

EDI Research Link Up Research Presentation



Center for Effective Global Action

*Politician Entry, Selection and
Performance (Sierra Leone)*

Kate Casey

Stanford GSB

ECONOMIC
& DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTIONS

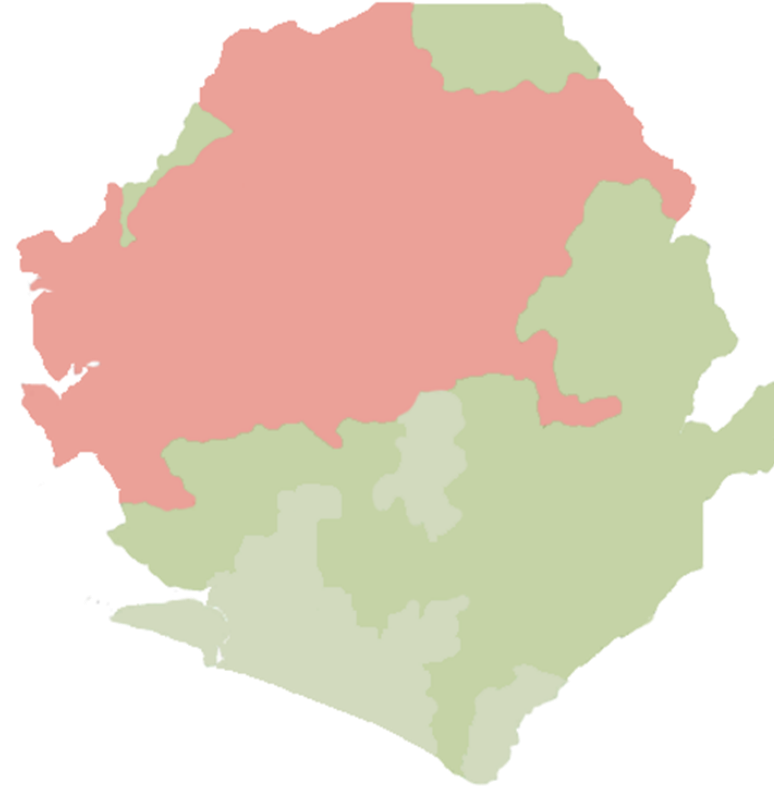
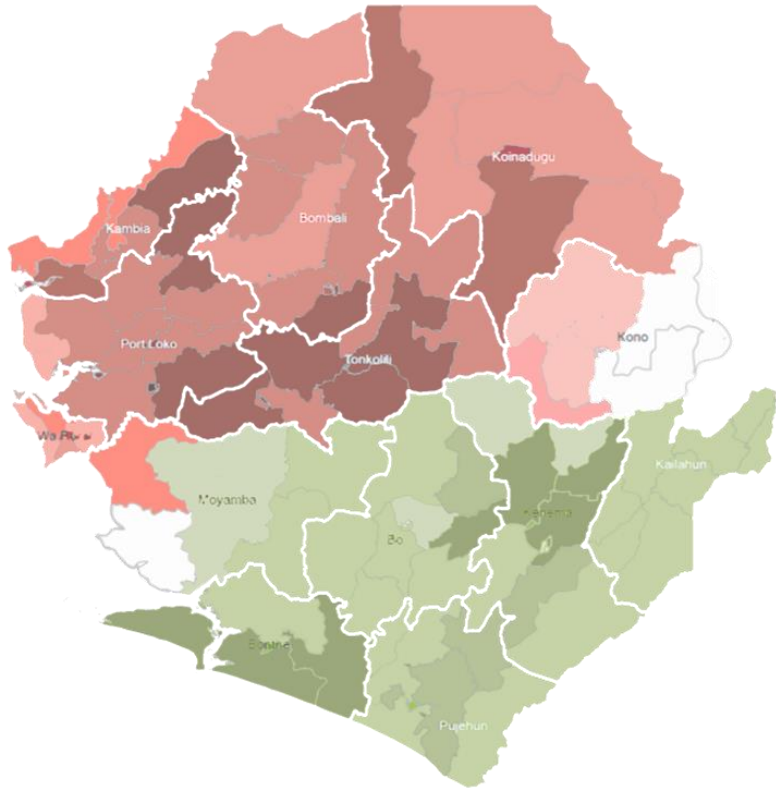


Motivation

- Regional party strongholds make many general election races uncompetitive
- This moves the competition of import, and source of accountability pressure, to the primary stage
- In new democracies, informal primary selection processes are closely guarded and tightly controlled by elites
- This combination creates problems for representation and accountability



Party Strongholds in Sierra Leone



- This leaves voters perfectly enfranchised on paper, but *de facto* irrelevant

Research Question

- Does the introduction of more democratic primary selection methods enhance i) representation; ii) candidate selection; and iii) elected government performance in Sierra Leone?

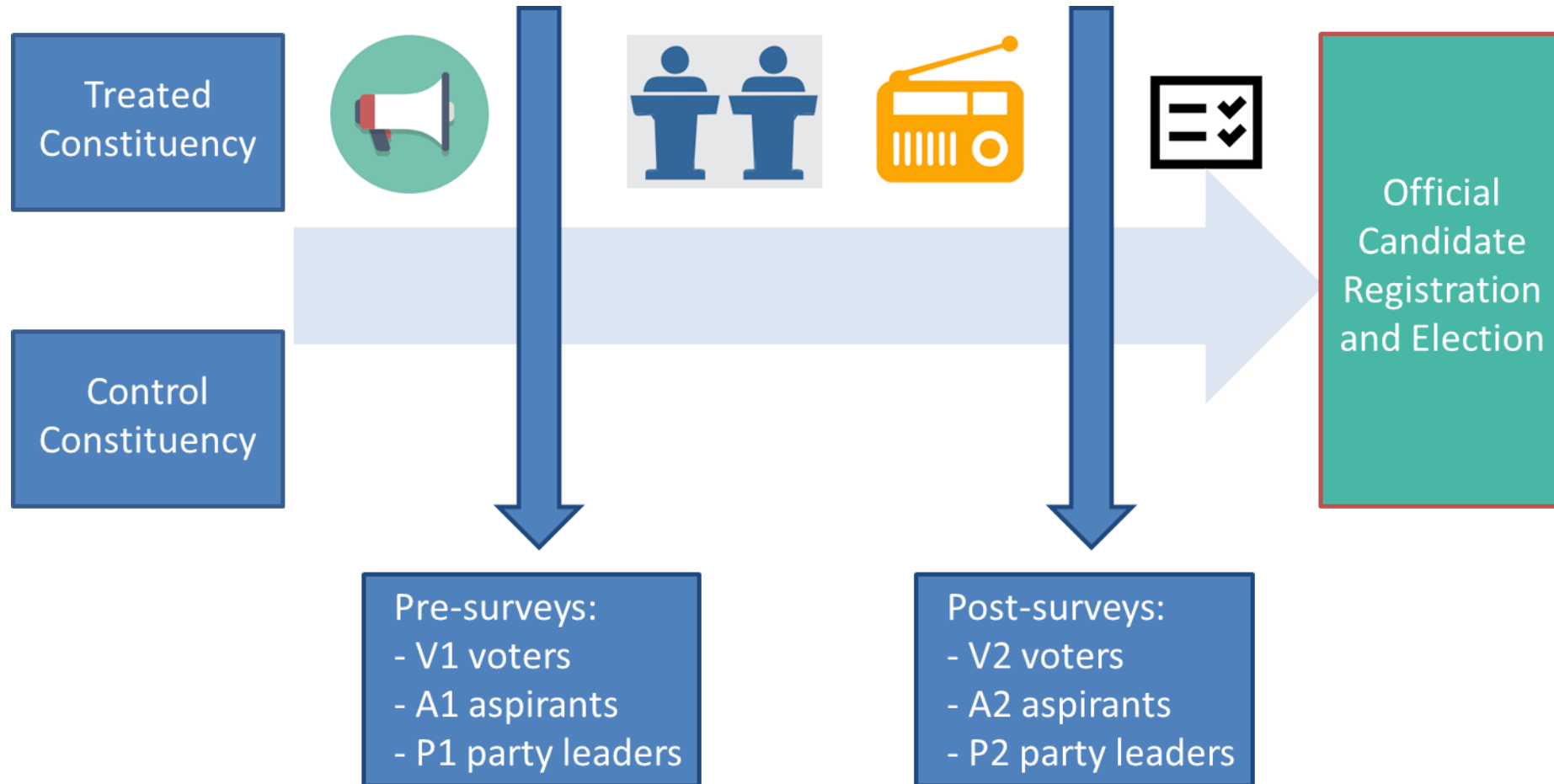


Research Design / Methods

- Treatment consists of: i) constituency-level party conventions; and ii) large scale representative polling of voters. Politics as usual in controls.
- Working with the 2 major political parties separately, we randomly assigned 46 treatment and 46 control constituencies ($N=92$)
- We surveyed voters (V), aspirants (A) and party leaders (P) both before (1) and after (2) the conventions in all treated and control constituencies
- Link up: we exchanged politician survey instruments with the Rwanda civil servant study

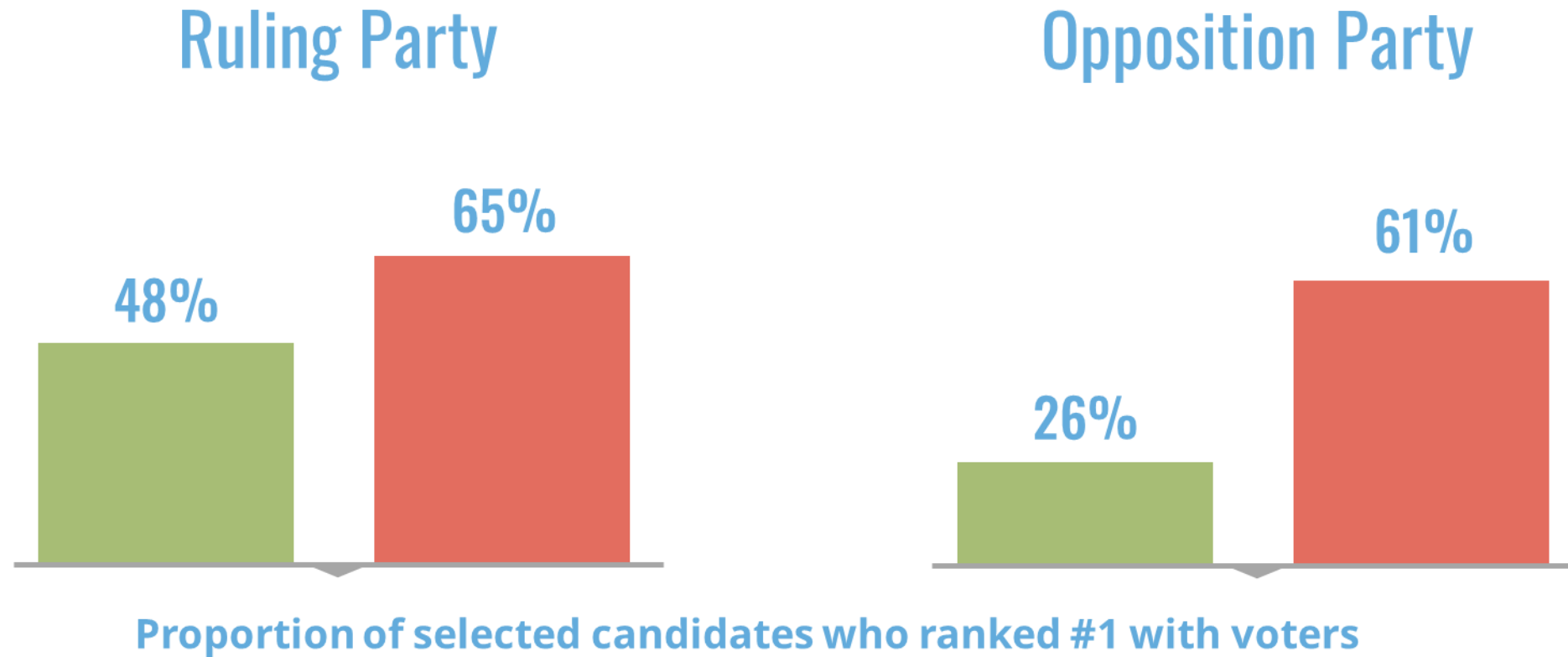


Data Collection / Measurement Strategy



Early Results/ Challenges/ Next Steps

- First results are increased representation



Early Results/ Challenges/ Next Steps

- Current analysis focuses on selection: do candidates chosen through more democratic primaries differ on any of a large number of observable characteristics? Did entry increase? Did prices change? How do the revealed preferences of party leaders coincide with those of voters?
- And compliance: where did parties agree to experiment with this, and where did they refuse to comply (43 of 46 primaries held)?
- Future analysis will look at performance in office





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