

Contents

1 Mass media and political economics	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Contribution of this book	3
1.3 Related literature	5
2 Collective decision-making and market provision of information	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Description of the model	12
2.2.1 The electoral decision problem	13
2.2.2 The value of additional public information	15
2.2.3 Information production	17
2.3 Market equilibrium	18
2.4 Comparative statics analysis	23
2.5 Discussion	24
2.6 Concluding remarks	25
2.7 Appendix	26
3 Public good provision, electoral selection and information acquisition	35
3.1 Introduction	35
3.2 Description of the model	37
3.2.1 Public good production by the incumbent	37
3.2.2 The citizen's decision problem	39
3.2.3 The newspaper market	40
3.3 Equilibrium	42
3.3.1 Electoral decision	42
3.3.2 Information provision	46
3.3.3 Incumbent behavior	52
3.4 Concluding remarks	56
3.5 Appendix	58
4 Theory and evidence from Norway: Newspaper circulation and local government efficiency	65
4.1 Introduction	65
4.2 Theory: Newspapers and efficiency	66
4.3 Empirical analysis	73
4.3.1 The Norwegian institutions	73
4.3.2 Data sources and media measures	74

4.3.3	Empirical strategy	79
4.3.4	Results	80
4.4	Conclusion	86
4.5	Appendix	87
5	The geography of local television markets and the allocation of federal funds in the United States	92
5.1	Introduction	92
5.2	Theory	93
5.3	Data and estimation approach	98
5.4	Empirical results	102
5.4.1	The link between media activity and spending	102
5.4.2	Robustness checks	105
5.4.3	Spatial dependencies in grant spending	108
5.5	Conclusion	109
5.6	Appendix	111
6	Concluding remarks	114
7	References	116