

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS EFFECT ON VOTING IN THE KRÁLOVÉHRADECKÝ REGION

Abstract

This work deals with one of spatially contextual impacts on electoral behavior, namely the so-called friends and neighbours effect. It consists of influencing a voter's favor by the residence of a candidate around which the candidate usually gains more votes than an average for the whole constituency or more votes than would be expected by other criteria. The work verifies attendance and strength of this effect on the example of three kinds of elections in Královéhradecký Region. It analyzes friends and neighbours effect on voting in the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, the Regional Council and the Senate. The results of potency of the effect are examined separately in each of these elections and then compares results of the analyzes of these elections to each other, thereby provides a unique comparative perspective of this phenomenon in the Czech electoral systems. The significance of the friends and neighbours effect is also compared among selected political actors. The main part of the analysis focuses on their electoral results in individual municipalities as well as in the whole region, with regard to differences in results of candidates' hometowns. To illustrate the significance of the friends and neighbours effect on the parties' electoral gains, there was also carried out a regression analysis in which the potential attendance of candidate's residence in the municipality was one of several explanatory variables in addition to some socio-economic indicators. The work demonstrated overall significant impact of the friends and neighbours effect on election results of analyzed parties in Královéhradecký Region and confirmed the hypothesis about the strongest in the Senate elections as a majority voting system.

Key words: Friends and Neighbours Effect; Candidate; Elections; Electoral geography; Electoral behavior