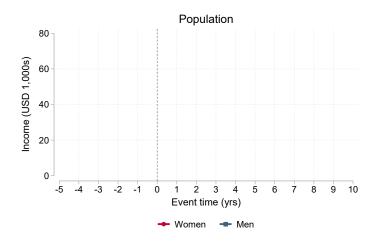
Child Penalties in Politics

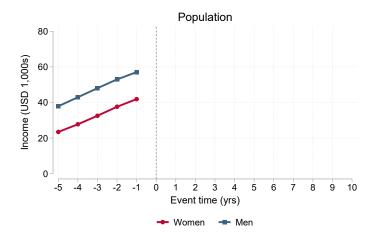
Jon H. Fiva¹ Max-Emil M. King²

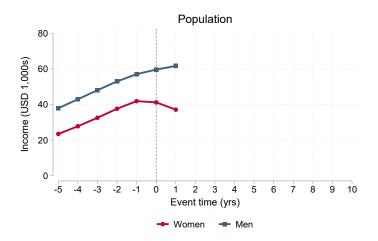
Economic Journal

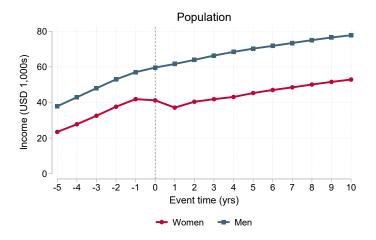
¹BI Norwegian Business School. E-mail: jon.h.fiva@bi.no

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Women's political participation, globally (UN, 2022):
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Can child penalties explain why women continue to be underrepresented in politics?

We answer this question using data from Norway:

- Gender-equal society where most political parties introduced gender quotas decades ago
- Data: Universe of candidates running for office matched with administrative registers of Statistics Norway

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 - Politicians' social ties and group identities causally affect public policy (e.g. Chattopadhya & Duflo, 2004; Bhalotra & Clots-Figueras, 2014; Baskaran & Hessami, 2019)
- Women in office may serve as role models that improve perceptions of female leaders and weaken stereotypes in society (e.g. Beaman et al., 2009; Gilardi, 2015; Ladam et al., 2018)

Three levels of government: National, regional, local

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We focus on the local level (435 municipalities)

 Voters choose which party to vote for, and can cast personal votes on any party list (flexible-list PR)

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- Part-time appointments with small remunerations How small?

Table: Political selection by level of government and politicians' gender

L ev el	Gender quota	Female	Children		Years of educ.		Income	
			Women	Men	Wom en	Men	Women	Men
National level								
Cabinet (N = 528)	Party	42.2 %	1.51	1.73	16.3	15.9	113.4	112.8
Parliament (N = 845)	Party	40.6 %	1.70	1.82	15.4	14.7	103.5	104.5
Candidate (N $= 18,316$)	Party	42.3 %	1.77	1.83	14.2	13.8	50.4	57.4
Regional level								
Council $(N = 3,373)$	Party	44.8 %	1.88	1.88	14.4	14.1	64.7	75.5
Candidate ($N = 33,423$)	Party	43.6 %	1.97	2.00	14.1	13.6	45.3	53.7
Local level								
Mayor (N = $2,060$)	-	24.6 %	2.40	2.38	14.8	13.9	80.7	86.3
Executive board (N = 15,141)	Law	41.3 %	2.22	2.33	14.4	13.8	59.6	74.0
Council (N = 51,799)	Party	37.8 %	2.07	2.20	14.2	13.5	52.0	65.7
Candidate (N = 292,590)	Party	41.4 %	2.07	2.05	13.6	13.1	40.0	52.9
Population (N = 4,218,917)	-	49.9 %	1.64	1.42	13.0	12.7	35.9	50.4

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- Baseline sample: 23,935 candidate-year obs. Summary stats

Identification

Baseline Diff-in-Diff:

$$\begin{split} Y_{ist} &= \sum_{j \neq -1} \alpha_j \cdot \mathbf{I}[j=t] + \sum_{j \neq -1} \frac{\beta_j \cdot \mathbf{I}[j=t] \cdot \mathbf{I}[female_i] + \gamma \cdot \mathbf{I}[female_i] + \\ &\sum_{l} \delta_l \cdot \mathbf{I}[l=age_{is}] + \sum_{y} \eta_y \cdot \mathbf{I}[y=s] + \sum_{p} \pi_p \cdot \mathbf{I}[p=party_i] + \epsilon_{ist} \end{split}$$

 Y_{ist} represents a political outcome for candidate i at event-time t and year s. The coefficients of interest are $oldsymbol{eta_j}$. SEs clustered at the individual level.

Identification

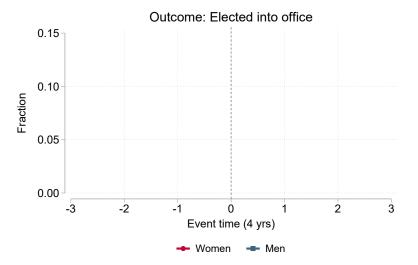
Baseline Diff-in-Diff:

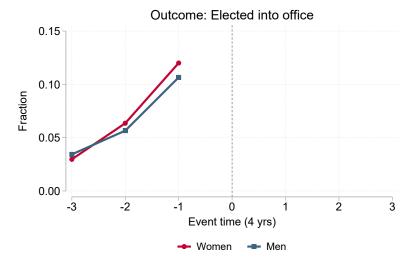
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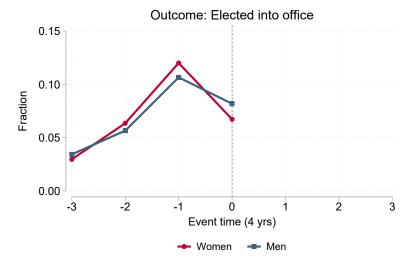
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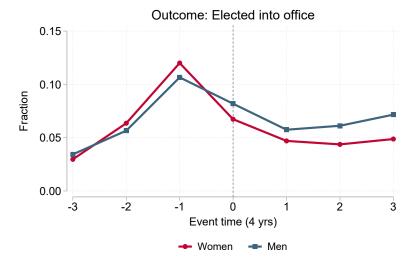
Identifying assumption: Parallel trends

Results



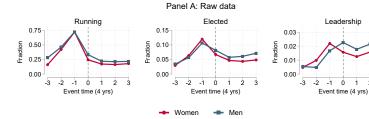




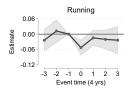


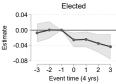
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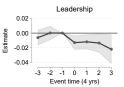
Local election outcomes

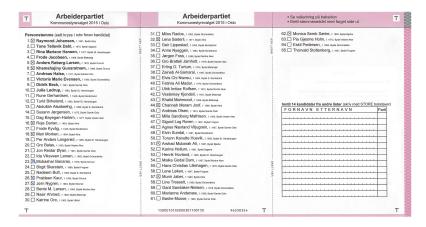


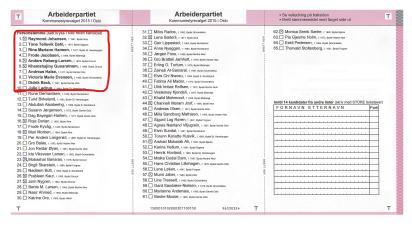
Panel B: Coefficient estimates



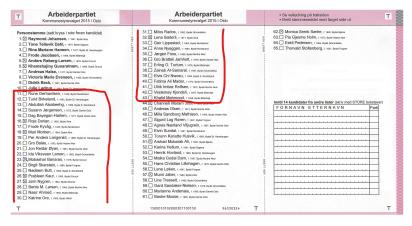




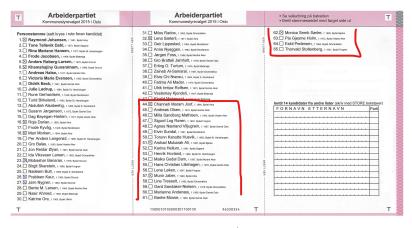




Outcome: High w/ bonus

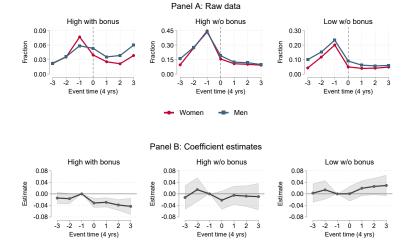


Outcome: High w/o bonus



Outcome: Low w/o bonus

Mothers receive less viable spots (unconditional on candidacy)



• Individual-level FE

▶ Robustness |

- Individual-level FE
- ullet Restricted sample (running at t=-1 only)

▶ Robustness I

▶ Robustness II

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Robustness III

- Individual-level FE
- Restricted sample (running at t = -1 only)
- By cohorts

▶ Robustness I

→ Robustness II

▶ Robustness III

Placebo

Childless candidates

→ Placebol

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▶ Robustness II

▶ Robustness III

Placebo

- Childless candidates
- Monte carlo simulations

▶ Placebo I

▶ Dlasska II

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Placebo I

▶ Placebo II

Extensions

• Higher-level political outcomes

▶ Extension |

- Individual-level FE
- Restricted sample (running at t = -1 only)
- By cohorts

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Placebo I

N Placebo III

Extensions

- Higher-level political outcomes
- Labor outcomes

▶ Extension |

▶ Extension ||

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Placebo

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Placebo I

N Diameter II

Extensions

- Higher-level political outcomes
- Labor outcomes
- Partners' labor outcomes

▶ Extension |

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Why do political child penalties occur?

A shock to mothers' own supply of political candidacies? (see, e.g., Andresen & Nix, 2021; Kleven, Landais & Søgaard, 2019)

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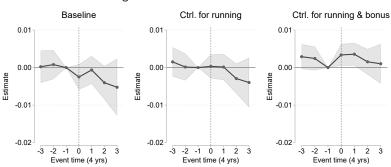
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- Discrimination from voters or from party leaders?

- Mechanisms 16/23

Mechanisms

1: Voter discrimination not a likely factor

Average Voteshare around Parenthood



More evidence I

More evidence II

We investigate whether political child penalties are correlated with exposure to different gender attitudes during politicians' childhood

• 'Traditional families': Grandfather is the main breadwinner

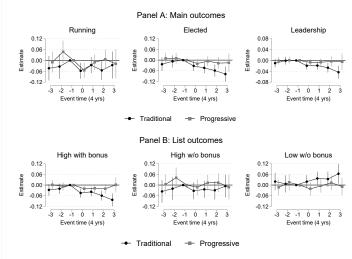
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- We split at the median in the distribution of division of labor index I

II: Norms may be important

Sample split by upbringing



Remedies

Political work in Norway share many features with the "greedy jobs" highlighted by Goldin (2014, 2021)

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• 'Family friendly' (daytime) municipalities (n=106)

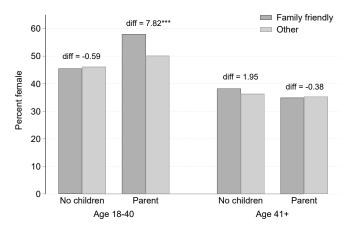
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We collected data on local council meeting schedules during the 2015-2019 election period:

- 'Family friendly' (daytime) municipalities (n=106)
- All other municipalities (n=290)

Mothers aged 18-40 are over-represented in "family friendly" municipalities



- The DiD estimates are large, e.g.:
 - ullet "Elected" gap at t=0 almost 33 percent of men's outcome
 - ullet "Leadership" gap at t=0 almost 67 percent of men's outcome

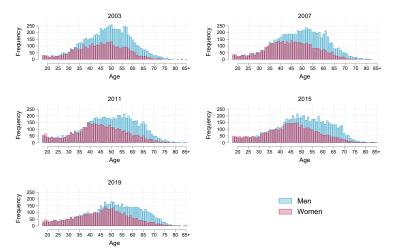
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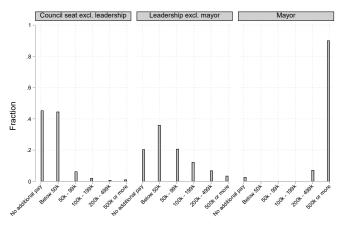
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- Some evidence that making political work more compatible with family life might be effective remedies

Thanks!

Histogram of local council members, by gender and age



Remuneration for local political roles



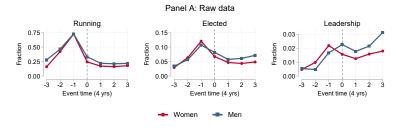
Note: The figure plots survey responses collected from local political office holders in 2011 (N=2,234).

Table: Summary Statistics by Sample

Panel A: Politicians	Full sample		Women		Men	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Event-time $k = -1$						
Female (percent)	40.03	49.00				
Age	31.07	5.52	29.17	4.17	32.33	5.93
Income, constant (2015) USD 1000s	58.81	30.35	50.45	23.90	64.39	32.82
Years of education	14.59	2.78	15.33	2.52	14.10	2.84
Number of children (as of 2021)	1.91	0.73	1.89	0.68	1.93	0.76
N	4,787		1,916		2,871	

Panel B: Population	Full sa	m pl e	e Wom		ien M	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Event-time $k = -1$						
Female (percent)	49.75	50.00				
Age	28.98	5.50	27.78	4.99	30.16	5.72
Income, constant (2015) USD 1000s	49.11	32.50	41.57	25.28	56.57	36.84
Years of education	13.57	3.20	13.95	3.18	13.19	3.17
Number of children (as of 2021)	1.97	0.77	1.98	0.76	1.96	0.78
N	796,471		396,271		400,200	

Local election outcomes (Individual-level FEs)



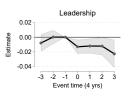
Elected

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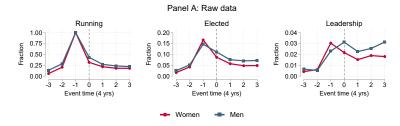
Event time (4 yrs)

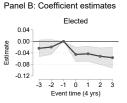
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Panel B: Coefficient estimates Running 0.04 0.06 Estimate Estimate 0.00 0.00 -0.04 -0.06 -0.12 -0.08 -3 3 -3 -2 Event time (4 yrs)



Local election outcomes (Candidacy at t = -1)





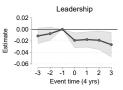
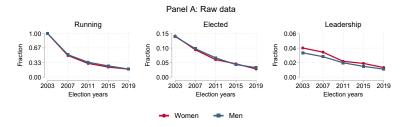


Table: Baseline results by cohorts

	Running				Elected			Leadership		
	(1) 2007	(2) 2011	(3) 2015	(4) 2007	(5) 2011	(6) 2015	(7) 2007	(8) 2011	(9) 2015	
Female \times $t=-3$			-0.025 (0.030)			-0.003 (0.016)			-0.005 (0.007)	
Female \times $t=-2$		-0.056 (0.039)	0.040 (0.034)		-0.007 (0.018)	0.001 (0.016)		-0.005 (0.007)	0.002 (0.007)	
Female \times $t=-1$	ref.	ref.	ref.	re f.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	
Female \times $t=0$	-0.002 (0.031)	-0.118*** (0.027)	-0.062*** (0.023)	-0.024 (0.024)	-0.033** (0.015)	-0.026* (0.014)	-0.009 (0.012)	-0.025*** (0.007)	-0.006 (0.008)	
Female \times $t=1$	-0.047* (0.028)	-0.040 (0.028)	-0.006 (0.024)	-0.033 (0.025)	-0.026 (0.017)	-0.028* (0.015)	-0.014 (0.013)	-0.017** (0.007)	-0.007 (0.008)	
Female \times $t=2$	-0.036 (0.027)	-0.059** (0.027)		-0.061** (0.025)	-0.032* (0.017)		-0.010 (0.014)	-0.017** (0.008)		
Female \times $t=3$	-0.030 (0.026)			-0.062** (0.025)			-0.025* (0.014)			
Party FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Observations	5,790	8,410	9,735	5,790	8,410	9,735	5,790	8,410	9,735	
Clusters R-squared	1,158 0.37	1,682 0.25	1,947 0.23	1,158 0.04	1,682 0.04	1,947 0.05	1,158 0.02	1,682 0.02	1,947 0.02	
iv-adnaten	0.31	0.20	0.23	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	

Estimate

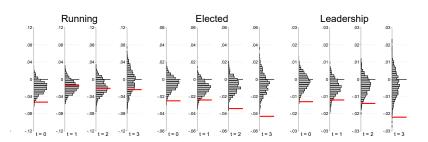
Childless candidates (Candidacy in 2003)



Panel B: Coefficient estimates Running Elected Leadership 0.06 0.04 0.02 Estimate Estimate 0.00 0.00 0.00 -0.06 -0.04 -0.02 -0.12 -0.04 -0.08 2003 2007 2011 2015 2019 2003 2007 2011 2015 2019 2003 2007 2011 2015 2019 Election years Election years Election years

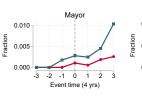
Back to Robustness

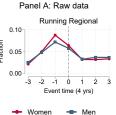
Distributions of "placebo child penalties" (r = 1,000)

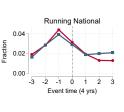


Back to Robustness

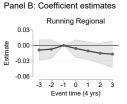
Higher-level political outcomes

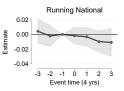






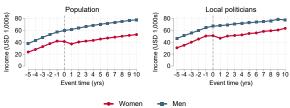
0.00 0.00 -0.02 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 Event time (4 yrs)



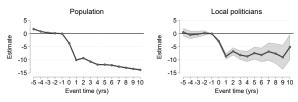


Labor Outcomes

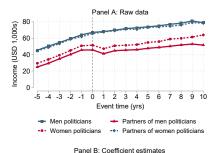
Panel A: Raw data



Panel B: Coefficient estimates



Labor Outcomes for Partners



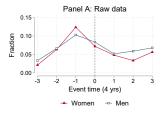
9 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Event time (yrs)

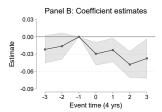
Partners vs. men politicians
 Women politicians vs. partners

Table: Relationship Between Motherhood and Pr(Elected)

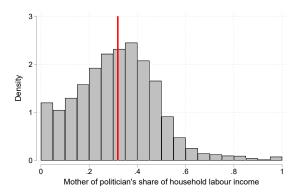
		Women		Men				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
No children	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.		
Children	0.18** (0.073)	0.17** (0.070)	0.19*** (0.045)	0.60*** (0.068)	0.52*** (0.062)	0.42*** (0.040)		
Incumbent	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Rank FE	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Party bonus	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Observations	94,431	94,431	94,431	129,233	129,233	129,233		
Clusters	1,563	1,563	1,563	1,563	1,563	1,563		
R-squared	0.39	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.48	0.77		

Hypothetical election outcomes (w/o personal votes)





Distribution of Grandparents' Division of Labor Index



Back to Norms