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As discussed above, one of the more interesting findings emerging from the study of executive power is that informal powers are at least as important as formal powers. This study takes an in-depth look at a particular dimension of the informal powers of Florida governors: verbal style. The central premise of the study is that speech making—the delivery of speeches such as the state of the state address—is an important governance tool. Speeches represent attempts at persuasion, opportunities to get important constituencies to buy into the governor's agenda. Communications scholars have developed a number of ways to measure how people use language persuasively, and this study appropriates one of these indexes to look at four dimensions of the verbal styles of governors: activity (language implying action), optimism (language reflecting praise or inspiration), certainty (language reflecting inflexibility), and realism (language reflecting tangible and immediate issues). The research finds that language and verbal style matter to policy. Governors with more optimistic and action-based verbal styles tend to have greater legislative success than do those whose verbal style is based more in certainty.

- **Crowley, George R., and William S. Reece.** “Dynastic Political Privilege and Electoral Accountability: The Case of U.S. Governors, 1950–2005.” *Economic Inquiry* 51 (2013): 735–746.

Elections are meant to discipline politicians, making sure that the taxing and spending policies they pursue in office don't differ too widely from those preferred by a majority of voters. Incumbents have such strong advantages when it comes to reelection, however, that they may not be held as easily accountable. Are there factors that can mitigate incumbent advantage? The authors explore the factor of dynasties—that is, the sons and daughters of famous politicians' seeking the same or similar positions. Looking at a half-century's worth of governors, they find that those who face term limits are likely to tax and spend at higher rates; however, those who have politically active relatives tend to tax and spend at lower rates. Even governors who never have to face reelection again seem to temper their policies to brighten the prospects of their potential heirs.

- **Fredriksson, Per G., Le Wang, and Patrick L. Warren.** “Party Politics, Governors and Economic Policy.” *Southern Economic Journal* 80 (2013): 106–126.

Who raises taxes the most? You may not be surprised to hear that Democratic governors push through higher tax increases than do their Republican counterparts. But something interesting happens when governors face term limits. Among governors who are not eligible to run for reelection, it's actually the Republicans who are more likely to raise taxes. Having studied tax policy changes from 1970 to 2007, the authors conclude that if a governor stays in office two terms, the tax rate at the end of his or her 8 years is likely to have changed by roughly the same amount, regardless of whether he or she is a Republican or Democrat. Just the timing of tax increases throughout the years is likely to have varied, depending on the governor's party.

- **Krupnikov, Yanna, and Charles Shipan.** “Measuring Gubernatorial Budgetary Power: A New Approach.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 12 (2012): 438–455.

The standard measure of formal gubernatorial powers used by political scientists is, as discussed above, that developed by Thad Beyle. This index has undergone a number of changes and updates as Beyle and others have sought to provide an ever more accurate indicator of the comparative power of governors. This study takes this development a step further: The authors argue that the standard power index suffers from some important measurement errors, and they propose an alternative. The specific focus is on measuring governors' budgetary powers. The authors' central criticism of Beyle's index is that, as typically constructed, its measures of budgetary power are comparable across states but not across time. This is because as part of its evolution and refinement, Beyle's index changed how budgetary powers were measured. This is potentially a problem for scholars using the comparative method, because they often do not look at differences that make a difference in one year but, rather, at differences that make a difference over multiple years. The authors of this study develop what they argue to be an index that is comparable from year to year as well as from state to state.