



Politics and Governance

Electronic Voting Technology (Brazil)

In the 1998 and 2002 Brazilian elections, the Supreme Electoral Court ("Tribunal Superior Eleitoral", TSE) introduced a new electronic voting technology, originally aimed at reducing the time and costs of vote counting. The electronic ballot box ("urna eletrônica") consists of a small screen and a set of keys, closely resembling a touch-tone phone with colored buttons for confirmation, correction and for casting a residual vote – defined as those that could not be assigned for any candidate. As the voting technology provides visual aids (candidates' pictures), guides voters through the specific votes that should be casted, and gives feedback when something is wrong, it's introduction was also likely to make the voting process easier for less educated, and especially, illiterate citizens.



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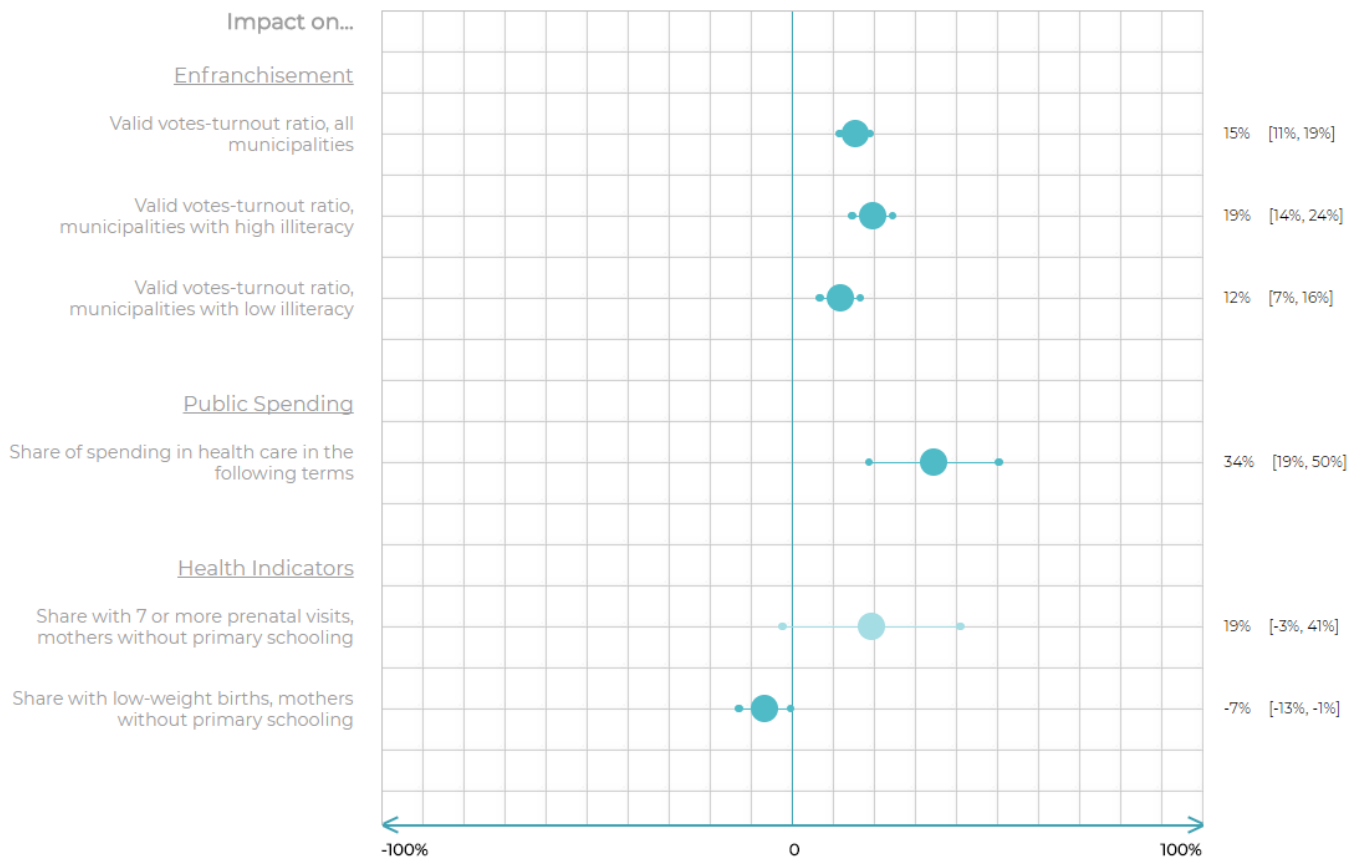


Impacts

- With the adoption of the technology by some municipalities on the 1998 elections, the **valid (non-residual) votes-turnout ratio increased by 15%**, and the change was higher in places with high shares of illiterate citizens – a result consistent with the hypothesis that the ballot box would, in fact, enfranchise less educated citizens
- In the years of 1999 to 2006, the adoption of the technology across the country was associated with the election of **state governments** that **increased in 34% the share of spending in health care** (from 9.9% to 13.3% of the budget)
- Over the same period, **health care utilization** and **fetal health indicators** in mothers without primary schooling **showed improvements** – for instance, the share of low-birth weights (less than 2,500 grams) decreased 7%



(for more information click here)



The results presented were taken from the following academic article, written by Thomas Fujiwara [↗](#):

Fujiwara, T. (2015). Voting technology, political responsiveness, and infant health: Evidence from Brazil. *Econometrica*, 83(2), 423-464.

Sorted and straightforward information on the impact of public policies and social programs.

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