Candidates

2009 Candidates
1,139 SMD candidates
653 duals

290 LDP candidates, 269 dual
271 DPJ candidates, 268 dual

21 pure SMD LDP: 7 won
3 pure SMD DPJ: all won

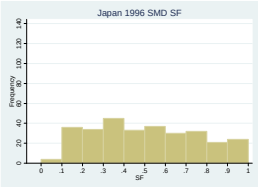
Effective number of candidates:
The average effective number of candidates per SMD over time in Japan (this is the mean of all SMDs in a given election):

1996	2.95
2000	2.77
2003	2.41
2005	2.40
2009	2.26

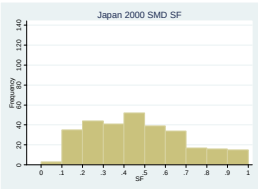
I am currently finishing a book on mixed-member electoral systems. The 2.26 for Japan this year is lower than any of the countries/years I have examined except for West Germany in 1972, 76 & 83.

SF ratios in SMDs

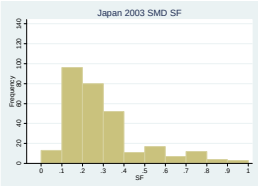
1996



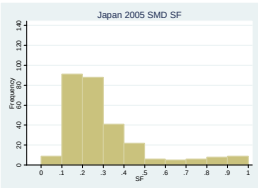
2000



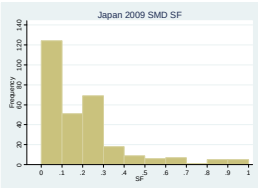
2003



2005



2009



Strategic Voting
Closeness of the race and SF-ratios

I regressed closeness of the race on the SF-ratio in 2009 and found that the closer the race, the lower the SF-ratio. In short, strategic voting.

```
reg SF diff12
```

```
      Source |       SS       df       MS              Number of obs =     295
-------------+------------------------------           F(  1,   293) =    5.58
       Model |  .213880318     1  .213880318           Prob > F      =  0.0189
    Residual |  11.2373161   293  .038352615           R-squared     =  0.0187
-------------+------------------------------           Adj R-squared =  0.0153
       Total |  11.4511964   294  .038949648           Root MSE      =  .19584

------------------------------------------------------------------------------
          SF |      Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------
      diff12 |   .2617019   .1108202     2.36   0.019     .0435974    .4798064
       _cons |   .1580649   .0205486     7.69   0.000     .1176233    .1985065
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

This has not always been the case. See the previous 4 elections. Only in 2003 did we see this pattern:

```
. reg SF diff12 if country==4 & year==1996
      Source |       SS       df       MS              Number of obs =     296
-------------+------------------------------           F(  1,   294) =    1.00
       Model |   .06370458     1   .06370458           Prob > F      =  0.3171
    Residual |  18.6487419   294  .063431095           R-squared     =  0.0034
-------------+------------------------------           Adj R-squared =  0.0000
       Total |  18.7124465   295  .063432022           Root MSE      =  .25186

------------------------------------------------------------------------------
          SF |      Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------
      diff12 |  -.1109523   .1107138    -1.00   0.317    -.3288444    .1069399
       _cons |    .519754    .021163    24.56   0.000     .4781037    .5614042
------------------------------------------------------------------------------


. reg SF diff12 if country==4 & year==2000
      Source |       SS       df       MS              Number of obs =     296
-------------+------------------------------           F(  1,   294) =    0.23
       Model |  .012239848     1  .012239848           Prob > F      =  0.6316
    Residual |  15.6233291   294  .053140575           R-squared     =  0.0008
-------------+------------------------------           Adj R-squared = -0.0026
       Total |  15.6355689   295  .053001929           Root MSE      =  .23052
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
          SF |      Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------
      diff12 |   .0447053   .0931503     0.48   0.632    -.1386205    .2280311
       _cons |   .4564371   .0204664    22.30   0.000     .4161579    .4967164
------------------------------------------------------------------------------


. reg SF diff12 if country==4 & year==2003
      Source |       SS       df       MS              Number of obs =     295
-------------+------------------------------           F(  1,   293) =    6.65
       Model |  .224972313     1  .224972313           Prob > F      =  0.0104
    Residual |  9.91125092   293  .033826795           R-squared     =  0.0222
-------------+------------------------------           Adj R-squared =  0.0189
       Total |  10.1362232   294   .03447695           Root MSE      =  .18392
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
          SF |      Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------
      diff12 |   .2040678   .0791298     2.58   0.010     .0483328    .3598027
       _cons |   .2656041   .0159203    16.68   0.000     .2342715    .2969367
------------------------------------------------------------------------------


. reg SF diff12 if country==4 & year==2005
      Source |       SS       df       MS              Number of obs =     285
-------------+------------------------------           F(  1,   283) =    0.02
       Model |  .000655314     1  .000655314           Prob > F      =  0.9001
    Residual |   11.752764   283  .041529201           R-squared     =  0.0001
-------------+------------------------------           Adj R-squared = -0.0035
       Total |  11.7534193   284  .041385279           Root MSE      =  .20379
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
          SF |      Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+----------------------------------------------------------------
      diff12 |   .0145228   .1156117     0.13   0.900    -.2130453    .2420908
       _cons |   .3002155   .0204093    14.71   0.000     .2600423    .3403888
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```