Assignment 7

1. Consider the dataset *ballotinit.dta*. The variable ballot is the number of initiatives on the ballot in a particular state-year.

(a) Estimate a poisson count model with *ballot* as the dependent variable and the following independent variables: *citizen*, *econ*, *statinit*, *consinit*, *sigs*, *unlimit*, *circdays*, *singlesubject*, *distribution*, *primaryoffyear*, *repgov*, *repleg*, *ideology*, *legprof*, *time*, *minordiv*, and *deficit* (descriptions of the variables are in the data set). Interpret the effect of the IVs (at least a few of them).

(b) Does it make sense to use robust standard errors in (a)?

(c) Estimate a negative binomial model with the same dependent and independent variables. Interpret the effect of the IVs (at least a few of them).

(d) Does it make sense to use robust standard errors in (c)?

(e) Estimate a zero-inflated poisson model, again using the same dependent and independent variables. Interpret the effect of the IVs (at least a few of them).

(f) Does it make sense to use robust standard errors in (e)?

(g) Calculate some measure of the substantive effect of the number of citizen interest groups on the number of ballot initiatives from the model estimated in (e). Compare to the results for this variable in (a) and (c). (you don't have to report a standard error on the substantive effect in this question).

2. Consider the article "Accountability and Coercion" by Greg Huber and Sanford Gordon.

(a) Interpret the coefficients in the second column of Table 2.

(b) Comment on the appropriateness of the tobit model in this application.

(c) The authors report using robust standard errors in Table 2. Was this an appropriate choice?