panels A and C report results for ever running in a higher-level (Congressional or gubernatorial) election, including primaries and general elections, and Panels B and D report results for ever winning a higher-level election. Panels A and B report the direct effect, defined as the RD coefficient estimate, and Panels C and D report the relative effects, defined as the RD coefficient estimate divided by the losing candidate mean. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. The larger black diamond denotes the main text estimate using the optimal bandwidth, which (rounded) ranges from [-0.105, 0.10] for male candidates and [-.094, .085] for female candidates. Vertical shaded regions in Panels A and B denote 90 and 95 percent confidence intervals with standard errors clustered at the state level. Shaded regions in Panels C and D denote 95 and 90 percent confidence intervals based on the percentiles of a bootstrap distribution which additionally accounts for sampling variability in the control means.

Appendix Table 1: Alternative Specifications of State Legislative Service and Higher-Level Candidacy and Representation

	Candidacy			Representation		
	Men	Women	Difference	Men	Women	Difference
Panel A: Main Text Estimate	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Won Election	3.797***	6.336***	2.540	2.928***	4.242***	1.314
	(0.963)	(1.368)	(1.676)	(1.018)	(1.361)	(1.668)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.445	2.048		1.452	1.365	
Panel B: Triangular Kernel						
Won Election	4.535***	5.423***	0.888	3.143***	3.623**	0.479
	(0.987)	(1.773)	(1.972)	(1.077)	(1.706)	(1.976)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.445	2.048		1.452	1.365	
Panel C: Epanechnikov Kernel						
Won Election	4.319***	5.566***	1.247	3.021***	3.620**	0.599
	(0.960)	(1.626)	(1.868)	(1.043)	(1.596)	(1.868)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.445	2.048		1.452	1.365	
Observations	9,151	2,429		9,151	2,429	

Notes: This table reports alternative specifications of the regression discontinuity estimates of winning a candidate's first election on the probability of running in or winning a higher-level election (Congressional or gubernatorial) of higher-level office, separately by candidate gender. Columns 1-3 report estimates for running in a higher-level election and Columns 4-6 report estimates for winning. Columns 1 and 4 report estimates for male candidates, Columns 2 and 5 report estimates for female candidates, and Columns 3 and 6 test for differences between male and female candidates. Panels B and C weight the regression using a triangular or epanechnikov kernel. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. The losing candidate means are calculated using losing candidates within the optimal bandwidth. Relative effects are calculated as the coefficient estimate divided by the losing candidate mean. All outcomes are on a 0 to 100 scale. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.

Appendix Table 2: State Legislative Service and Higher-Level Candidacy and Representation by Candidate Party

	Non-Democrat	Democrat	Difference
Panel A: Candidacy	(1)	(2)	(3)
Won Election	5.275***	3.137***	−2.138
	(1.233)	(1.137)	(1.692)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.658	2.028	
Observations	6,114	5,466	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	199%	155%	-44 [-192, 114]
Panel B: Representation			
Won Election	4.000***	2.268**	−1.732
	(1.306)	(0.966)	(1.547)
Losing Candidate Mean	1.479	1.382	
Observations	6,114	5,466	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	270%	164%	-106 [-319, 92]

Notes: This table reports regression discontinuity estimates of winning a candidate's first election on the probability of running in any future higher-level election, estimated separately by heterogeneous sample split of candidate party affiliation. Columns 1 and 2 split the sample based on candidate party affiliation. The outcome in Panel A is the probability of ever running in a higher-level (Congressional or gubernatorial) election, including primaries and general elections, and the outcome in Panel B is the probability of winning a higher-level election. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. The losing candidate means are calculated using losing candidates within the optimal bandwidth. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. Brackets report 90 percent confidence intervals constructed from percentiles of a bootstrap distribution which additionally accounts for sampling variability in the control means. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.

Appendix Table 3: State Legislative Service and Higher-Level Candidacy and Representation by Gender in Same-Gender Elections

	Candidacy			Representation		
	Men	Women	Difference	Men	Women	Difference
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Won Election	2.975**	10.882***	7.907**	2.066*	10.231***	8.165**
	(1.135)	(3.765)	(3.904)	(1.077)	(3.583)	(3.526)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.605	0.641		1.572	0.641	
Won Election / Losing Candidate Mean	114%	1,698%	1,583 [588, 8,138]	131%	1,596%	1,465 [531, 8,772]
Observations	7,418	534		7,418	534	

Notes: This table reports regression discontinuity estimates of winning a candidate's first election on the probability of running in or winning a higher-level election (Congressional or gubernatorial) under different definitions of higher-level office, separately by candidate gender using same-gender elections. Columns 1-3 report estimates for running in a higher-level election and Columns 4-6 report estimates for winning. Columns 1 and 4 report estimates for male candidates, Columns 2 and 5 report estimates for female candidates, and Columns 3 and 6 test for differences between male and female candidates. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. The losing candidate means are calculated using losing candidates within the optimal bandwidth. Relative effects are calculated as the coefficient estimate divided by the losing candidate mean. All outcomes are on a 0 to 100 scale. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. Brackets report 90 percent confidence intervals constructed from percentiles of a bootstrap distribution which additionally accounts for sampling variability in the control means. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.

Appendix Table 4: Balance Tests in Subsamples Based on Legislative Characteristics

	Time Commitment		Seat Power	
	Low	High	Low	High
Panel A: Election Characteristics	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Number of Candidates	−0.006	0.014	−0.007	0.009
	(0.010)	(0.038)	(0.009)	(0.015)
Term Length	0.005	−0.087*	−0.011	−0.047*
	(0.016)	(0.052)	(0.010)	(0.026)
Senate Election	0.001	−0.058*	−0.009	−0.038**
	(0.011)	(0.031)	(0.008)	(0.015)
Special Election	0.001	0.000	−0.000	0.001
	(0.001)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.001)
Panel B: District Characteristics				
Share Incumbent Ran	−0.005	−0.009	−0.002	−0.011
	(0.006)	(0.016)	(0.006)	(0.011)
Share Unopposed Elections	−0.002	0.006	−0.005	0.007
	(0.006)	(0.014)	(0.005)	(0.010)
Margin of Victory	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.004
	(0.005)	(0.012)	(0.005)	(0.007)
Share Female Candidates	0.005	−0.001	−0.000	0.012
	(0.007)	(0.015)	(0.007)	(0.009)
Number of Candidates	−0.006	−0.011	−0.003	−0.012
	(0.009)	(0.027)	(0.010)	(0.017)
Panel C: Candidate Characteristics				
Democrat	0.037	0.041	0.035	0.044
	(0.027)	(0.041)	(0.033)	(0.035)
Female	0.023	0.040	0.022	0.032
	(0.024)	(0.034)	(0.026)	(0.033)
Observations	9,186	2,394	7,200	4,380

Notes: This table reports balance tests for different estimation subsamples. Columns 1 and 2 reports results from regressions testing balance of observable characteristics across the victory margin threshold in subsamples based on expected state legislative time commitment. Columns 3 and 4 reports results from regressions testing balance of observable characteristics across the victory margin threshold in subsamples based above- or below-median seat power, following the definition in the main text. The outcome is listed in each row and each estimate represents a separate regression. All regressions include state fixed effects and year fixed effects and no other controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. Robust standard errors in Column 2 are reported in parentheses due to small number of clusters. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.

Appendix Table 5: State Legislative Service and Higher-Level Representation by Type of Experience and Gender

	Time Commitment			Seat Power		
	Men	Women	Difference	Men	Women	Difference
Panel A: Low	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Won Election	2.206**	3.407**	1.200	1.096	0.822	−0.274
	(1.025)	(1.515)	(1.705)	(0.764)	(1.094)	(1.122)
Losing Candidate Mean	1.140	1.315		0.833	0.991	
Observations	7,279	1,907		5,697	1,503	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	193%	259%	66 [-153, 402]	132%	83%	-49 [-248, 261]
Panel B: High						
Won Election	6.034***	7.577*	1.543	6.134***	9.465***	3.331
	(2.250)	(3.960)	(4.495)	(2.038)	(2.510)	(3.763)
Losing Candidate Mean	2.625	1.543		2.454	1.975	
Observations	1,872	522		3,454	926	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	230%	491%	261 [-115, 1,391]	250%	479%	229 [-105, 895]
Panel B - Panel A						
Difference in Direct Effects	3.828	4.170	0.342	5.038**	8.643***	3.605
	(2.885)	(2.867)	(4.299)	(2.111)	(2.644)	(3.896)
Difference in Relative Effects	36	232	195 [-360, 1,241]	118	396	278 [-230, 973]

Notes: This table reports regression discontinuity estimates of winning a candidate's first election on the probability of winning a higher-level election (Congressional or gubernatorial) by heterogeneous sample split defined by part- and full-time legislatures (Columns 1-3) and below- and above-median seat power (Columns 4-6), separately by candidate gender. The outcome is running in any higher-level election. Panel A reports results for part-time legislative positions and below-median seat power constituences and Panel B reports results for full-time legislative positions and above-median seat power constituencies. Columns 1 and 4 report estimates for male candidates, Columns 2 and 5 report estimates for female candidates, and Columns 3 and 6 test for differences between male and female candidates. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. The losing candidate means are calculated using losing candidates within the optimal bandwidth. Relative effects are calculated as the coefficient estimate divided by the losing candidate mean. All outcomes are on a 0 to 100 scale. The bottom panel reports the difference in direct and relative effects across Panels B and A. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. Robust standard errors are reported in Panel B, Columns 1-3 due to few clusters. Brackets report 90 percent confidence intervals constructed from percentiles of a bootstrap distribution which additionally accounts for sampling variability in the control means. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.

Appendix Table 6: State Legislative Service and Higher-Level Representation by Historical District Characteristics and Gender

	Male Share of Legislature			Historical Share Female Candidates		
	Men	Women	Difference	Men	Women	Difference
Panel A: Low	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Won Election	2.376*	5.029**	2.653	2.836*	5.478**	2.642
	(1.230)	(1.893)	(2.293)	(1.438)	(2.388)	(2.731)
Losing Candidate Mean	1.240	1.217		1.759	1.351	
Observations	4,873	1,697		4,418	982	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	192%	413%	222 [-111,863]	161%	405%	244 [-110,908]
Panel B: High						
Won Election	3.403**	2.494	−0.909	2.962**	3.449*	0.487
	(1.622)	(2.434)	(2.864)	(1.380)	(1.799)	(2.420)
Losing Candidate Mean	1.696	1.670		1.090	1.434	
Observations	4,278	732		4,435	1,383	
Won Election Effect / Losing Candidate Mean	201%	149%	-51 [-334,343]	272%	241%	-31 [-352,392]
Panel B - Panel A						
Difference in Direct Effects	1.027	−2.534	−3.562	0.126	−2.029	−2.155
	(2.014)	(3.376)	(4.030)	(1.944)	(3.118)	(3.848)
Difference in Relative Effects	9	-264	-273 [-882, 358]	110	-165	-275 [-1,035, 224]

Notes: This table reports regression discontinuity estimates of winning a candidate's first election on the probability of winning a higher-level election (Congressional or gubernatorial) by heterogeneous sample split defined by below- and above-median share of male legislators in a cohort (Columns 1-3) and below- and above-median historical share of female candidates in a constituency (Columns 4-6), separately by candidate gender. The outcome is running in any higher-level election. Panel A reports results for below-median elections and Panel B reports results for above-median elections defined by the sample split. Columns 1 and 4 report estimates for male candidates, Columns 2 and 5 report estimates for female candidates, and Columns 3 and 6 test for differences between male and female candidates. All regressions include state and year fixed effects as well as candidate and election controls. All regressions use the optimal bandwidth calculated using the running in any HLE outcome which is allowed to vary on either side of the discontinuity and by candidate gender. The losing candidate means are calculated using losing candidates within the optimal bandwidth. Relative effects are calculated as the coefficient estimate divided by the losing candidate mean. All outcomes are on a 0 to 100 scale. The total sample is smaller in Columns 4-6 due to missing data. The bottom panel reports the difference in direct and relative effects across Panels B and A. Standard errors clustered at state-level are reported in parentheses. Brackets report 90 percent confidence intervals constructed from percentiles of a bootstrap distribution which additionally accounts for sampling variability in the control means. *** = significant at 1 percent level, ** = significant at 5 percent level, * = significant at 10 percent level.