This research analyzes on the ability of local party organizations to transfer votes to upper levels party candidates in Brazil. It focuses on the causal electoral effect of electing a mayor over subsequent statewide proportional elections. To identify the effect of electing a mayor, it employs a regression discontinuity design (RDD) focusing on observations in which the electoral difference between the elected mayor and the runner-up is very tight. The use of a large dataset, covering elections between 1996 and 2010, allows exploring parties’ heterogeneity in both cross-section and temporal analyses. Preliminary results show that the positive effect of electing a mayor on party performance in subsequent proportional election holds for the entire period, though the impact of electing a mayor varies along both years and parties.

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