Local_Elections_2015_councils_with_Census

List of variables

The research was conducted in collaboration with the Electoral Reform Society (ERS)

by the University of Exeter Q-Step Centre staff and students

Exeter Q-Step/ERS. 2015 English local elections (ward level). List of variables

Geographical/local authority identifiers

The variables include each ward's name and the respective local authority name and region.

Variable	Description	Measurement
Ward	Ward name 2015	String
Authorityname2015	Authority name 2015	String
Region	Region of Location	String

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Electoral characteristics (ward level)

The data was collected from local council web-sites reporting the results of the 2015 local elections in England summarised on the BBC 2015 local elections web-site http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015/results/councils

In several instances, we made contacts directly with the councils and/or the Returning Officers to fix faults in data reporting. For instance, the following data were not originally reported on the respective councils' web-sites:

- South Derbyshire – no overall turnout or turnout by ward in multi-seat wards (count & %)
- South Gloucestershire - no overall turnout or turnout by ward in multi-seat wards (count & %)
- South Hams - no overall turnout (count & %)
- South Holland did not report electoral results and did not respond to our calls and emails. **The data on the local election in this council is missing from the dataset.**
- South Kesteven - no overall turnout (count & %)
- South Lakeland - no overall turnout (count & %)
- South Norfolk - no overall turnout (count & %)
- South Northamptonshire - no overall turnout (count & %) and no turnout by ward in multi-seat wards (count).
- South Oxfordshire – no turnout by ward in multi-seat wards (count), no % turnout by ward.
- South Ribble - no turnout by ward in multi-seat wards (count)
- South Somerset - no turnout by ward (count and %)
- Southampton – No overall turnout (%)
- St Albans – no overall turnout (%)
- St Edmundsbury - no overall turnout (%)
- St Helens – no overall turnout (%); no turnout by ward (%)
- Stafford – no overall turnout (count); no turnout by ward (count)
- Stevenage – No overall turnout (%)
- Stoke-on-Trent – No overall turnout and turnout by ward (count and %)
- Stratford-on-Avon – No overall turnout (%)

The data were coded using the coding frame tested and employed by the Electoral Reform Society to record the results of the 2011 local election in England https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/sites/default/files/2011-English-Local-Elections.pdf

Voter turnout by ward as recorded by the Returning Officer for each local authority

Variable	Description	Measurement
TurnoutCount	Turnout Count	Numeric, scale
Turnout	Turnout, %	Numeric, scale

Number of votes cast by ward in the 2015 local election

Variable	Description	Measurement
NumberofVotes	Number of Votes	Numeric, scale

Number of seats up for election by ward

Variable	Description	Measurement
Seatsupcount	Seats up, count	Numeric, scale

Party that controls the overall majority of seats in the ward

Variable	Description	Measurement	Values
PreviousControllingParty	Previous Controlling Party	String	
ControllingParty	Controlling Party	String	
PreviousParty_recoded	Previous Controlling Party	Numeric, categorical	1 Conservative 2 Labour 3 Liberal Democrat 4 Green 5 UKIP 6 BNP 7 Independent 8 Other 9 Mixed 999 Not available
ControllingParty_recoded	Controlling Party	Numeric, categorical	1 Conservative 2 Labour 3 Liberal Democrat 4 Green 5 UKIP 6 BNP 7 Independent 8 Other 9 Mixed 999 Not available

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Number and percentage of votes cast for each party in the 2015 local election by ward

Variable	Description	Measurement
Concount	Con, count	Numeric, scale
Con	Con %	Numeric, scale
Labcount	Lab, count	Numeric, scale
Lab	Lab %	Numeric, scale
LDcount	LD, count	Numeric, scale
LD	LD %	Numeric, scale
Greencount	Green, count	Numeric, scale
Green	Green %	Numeric, scale
UKIPcount	UKIP, count	Numeric, scale
UKIP	UKIP %	Numeric, scale
BNPcount	BNP, count	Numeric, scale
BNP	BNP %	Numeric, scale
Indcount	Ind, count	Numeric, scale
Ind	Ind %	Numeric, scale
Othercount	Other, count	Numeric, scale
Other	Other %	Numeric, scale

Number of uncontested wards and seats by ward

An uncontested seat is defined as any seat, for which there were fewer than 2 candidates. Some of these seats, the Electoral Reform Society defines as 'under-contested' in multi-seat wards.

Variable	Description	Measurement
UncontestedWards	Uncontested Wards	Numeric, scale
UncontestedSeats	Uncontested Seats	Numeric, scale

Number of men and women candidates fielded by party by ward

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Variable	Description	Measurement
Conmalecount	Con male, count	Numeric, scale
Confemalecount	Con female, count	Numeric, scale
Labmalecount	Lab male, count	Numeric, scale
Labfemalecount	Lab female, count	Numeric, scale
LDmalecount	LD male, count	Numeric, scale
LDfemalecount	LD female, count	Numeric, scale
Greenmalecount	Green male, count	Numeric, scale
Greenfemalecount	Green female, count	Numeric, scale
UKIPmalecount	UKIP male, count	Numeric, scale
UKIPfemalecount	UKIP female, count	Numeric, scale
BNPmalecount	BNP male, count	Numeric, scale
BNPfemalecount	BNP female, count	Numeric, scale
Indmalecount	Ind male, count	Numeric, scale
Indfemalecount	Ind female, count	Numeric, scale
Othermalecount	Other male, count	Numeric, scale
Otherfemalecount	Other female, count	Numeric, scale

Number of winning candidates by gender by ward

Variable	Description	Measurement
Winnermalecount	Winner male, count	Numeric, scale
Winnerfemalecount	Winner female, count	Numeric, scale

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