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THE REVIEWER DECLARES THAT THE PREPARATION OF THIS REVIEW DOES NOT LEAD TO A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

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| **Assessment criteria/question** | **Reviewer’s reply** |
| 1. Does the title and abstract of the manuscript reflect the content of the paper? | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  *Potential comments*  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |
| 1. Does the manuscript expand our knowledge and understanding of issues specific to the field of research? Does the topic of the paper fall within the scope of the journal focused on public policy? | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  *Potential comments*  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |
| 1. Is the manuscript’s structure appropriate? Is the text coherent in content, clear from the point of view of the reader, and is the language adequate to the issues raised? | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  *Potential comments*  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |
| 1. Is the line of reasoning clear enough in the manuscript? Has the author(s) included appropriate content that is correctly embedded in the theory, method of argumentation, and reasoning? | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  *Potential comments*  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |
| 1. Is the paper sufficiently methodologically correct as an academic text? Are the research data and literature review clearly included, appropriate, and relevant? Is the presentation of data (including tables and figures) clear? | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  *Potential comments*  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |
| **Final recommendation**  **(please highlight one option)** | ▢ Accept as it is – minor editing and proofreading are needed  ▢ Accept – the indicated minor revisions are needed  ▢ Reject – major revisions and potential resubmission is needed  ▢ Reject – the paper should be written from scratch |
| *Further comments (if necessary )* | …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..  …..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..…..….. |