

## AN ESTIMATE OF THE IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ON THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN BRAZIL

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- **ABSTRACT:** *Government spending on assistance programs increased considerably during the first term of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva presidency. We perform beta regression analysis to measure the impact of such spending increase on its reelection. Our response is the difference between the proportions of valid votes for Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the 2006 and 2002 elections. We estimate the impacts of the increased spending on assistance programs and of economic growth on the election outcome. We conclude that the candidate Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva would lose approximately 7 million votes in the 2006 runoff election had the spending on assistance programs remained at the 2002 level. Under no economic growth between the two elections, he would lose approximately 2 million votes.*
- **KEYWORDS:** *Assistance programs; beta regression model; presidential election.*

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