

Online Appendix – A: Additional Data Analysis

Table A1: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.126 (0.087)	0.040 (0.080)	0.166* (0.092)	0.049 (0.083)	0.090*** (0.034)	0.079** (0.036)	0.026 (0.047)	0.020 (0.050)	0.028** (0.013)	0.036** (0.017)	0.016 (0.017)	0.011 (0.020)
Political Connection	0.072 (0.103)	0.045 (0.086)	0.062 (0.105)	0.044 (0.089)	-0.041 (0.048)	-0.022 (0.055)	-0.037 (0.048)	-0.019 (0.054)	-0.049** (0.022)	0.001 (0.030)	-0.048** (0.022)	0.001 (0.030)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.099 (0.175)	-0.026 (0.163)			0.110** (0.062)	0.106 (0.069)			0.033 (0.028)	0.074** (0.036)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	49	49	49	49	504	460	504	460	3,249	2,396	3,249	2,396

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A2: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.128*	-0.167*	-0.161	-0.183	0.005	0.006	-0.057	-0.032	0.020*	0.036***	0.032**	0.043**
	(0.073)	(0.087)	(0.133)	(0.160)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.046)	(0.045)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.018)
Political Connection	0.189	0.178	0.193	0.179	-0.024	0.007	0.027	0.008	0.048***	0.028	0.047***	0.028
	(0.143)	(0.163)	(0.147)	(0.167)	(0.045)	(0.047)	(0.044)	(0.047)	(0.018)	(0.023)	(0.018)	(0.023)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.062	0.029			0.125**	0.079			-0.026	-0.018
			(0.203)	(0.230)			(0.064)	(0.066)			(0.023)	(0.028)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Characteristics Province FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Prefecture FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Year FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	54	54	54	54	577	540	577	540	4,031	2,722	4,031	2,722

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A3: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	0.142 (0.105)	0.108 (0.078)	0.278 (0.188)	0.115 (0.142)	0.058 (0.036)	0.043 (0.039)	0.021 (0.050)	0.015 (0.053)	0.037** (0.014)	0.032* (0.018)	0.030* (0.018)	0.020 (0.022)
Political Connection	-0.006 (0.102)	-0.002 (0.079)	-0.080 (0.121)	-0.006 (0.112)	-0.047 (0.048)	-0.026 (0.054)	-0.046 (0.048)	-0.023 (0.055)	-0.049** (0.022)	-0.001 (0.030)	-0.049** (0.022)	-0.001 (0.030)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			-0.221 (0.249)	-0.012 (0.203)			0.062 (0.070)	0.052 (0.073)			0.019 (0.031)	0.036 (0.041)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	49	49	49	49	503	459	503	459	3,195	2,363	3,195	2,363

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A4: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Excluding Top and Bottom Performing Jurisdictions)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	-0.108 (0.082)	-0.123 (0.086)	-0.158 (0.190)	-0.166 (0.191)	0.059* (0.035)	0.060 (0.038)	0.015 (0.060)	0.008 (0.065)	0.045*** (0.013)	0.053*** (0.015)	0.056*** (0.016)	0.063*** (0.019)
Political Connection	0.177 (0.137)	0.167 (0.152)	0.191 (0.137)	0.177 (0.153)	0.024 (0.045)	0.006 (0.046)	0.026 (0.044)	0.009 (0.046)	0.047*** (0.018)	0.030 (0.023)	0.046*** (0.018)	0.029 (0.023)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.067 (0.243)	0.058 (0.252)			0.077 (0.075)	0.089 (0.080)			-0.027 (0.025)	-0.024 (0.030)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	54	54	54	54	577	540	577	540	3,961	2,686	3,961	2,686

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A5: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.124 (0.077)	-0.102 (0.073)	-0.054 (0.054)	-0.097 (0.087)	0.020 (0.030)	0.023 (0.031)	0.013 (0.038)	0.021 (0.037)	0.018* (0.011)	0.026* (0.013)	0.023 (0.015)	0.029* (0.017)
Political Connection	-0.076 (0.166)	-0.057 (0.192)	-0.059 (0.139)	-0.057 (0.195)	0.089 (0.055)	0.111* (0.065)	0.090 (0.055)	0.111* (0.065)	-0.059** (0.025)	-0.027 (0.032)	-0.059** (0.025)	-0.026 (0.032)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.212 (0.170)	-0.016 (0.268)			0.022 (0.061)	0.007 (0.063)			-0.012 (0.023)	-0.008 (0.028)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	35	35	35	35	383	368	383	368	2,398	1,876	2,398	1,876

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A6: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.054 (0.107)	-0.109 (0.148)	-0.171 (0.182)	-0.303 (0.235)	-0.013 (0.025)	-0.012 (0.024)	-0.005 (0.031)	-0.002 (0.031)	0.010 (0.009)	0.012 (0.010)	0.013 (0.013)	0.010 (0.014)
Political Connection	-0.007 (0.202)	-0.003 (0.239)	-0.002 (0.197)	0.040 (0.255)	-0.002 (0.048)	-0.023 (0.052)	-0.003 (0.048)	-0.024 (0.052)	0.024 (0.020)	0.028 (0.025)	0.024 (0.020)	0.028 (0.025)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.204 (0.274)	0.347 (0.320)			-0.020 (0.046)	-0.024 (0.048)			-0.007 (0.018)	0.005 (0.020)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	37	37	37	37	490	481	490	481	3,307	2,377	3,307	2,377

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A7: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	-0.056 (0.076)	-0.073 (0.081)	-0.116** (0.053)	-0.153** (0.077)	-0.030 (0.030)	-0.029 (0.030)	0.014 (0.033)	0.011 (0.032)	0.012 (0.012)	0.009 (0.014)	0.011 (0.015)	-0.001 (0.018)
Political Connection	0.033 (0.168)	0.071 (0.199)	0.048 (0.167)	0.115 (0.211)	0.085 (0.056)	0.108* (0.065)	0.089 (0.056)	0.109* (0.065)	-0.062** (0.025)	-0.032 (0.032)	-0.062** (0.025)	-0.032 (0.032)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.168 (0.203)	0.219 (0.243)			-0.121** (0.056)	-0.113* (0.058)			0.002 (0.025)	0.030 (0.031)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	35	35	35	35	381	366	381	366	2,344	1,845	2,344	1,845

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A8: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to the Predecessor in the Same Jurisdiction)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	-0.082 (0.123)	-0.106 (0.138)	-0.047 (0.222)	0.039 (0.236)	0.026 (0.029)	0.025 (0.029)	0.043 (0.037)	0.036 (0.036)	0.018* (0.010)	0.019* (0.011)	0.032** (0.012)	0.029** (0.014)
Political Connection	-0.025 (0.200)	-0.015 (0.234)	-0.033 (0.200)	-0.033 (0.235)	0.004 (0.049)	-0.018 (0.052)	0.004 (0.049)	-0.018 (0.052)	0.021 (0.020)	0.023 (0.025)	0.019 (0.020)	0.022 (0.025)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			-0.055 (0.287)	-0.280 (0.355)			-0.037 (0.055)	-0.025 (0.054)			-0.034* (0.020)	-0.022 (0.022)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	37	37	37	37	490	481	490	481	3,221	2,332	3,221	2,332

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A9: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Ranking of Revenue Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	0.000 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	-0.000 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.001** (0.000)	0.001* (0.001)
Political Connection	0.057 (0.079)	0.031 (0.070)	-0.106 (0.255)	-0.250 (0.249)	-0.013 (0.042)	0.032 (0.052)	-0.230** (0.098)	-0.136 (0.115)	-0.057*** (0.017)	-0.011 (0.023)	-0.064 (0.042)	-0.050 (0.054)
Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.003 (0.004)	0.005 (0.005)			0.004** (0.002)	0.003 (0.002)			0.000 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	65	65	65	65	665	607	665	607	4,742	3,509	4,742	3,509

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A10: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Ranking of Revenue Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.005* (0.003)	-0.006** (0.003)	-0.006 (0.005)	-0.006 (0.005)	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001** (0.000)	0.001** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.001)
Political Connection	0.248* (0.143)	0.224 (0.141)	0.194 (0.411)	0.239 (0.428)	0.037 (0.039)	0.041 (0.041)	0.035 (0.097)	0.072 (0.099)	0.047*** (0.015)	0.032* (0.019)	0.120*** (0.036)	0.115*** (0.043)
Relative Ranking of Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.001 (0.007)	-0.000 (0.008)			0.000 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)			-0.001** (0.001)	-0.002** (0.001)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	68	68	68	68	773	726	773	726	5,742	3,920	5,742	3,920

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A11: Promotion of Party Secretaries upon Term Completion (Ranking of GDP Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Ranking of GDP Growth	0.005* (0.003)	0.003 (0.002)	0.004 (0.004)	0.001 (0.003)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.002*** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.001)
Political Connection	0.026 (0.080)	0.013 (0.060)	-0.028 (0.252)	-0.140 (0.233)	-0.016 (0.042)	0.030 (0.052)	-0.074 (0.106)	-0.020 (0.117)	-0.057*** (0.018)	-0.014 (0.023)	-0.012 (0.045)	0.015 (0.056)
Relative Ranking of GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.001 (0.005)	0.003 (0.005)			0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)			-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	65	65	65	65	664	606	664	606	4,662	3,461	4,662	3,461

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A12: Promotion of Government Executives upon Term Completion (Ranking of GDP Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Ranking of GDP Growth	-0.007*** (0.002)	-0.006*** (0.002)	-0.011** (0.004)	-0.010** (0.004)	-0.000 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.001)
Political Connection	0.211 (0.132)	0.192 (0.133)	-0.131 (0.365)	-0.106 (0.369)	0.035 (0.039)	0.041 (0.041)	-0.053 (0.103)	-0.043 (0.105)	0.048*** (0.015)	0.033* (0.019)	0.089** (0.037)	0.095** (0.045)
Relative Ranking of GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.007 (0.007)	0.006 (0.007)			0.002 (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)			-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	68	68	68	68	773	726	773	726	5,638	3,865	5,638	3,865

Note: The relative ranking is normalized by the number of competitors. Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A13: Promotion of Prefecture-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)

	Prefecture Party Secretary								Prefecture Mayor							
	Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion				Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.053 (0.036)	0.057 (0.035)	0.027 (0.039)	0.040 (0.039)	0.018 (0.090)	0.026 (0.086)	-0.050 (0.111)	-0.040 (0.108)	0.012 (0.029)	0.012 (0.029)	0.036 (0.034)	0.032 (0.034)	0.035 (0.126)	0.047 (0.142)	0.039 (0.161)	0.062 (0.171)
Political Connection	-0.028 (0.053)	0.019 (0.061)	-0.155 (0.113)	-0.067 (0.119)	-0.060 (0.109)	0.013 (0.129)	-0.379 (0.249)	-0.306 (0.247)	0.030 (0.041)	0.042 (0.043)	0.124 (0.097)	0.123 (0.098)	0.209 (0.140)	0.379* (0.216)	0.228 (0.567)	0.455 (0.587)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.002 (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)			0.007 (0.004)	0.006 (0.004)			-0.002 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)			-0.000 (0.010)	-0.001 (0.010)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	474	474	474	474	133	133	133	133	655	655	655	655	71	71	71	71

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A14: Promotion of Prefectural-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)

	Prefecture Party Secretary								Prefecture Mayor							
	Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion				Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative GDP Growth	-0.004 (0.040)	-0.006 (0.040)	-0.017 (0.045)	-0.019 (0.044)	0.070 (0.101)	0.078 (0.101)	0.068 (0.126)	0.080 (0.126)	0.026 (0.033)	0.024 (0.033)	0.024 (0.037)	0.020 (0.037)	0.056 (0.296)	0.137 (0.290)	0.080 (0.307)	0.150 (0.303)
Political Connection	-0.033 (0.053)	0.017 (0.061)	-0.104 (0.127)	-0.051 (0.131)	-0.062 (0.105)	0.009 (0.128)	-0.069 (0.269)	0.019 (0.290)	0.028 (0.040)	0.042 (0.043)	0.020 (0.096)	0.023 (0.094)	0.205 (0.144)	0.377* (0.219)	0.474 (0.433)	0.557 (0.452)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)			0.000 (0.004)	-0.000 (0.004)			0.000 (0.002)	0.000 (0.002)			-0.005 (0.007)	-0.003 (0.009)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Characteristics Politician	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	473	473	473	473	133	133	133	133	655	655	655	655	71	71	71	71

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A15: Promotion of County-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)

	County Party Secretary								County Head							
	Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion				Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.043*** (0.015)	0.042*** (0.015)	0.041** (0.017)	0.040** (0.017)	0.042 (0.049)	0.045 (0.050)	0.004 (0.054)	0.006 (0.054)	0.024** (0.011)	0.024** (0.011)	0.037*** (0.014)	0.040*** (0.014)	0.147 (0.185)	0.134 (0.167)	0.212 (0.199)	0.141 (0.199)
Political Connection	-0.039* (0.023)	-0.009 (0.025)	-0.039* (0.023)	-0.009 (0.025)	-0.087 (0.080)	-0.068 (0.089)	-0.086 (0.079)	-0.068 (0.090)	0.028 (0.017)	0.032* (0.019)	0.086** (0.041)	0.099** (0.041)	0.039 (0.260)	0.009 (0.346)	0.399 (0.616)	0.042 (0.739)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			0.007 (0.030)	0.004 (0.030)			0.128 (0.113)	0.135 (0.114)			-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001* (0.001)			-0.007 (0.011)	-0.001 (0.013)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prefecture FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,920	2,920	2,920	2,920	588	588	588	588	3,743	3,743	3,743	3,743	173	173	173	173

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A16: Promotion of County-Level Politicians upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; by Age Eligibility for Promotion)

	County Party Secretary								County Head							
	Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion				Age Eligible for Promotion				Age Ineligible for Promotion			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative GDP Growth	0.050*** (0.015)	0.049*** (0.015)	0.059*** (0.019)	0.057*** (0.019)	0.014 (0.046)	0.017 (0.046)	0.000 (0.048)	0.003 (0.048)	0.040*** (0.012)	0.039*** (0.012)	0.044*** (0.015)	0.044*** (0.015)	0.048 (0.251)	-0.013 (0.219)	0.133 (0.320)	0.031 (0.285)
Political Connection	-0.043* (0.023)	-0.014 (0.025)	-0.043* (0.023)	-0.014 (0.025)	-0.067 (0.080)	-0.058 (0.090)	-0.070 (0.079)	-0.061 (0.090)	0.032* (0.017)	0.034* (0.019)	0.050 (0.043)	0.054 (0.043)	0.135 (0.259)	0.112 (0.322)	0.377 (0.563)	0.251 (0.531)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			-0.024 (0.032)	-0.024 (0.032)			0.054 (0.112)	0.054 (0.113)			-0.000 (0.001)	-0.000 (0.001)			-0.005 (0.010)	-0.003 (0.009)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Prefecture FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,878	2,878	2,878	2,878	582	582	582	582	3,688	3,688	3,688	3,688	172	172	172	172

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A17: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; County vs. Urban District)

	Party Secretary								County Head							
	County				Urban District				County				Urban District			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.039*** (0.014)	0.035** (0.017)	0.051*** (0.017)	0.040* (0.020)	0.033 (0.021)	0.036 (0.027)	0.036 (0.026)	0.021 (0.031)	0.033*** (0.011)	0.019 (0.014)	0.059*** (0.015)	0.050*** (0.019)	0.008 (0.018)	0.028 (0.022)	0.006 (0.024)	0.028 (0.030)
Political Connection	-0.050** (0.021)	-0.005 (0.028)	-0.051** (0.021)	-0.006 (0.028)	-0.079** (0.036)	-0.048 (0.049)	-0.078** (0.036)	-0.053 (0.049)	0.039** (0.017)	0.014 (0.022)	0.035** (0.017)	0.011 (0.022)	0.091*** (0.033)	0.068 (0.045)	0.090*** (0.034)	0.067 (0.046)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.034 (0.027)	-0.013 (0.035)			-0.009 (0.044)	0.044 (0.060)			-0.060*** (0.022)	-0.068** (0.027)			0.005 (0.040)	0.002 (0.049)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Characteristics Prefecture	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Local Characteristics Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,428	2,549	3,428	2,549	1,302	952	1,302	952	4,166	2,854	4,166	2,854	1,563	1,057	1,563	1,057

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A18: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; County vs. Urban District)

	Party Secretary								County Head							
	County				Urban District				County				Urban District			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative GDP Growth	0.039*** (0.014)	0.034* (0.018)	0.038** (0.018)	0.029 (0.021)	0.036* (0.021)	0.064** (0.026)	0.056** (0.027)	0.087*** (0.033)	0.028** (0.013)	0.027* (0.015)	0.034* (0.018)	0.031 (0.020)	0.044** (0.019)	0.054** (0.023)	0.054** (0.024)	0.074** (0.031)
Political Connection	-0.050** (0.021)	-0.007 (0.028)	-0.050** (0.021)	-0.006 (0.028)	-0.076** (0.037)	-0.050 (0.050)	-0.068* (0.037)	-0.041 (0.050)	0.039** (0.017)	0.016 (0.022)	0.038** (0.017)	0.016 (0.022)	0.094*** (0.034)	0.073 (0.046)	0.098*** (0.035)	0.079* (0.047)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.001 (0.032)	0.015 (0.039)			-0.054 (0.046)	-0.056 (0.058)			-0.013 (0.026)	-0.009 (0.031)			-0.027 (0.038)	-0.049 (0.046)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Characteristics Prefecture FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Local Characteristics Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,425	2,547	3,425	2,547	1,225	906	1,225	906	4,152	2,844	4,152	2,844	1,472	1,011	1,472	1,011

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A19: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors; Minority vs. Non-Minority Jurisdictions)

	County Party Secretary								County Head							
	Non-Minority				Minority				Non-Minority				Minority			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	0.043*** (0.011)	0.042*** (0.014)	0.046*** (0.014)	0.037** (0.016)	-0.033 (0.049)	-0.042 (0.064)	0.001 (0.061)	-0.000 (0.077)	0.023** (0.009)	0.026** (0.011)	0.036*** (0.012)	0.039*** (0.015)	0.070 (0.063)	0.036 (0.090)	0.107 (0.088)	0.134 (0.123)
Political Connection	-0.058*** (0.018)	-0.003 (0.024)	-0.058*** (0.018)	-0.003 (0.024)	-0.010 (0.071)	-0.099 (0.098)	-0.012 (0.072)	-0.102 (0.097)	0.046*** (0.015)	0.028 (0.019)	0.046*** (0.015)	0.028 (0.019)	0.114 (0.075)	0.052 (0.130)	0.115 (0.075)	0.039 (0.128)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.009 (0.023)	0.013 (0.029)			-0.101 (0.101)	-0.127 (0.123)			-0.032* (0.019)	-0.029 (0.022)			-0.090 (0.125)	-0.207 (0.184)
Local Characteristics Politician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Characteristics Prefecture FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Local Characteristics Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	4,374	3,254	4,374	3,254	365	254	365	254	5,411	3,710	5,411	3,710	326	206	326	206

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A20: Promotion of County-Level Politician upon Term Completion (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors; Minority vs. Non-Minority Jurisdictions)

	County Party Secretary								County Head							
	Non-Minority				Minority				Non-Minority				Minority			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Relative GDP Growth	0.040*** (0.011)	0.044*** (0.014)	0.050*** (0.014)	0.052*** (0.017)	0.045 (0.063)	0.043 (0.077)	-0.004 (0.083)	0.005 (0.111)	0.035*** (0.011)	0.036*** (0.012)	0.042*** (0.014)	0.045*** (0.016)	0.054 (0.054)	0.075 (0.077)	0.056 (0.086)	0.055 (0.123)
Political Connection	-0.058*** (0.018)	-0.007 (0.024)	-0.058*** (0.018)	-0.007 (0.024)	-0.007 (0.073)	-0.089 (0.105)	-0.008 (0.073)	-0.094 (0.106)	0.048*** (0.015)	0.032* (0.019)	0.048*** (0.015)	0.032 (0.019)	0.107 (0.080)	-0.003 (0.149)	0.107 (0.081)	-0.004 (0.149)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			-0.031 (0.025)	-0.023 (0.031)			0.122 (0.122)	0.079 (0.151)			-0.018 (0.021)	-0.019 (0.024)			-0.004 (0.110)	0.043 (0.180)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Prefecture FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	4,303	3,212	4,303	3,212	356	248	356	248	5,317	3,661	5,317	3,661	315	199	315	199

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A21: Promotion of Party Secretaries on Yearly Data (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.012 (0.016)	-0.006 (0.015)	0.008 (0.031)	0.010 (0.027)	0.004 (0.006)	0.005 (0.007)	0.005 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.016*** (0.005)	0.012** (0.005)	0.014** (0.006)	0.011 (0.007)
Political Connection	-0.020 (0.024)	-0.018 (0.021)	-0.019 (0.024)	-0.016 (0.021)	-0.063*** (0.012)	-0.081*** (0.013)	-0.063*** (0.012)	-0.081*** (0.013)	-0.024* (0.012)	0.008 (0.015)	-0.024* (0.012)	0.007 (0.015)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.042 (0.044)	-0.036 (0.038)			-0.002 (0.013)	0.004 (0.013)			0.003 (0.009)	0.005 (0.011)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	274	274	274	274	2,386	2,237	2,386	2,237	13,627	10,076	13,627	10,076

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A22: Promotion of Government Executives on Yearly Data (Relative Revenue Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth	-0.026 (0.019)	-0.019 (0.015)	-0.023 (0.026)	-0.010 (0.020)	0.000 (0.009)	0.002 (0.009)	0.014 (0.013)	0.021 (0.014)	0.010** (0.004)	0.011** (0.005)	0.011* (0.006)	0.015** (0.006)
Political Connection	0.060 (0.038)	0.054 (0.040)	0.060 (0.038)	0.055 (0.041)	-0.101*** (0.018)	-0.139*** (0.017)	-0.102*** (0.018)	-0.140*** (0.018)	0.030*** (0.011)	0.002 (0.013)	0.030*** (0.011)	0.002 (0.013)
Relative Fiscal Revenue Growth × Political Connection			-0.007 (0.036)	-0.021 (0.031)			-0.027* (0.016)	-0.035** (0.017)			-0.002 (0.009)	-0.008 (0.010)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	272	272	272	272	2,389	2,272	2,389	2,272	15,032	10,320	15,032	10,320

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A23: Promotion of Party Secretaries on Yearly Data (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	0.002 (0.012)	0.010 (0.011)	-0.008 (0.021)	0.003 (0.021)	-0.006 (0.006)	-0.006 (0.006)	-0.010 (0.009)	-0.012 (0.010)	0.013*** (0.004)	0.013*** (0.005)	0.014*** (0.005)	0.015** (0.006)
Political Connection	-0.019 (0.025)	-0.019 (0.023)	-0.018 (0.025)	-0.018 (0.023)	-0.064*** (0.012)	-0.081*** (0.013)	-0.064*** (0.012)	-0.080*** (0.013)	-0.022* (0.013)	0.007 (0.015)	-0.022* (0.013)	0.007 (0.015)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.018 (0.025)	0.013 (0.024)			0.009 (0.011)	0.012 (0.012)			-0.002 (0.009)	-0.006 (0.011)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician Characteristics	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	274	274	274	274	2,385	2,237	2,385	2,237	13,319	9,886	13,319	9,886

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table A24: Promotion of Government Executives on Yearly Data (Relative GDP Performance to Competitors)

	Provincial-level				Prefecture-level				County-level			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Relative GDP Growth	-0.012 (0.011)	-0.008 (0.011)	-0.014 (0.022)	-0.008 (0.021)	0.006 (0.008)	0.005 (0.008)	0.007 (0.012)	0.008 (0.013)	0.014*** (0.004)	0.016*** (0.004)	0.014*** (0.005)	0.017*** (0.006)
Political Connection	0.058 (0.038)	0.054 (0.040)	0.058 (0.038)	0.054 (0.040)	-0.101*** (0.018)	-0.139*** (0.017)	-0.101*** (0.018)	-0.139*** (0.018)	0.032*** (0.011)	0.005 (0.013)	0.032*** (0.011)	0.005 (0.013)
Relative GDP Growth × Political Connection			0.003 (0.032)	0.000 (0.031)			-0.002 (0.015)	-0.005 (0.016)			-0.000 (0.008)	-0.003 (0.009)
Local Characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politician	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Province FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Prefecture FE	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	272	272	272	272	2,388	2,270	2,388	2,270	14,694	10,129	14,694	10,129

Note: Clustered standard errors at the corresponding administrative level are reported in the parentheses. The variables to measure local characteristics are log(population), rural population percentage, log(brightness), log(distance to the upper-level government), and the number of competitors at the same level of jurisdiction. The variables to measure politician characteristics are the age and its squared term, total year in office and its squared term. We did not report the coefficient estimates of these control variables as well as fixed effects dummies. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Online Appendix – B: The coding rules for career changes

We identify six different categories of career changes among politicians in our dataset: promotion, transfer, retirement, dismissal for misconduct, demotion, and death. All codes apply to the status of a given official within 12 months of exiting her/his current post. For example, if a leader is transferred out of jurisdiction X to a post of equal rank in March of 2004, but is promoted in June of 2004, we code the outcome of her term in jurisdiction X as a promotion. Our coding rules are as follows:

1. Promotion:

Promotion is defined as an appointment to a higher-ranking post by the end of the following year. For example, when county (prefecture) party secretaries or county heads (mayors) become deputy-mayor (governor) or deputy party secretary at the prefecture (provincial) level or above, we consider these transitions as promotions. We also coded the move from government executives to the post of CCP secretary in the same level of jurisdiction as promotion, because in the Chinese system, the local government executive is ranked below the party secretary on a given local CCP committee and is normally appointed as the deputy-secretary of the committee. The party secretary is always considered as the most powerful leader in any jurisdiction.

The promotion of provincial officials is more complex in part because we have to consider whether politicians often hold concurrent positions in central level party organs. For example, if a provincial party secretary becomes a member of the Politburo, we code this career move as a promotion even if they were transferred to serve as the party secretary in a different province. We also code the appointment as chairman or vice-chairman of the NPC and CPPCC as a promotions,

which is consistent with the formal rank of these officials or organizational charts.

2. Transfer:

Lateral move between positions were coded as transfers. For example, when a county executive or a county party secretary at any level obtained a position as the head of a bureau within a municipality or prefecture, we coded this career move as transfer, because municipal bureau heads u share the same administrative rank as party secretaries or government executives at the county level. The same coding rule applies when a prefectural mayor or party secretary is appointed as the head of a provincial bureau.

3. Retirement:

We coded retirement as either a complete exit from all party or government positions, or an appointment in advisory position in the Local People's Congress or the CPPCC at the same level of jurisdiction.

4. Dismissal for misconduct:

We coded dismissal for misconduct when an official is removed from office due to an investigation for corruption, negligence of duty, or other wrongdoing.

5. Demotion:

A demotions occurs when an official is removed from his/her current position to another party or government position at the lower level.

6. Death:

We coded death when an official passed away while in office due to natural death or disease.