Additional Potential Variables and Datasets to include in the Project:

- **Ease of constitutional amendment:**

- **TANF Caseload response to the Recession (Percent increase in TANF caseload):**

- **Maximum Monthly TANF Benefit Levels for a Single Parent Family of Three, by State, 1996 and 2010, and Inflation Adjusted Change:**
  - Schott, Liz and Ife Finch. 2010. “TANF Benefits are Low and Have not kept pace with inflation: Benefits are not enough to meet families’ basic needs,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

- **Percent of Total Public K-12 Revenues across Sources, by State, 2008:**

- **Governors’ Institutional Powers**

- **Racial and Ethnic Characteristics**

- **States with Statewide Initiative, Popular Referendum, and Recall:**

- **Ease of Qualifying Ballot Initiatives Index:**
• States with Closed Primaries, Open Primaries, and Top-Two Blanket Primaries:
  o Donovan, Mooney, Smith. *State and Local Politics Institutions and Reform*. Figure 5.1, pg. 162.

• State Lobbying Laws, 2005.

• Overall Impact of Interest Groups in States.

• State Legislative Redistricting Criteria in the States.

• Minority Representation in State Legislatures.
  o Morgan and Morgan, National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

• State Legislative Oversight of State Bureaucracy:

• Institutional Powers of State Governors (range from weak to strong):

• Independently Elected Statewide Executives (number of offices):

• Average State Government Employees’ Salaries (ranking of the states):

• Women’s Representation on State Supreme and Intermediate Appeals Courts (percentages)

• Discretionary Caseload of State Supreme Courts

• State Supreme Court’s Impact on Judicial Decision in Other States.

- State Supreme Court Selection Mechanisms


- State Reports on Transgender Discrimination Survey (2010)
  - Source: National LGBTQ Taskforce. “National Transgender Discrimination Survey.”
    Description: These state reports based on the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, fielded by the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, reveal the specific experiences of transgender and gender non-conforming people in twenty-five states of the US. In these twenty-five states, there were enough respondents for meaningful state-level analysis.

- ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Database
    Links: http://aceee.org/sector/state-policy
    Description: ACEEE’s State and Local Policy Database includes comprehensive information on energy efficiency policies currently implemented at the state and local level. The database tracks policy activity across multiple sectors, including government, utilities, transportation, buildings, combined heat and power, and appliance standards. - See more at: http://database.aceee.org/#sthash.oBnYYf8s.dpuf

- Variables from the Council of State Governments (1935 – 2015)
    Description: The Council of State Governments publishes an annual “Book of the States.” The Book of the States has been a main reference tool since 1935, providing
relevant, accurate and timely information, answers and comparisons for all 56 states, commonwealths and territories of the United States.

• State Gubernatorial Powers


  Description: Coded from State Constitutions by Beyle (1983). The measure is an additive combination of governor's tenure potential, governor's budgetary power, governor's veto power, and governor's appointment power.


• State Governors – Additional Resources

  o Link: [http://governors.rutgers.edu/on-governors/us-governors/bibliography-general](http://governors.rutgers.edu/on-governors/us-governors/bibliography-general)

  Description: For additional citations of research focusing on U.S. state governors (e.g., gubernatorial power, campaigns, elections, job approval ratings, etc.), visit Rutgers’ Center on the American Governor, a project of the Eagleton Institution of Politics.

• Area Health Resources File (AHRF)

  o Sources: Area Health Resources Files (AHRF) 2014-2015. US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce, Rockville, MD.


  Description: The Area Health Resources Files (AHRF) are an extensive county-level database assembled annually from over 50 sources. The AHRF products include county and state-level files, as well as mapping tools for comparisons on data.
pertaining to health care professionals, hospitals and healthcare facilities, and the environment.

- State Legislative Committee Power

- State House Speaker’s Formal Powers
  Hamm and Moncrief’s (2013) summated rating scale, based upon Clucas (2001) and Martorano (2004). The scale includes measures of the Speaker’s powers with respect to appointments, committees, procedures, and tenure.

  - Links: [https://www.msu.edu/~ballard/BallardMenchikTanJID071213.pdf](https://www.msu.edu/~ballard/BallardMenchikTanJID071213.pdf)
  - Description: The dataset provides changes in levels of income inequality across the U.S. fifty states.

  - Source: Rice University, Michigan State University, 2009, “State Supreme Court Data Project”, http://hdl.handle.net/1902.1/10712, Harvard Dataverse, V1
  - Link: [http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~pbrace/statecourt/](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~pbrace/statecourt/)
  - Description: The State Supreme Court Data Project created a data base containing information on State Supreme Court decisions in all fifty states during their 1995 through 1998 sessions. This archive contains 21,000 decisions reached by over 400 state supreme court justices seated during those years. To compile these data, the authors developed a coding scheme using Microsoft ACCESS that allowed them to enter information directly into computers with a remarkable degree of reliability. The coding rules, the template, and the reliability scores achieved in test runs of the data entry process are documented and can be read by clicking on the links above. All tests reveal these data are valid and reliable and thus will facilitate rigorous scientific inquiry. This data base is the most comprehensive collection of data on state supreme courts compiled to date. In addition to the data on the decisions themselves, the authors assembled biographical data from published sources for all justices sitting in 1995 through 1998. Researchers may link the decisional and biographical date with measures of institutional structure and state contextual influences to perform rigorous comparative analyses of state supreme courts.
• Court Statistics Project, Information about State Courts and Caseloads
  
  - Link: http://www.courtstatistics.org/

  Description: The Court Statistics Project (CSP)—a joint project of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA)—publishes caseload data from the courts of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These data are provided by the offices of the state court administrator in those jurisdictions. The data reported here conform to the definitions and case counting rules in the State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting (Guide). States publish their own data that may be more extensive, although not directly comparable to other states for a variety of reasons, including differences in court structure, case definitions and counting practices, court rules, statutes, or terminology.