Vote buying revisited

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(joint work with Wolter Pieters)
Why is vote buying bad?

Because it interferes with the intent of voting:

*To express one’s preference for a candidate or for a proposed resolution of an issue.*

– dictionary.com
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■ Does vote buying always interfere?
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- Does vote buying always interfere?
- What about election promises?
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- Does vote buying always interfere?
- What about election promises?
- ...
- Where is the boundary between the two?
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Classification

The targets

Conclusions

Examine issue from influencer’s point of view.
Examine issue from influencer’s point of view.

Two ways to influence voters:

1. enticement
   reward, seduce
2. coercion
   threaten
Illustrations of acceptable and unacceptable conduct:

**Acceptable enticement** promising to lower taxes

**Unacceptable enticement** paying a voter to vote for you

**Acceptable coercion** claiming the others to be far worse

**Unacceptable coercion** threats of physical violence
Examples of incentives for rewards:

- *handout*
  - give each voter 100,- and mention candidacy
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- **theme park**
  - district with most votes gets a theme park
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  - upon election, everyone gets 100,- tax refund
Examples of incentives for rewards:

- **handout**
  give each voter 100,- and mention candidacy

- **theme park**
  district with most votes gets a theme park

- **tax rebate**
  upon election, everyone gets 100,- tax refund

- **mensa**
  upon election, disabled child prodigies get 100,-
methodology

- based on previous research...
methodology

- based on previous research...
- guided by examples...
Vote buying

methodology

- based on previous research...
- guided by examples...
- keeping in mind the distinction between coercion and enticement & acceptable and unacceptable...
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- analyse from a vote buyer’s point of view.
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Approach: adopt attack trees!
Vote buying

Classification
- methodology
- attack tree
- results of AT

The targets

Conclusions

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attack tree

```
AND ∀ Y (1)
  OR coerce (ignored) (1.1)
  AND entice / reward (1.2)
    OR time of rewarding (1.2.1)
      LEAF before casting vote (1.2.1.1)
      AND after casting vote (1.2.1.2)
        OR trust required (1.2.1.2.1)
          LEAF rewarding sureness (1.2.1.2.1.1)
          LEAF consequences of non-reward (1.2.1.2.1.2)
          LEAF proof/ensurance of compliance (1.2.1.2.1.3)
        LEAF after elections close (1.2.1.3)
        LEAF after results announced (1.2.1.4)
    OR type of reward (1.2.2)
      LEAF money (1.2.2.1)
      LEAF goods (1.2.2.2)
      LEAF immaterial...? (1.2.2.3)
    OR rewarding conditions (1.2.3)
      LEAF upon casted vote (1.2.3.1)
      LEAF upon election win (1.2.3.2)
      LEAF unconditional rewarding (1.2.3.3)
      LEAF other (...) (1.2.3.4)
    LEAF groupsize of benificiaries (1.2.4)
    OR proof, reward order (1.2.5)
      LEAF proof, reward (1.2.5.1)
      LEAF reward, proof (1.2.5.2)
      LEAF no proof requested (1.2.5.3)
    OR relation to election (1.2.6)
      LEAF reward unrelated to position (1.2.6.1)
      LEAF reward related to position (1.2.6.2)
    OR convince (ignored) (1.3)
```
Derived dimensions:

- type of compliance
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- type of compliance
- time of rewarding
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Derived dimensions:

- type of compliance
- time of rewarding
- type of reward
- rewarding conditions
results of AT

Derived dimensions:

- type of compliance
- time of rewarding
- type of reward
- rewarding conditions
- group size
results of AT

Derived dimensions:

- type of compliance
- time of rewarding
- type of reward
- rewarding conditions
- group size
- proof of compliance
results of AT

Derived dimensions:

- type of compliance
- time of rewarding
- type of reward
- rewarding conditions
- group size
- proof of compliance
- reward dependent on election
results of AT

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- type of compliance
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Abuse of attack tree methodology revenges itself.
Voter characteristics w.r.t vote buying:

- accepts reward
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- accepts reward
- initial preference
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- aware of attempt
Voter characteristics w.r.t vote buying:

- accepts reward
- initial preference
- aware of attempt
- targeted
characteristics

Vote buying characteristics w.r.t vote buying:

- accepts reward
- initial preference
- aware of attempt
- targetted
- vote cast
concluding

Vote buying...

- ... depends on many different issues
- ... can be hard to distinguish from election promises
- ... can be targeted at influencing groups

In short: vote buying ≠ money in exchange for proof of compliance
Vote buying...

- ... depends on many different issues
- ... can be hard to distinguish from election promises
- ... can be targeted at influencing groups

In short: vote buying $\neq$ money in exchange for proof of compliance

Thank you for your attention

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