

Elected Officials in the Local Assembly:
Analysis of Prefectural Plenary Session Transcripts

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(報告要旨)

This paper investigates the behavior of elected officials in the local government in Japan. The specific focus of the inquiry is their effort to make themselves recognized in the local assembly so that they can improve the evaluation by voters. The methodological innovation is the use of local assembly transcripts from all 47 prefectures in the 2011-2014 period for the empirical analysis. The character count of remarks in the assembly's plenary sessions, both of governors and assembly members, represent their control of the deliberations. The regression analyses suggest that the performance of the incumbent governors in the immediate gubernatorial election is a determinant of their character count. A big electoral success gives a governor more sway in the local assembly.