Summary of Limitations on the License to Use the PRCD information:

A) Making Copies: Users may make a copy of any single dataset, including documentation, for their own offline manipulation and analysis.

B) Estimation Process: Some of the information included in the dataset(s) is subject to estimation and may be different from similar information available from other sources. Users are encouraged to contact Licensor to discuss any differences in data before making any public comment or publication about any such differences between data sources.

C) External Research: Copies of external research papers (e.g., papers submitted for publication) must be sent to Licensor promptly upon distribution.

D) Internal Research: Copies of internal research papers (e.g., papers done for class assignment) are welcome but not required.

E) Attribution: When a citation for the dataset(s) is required the following is suggested: Polidata, Corinth, VT. Presidential Results by Congressional Districts of the [xxxth] Congress (www.polidata.org) from the copy available at [user's institution]; accessed [date].

F) Contact: www.polidata.org email: mailto:data@polidata.org?subject=PRCD Inquiry

Estimation Process: Some states do tabulate the presidential vote for their congressional districts but most do not. By necessity, the results for other states need to be tabulated from the election information available from state and local election authorities. In fact, for several reasons, the results by district are generally tabulated by Polidata, over the course of several months following the elections, for all districts and then compared with the official tabulations when they become available. Due to two data complications: precincts split by a district line and centrally reported absentee and early votes, some estimation is involved to account for all the votes cast in the presidential race. This can be a complicated process that requires judgment by the analyst. As analysts can use different information or apply them differently the numbers by district may vary between sources.

Previous Election for President: For the PRCD election datasets there are two types of election information: the results of the congressional elections and the results of the presidential election. In most cases the results of the previous presidential election are also included. However, because the previous election may have been held under a different districting plan, having this information for the 'current' districts requires a re-aggregation of election results from previous elections. As this can be a tedious and complex process, and often subject to even more estimation, it is frequently unavailable, especially when the differences between the previous and 'current' plans are not very great. Therefore, in some datasets there will be results for only one presidential election. This is usually the case at the beginning of a districting decade (elections ending in 2) or after a round of litigation that produced changes in numerous plans. Results for president for previous elections in the PRCD dataset are for the election as if the 'current' plan had been in effect at that point in time, which in cases it was.

District Codes: In most cases the district code is obvious: it is simply the numeric value for the district number as all multi-district states now use this notation for congressional districts. States that are apportioned only one member of the U.S. House, per the constitutional minimum, are coded as 99. The District of Columbia, which elects a delegate who is generally not entitled to a floor vote, is coded as 98. Through the 1960s several states still elected at least one member in statewide at-large elections. In some cases positions were indicated but they were still statewide elections. Coding for such districts begins with the code 81. Note also that district codes may change between plans and an incumbent member may be re-elected but from a district with a different code.

Member: When member information is included it is for the member elected at the general election; any changes in membership that occurred subsequently will not be reflected in the dataset.

Field Nomenclature: Each of the fields containing election results are named according to the TYRO (Type-Year-Race/Office) convention. This means that each field is given a unique name so that the fields can be easily combined from multiple records (i.e., one record per district per race/office) into single records (i.e., one record per district) or joined into other datasets. For example, 'G12P_DV' indicates the General Election for 2012 for President: the Democratic Votes; 'G12H_DV' would indicate the same for the U.S. House race.

Win Flag Indicator: The 'WF' field indicates the winner of the race in the district. An uppercase letter indicates a win over 50% (majority) and a lowercase indicates a win under 50% (plurality) of all votes.

Percentages: Two types of percentages are relevant to this type of election results: a percentage of all votes and a percentage of the two-party vote. The first requires the inclusion of all votes and this may vary by state, by district, or by dataset, especially for 'write-in's or 'scattered' votes. The second eliminates any confusion and is the more frequently used version. However, one must at least have the main 'other' votes included (as here) to know if there is a substantial portion of the overall votes cast that is missing from a two-party vote analysis.

Independent Votes: Votes for independents or minor party candidates may be initially lumped together as 'other' votes unless one of them receives more than 5% of the vote for the state or district. If such is the case they are categorized as 'Other 1' and 'Other 2' with the rest as 'Remaining'. All of these votes, i.e., those cast for the candidates other than those for the major parties, as categorized as 'Other' votes. In the PRCD datasets the 'Other 1', 'Other 2', and 'Remaining' are simply reported as 'Other'. Margin calculations for the congressional races may thus be understated if there are multiple 'Others'.

Uncontested Races: In some states, notably FL, AR, LA, and OK, votes may not be counted or reported for instances in which an election is uncontested. In such cases the value of 1 is given to the winner; in some datasets this may be one vote for each county in the district.

Top-Two Elections: In recent years in some states, notably WA and CA, the primary election process has been transformed into a blanket primary in the sense that the top two candidates are the winners, and general election candidates, regardless of party or affiliation. Thus, in the general there may any combination of partisan affiliations, including two Democrats or two Republicans. Even with two candidates of the same party running in the general election it seems illogical to classify all votes as being cast for that party: e.g., clearly some Republicans cast a ballot for one of the two Democrats. Moreover, combining them by party eliminates the calculation for the margin of victory. Therefore, in cases with more than one candidate with the same affiliation, the votes for the winning candidate are counted for that party while those for the losing candidate are counted as 'other' votes.

Louisiana Congressional Results: This state has a unique system that has changed over time. In short, it is best to ignore the congressional results for this state aside from the designation as to the winner (WF). For many years the winner may have been decided before the November General Election Day which is now uniform throughout the nation. Even after changing the law to accommodate this, reporting results consistently is a difficult task, especially as members are often elected in runoff elections after Election Day with a turnout that is considerably lower. In some cases the winner is simply given one vote, or one vote per county, and in others all votes are aggregated by party. Fortunately, this is a situation unique to this state.

Congressional Results: It should also be noted that the results for the congressional races may differ slightly with the official reports from other sources. This is basically for two reasons: 1) the results in the PRCD datasets were compiled with a cutoff point in time that precludes later corrections or perhaps results from recounts; 2) the reports from the Clerk of the House sometimes have the same issue or simply included errors that are never corrected once the report is published.

Congresses: Each set of election results is for a particular congress. Currently, congresses begin in the January of the year following the even-year election. See the attached cross-reference table.

Congress to Election Conversion Table

For Post-World War II Congresses

Congress	Years	Election	President	Census	Pres. Up
80	1947-1948	1946	Truman	1940	
81	1949-1950	1948	Truman		1948
82	1951-1952	1950	Truman		
83	1953-1954	1952	IKE	1950	1952
84	1955-1956	1954	IKE		
85	1957-1958	1956	IKE		1956
86	1959-1960	1958	IKE		
87	1961-1962	1960	JFK		1960
88	1963-1964	1962	JFK	1960	
89	1965-1966	1964	LBJ		1964
90	1967-1968	1966	LBJ		
91	1969-1970	1968	Nixon		1968
92	1971-1972	1970	Nixon		
93	1973-1974	1972	Nixon	1970	1972
94	1975-1976	1974	Ford		
95	1977-1978	1976	Carter		1976
96	1979-1980	1978	Carter		
97	1981-1982	1980	Reagan		1980
98	1983-1984	1982	Reagan	1980	
99	1985-1986	1984	Reagan		1984
100	1987-1988	1986	Reagan		
101	1989-1990	1988	Bush		1988
102	1991-1992	1990	Bush		
103	1993-1994	1992	Clinton	1990	1992
104	1995-1996	1994	Clinton		
105	1997-1998	1996	Clinton		1996
106	1999-2000	1998	Clinton		
107	2001-2002	2000	Bush		2000
108	2003-2004	2002	Bush	2000	
109	2005-2006	2004	Bush		2004
110	2007-2008	2006	Bush		
111	2009-2010	2008	Obama		2008
112	2011-2012	2010	Obama		