



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

12 Experts Available on Midterm Election Administration, Turnout, and More

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With the midterm elections around the corner, the following university-based experts are available to offer commentary and analysis on a broad range of election-related issues, such as election administration, race and voter turnout, voter education, campaign finance, and more.

DAVID C. KIMBALL

University of Missouri-St. Louis



Expertise: **Election administration**

Kimball's research examines election administration, voting behavior, public opinion, and interest groups in the United States. His election research examines election administration and the impact of election laws and institutions on voters. He has participated as an expert in several court cases related to election administration, voting rights, and redistricting.

CIARA TORRES-SPELLISCY

Stetson University



Expertise: **Election law, campaign finance, gender and elections**

Prior to joining Stetson's faculty, Torres-Spelliscy was counsel in the Democracy Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. She teaches Election Law, Constitutional Law, and the First Amendment. Torres-Spelliscy has testified before Congress as an expert on campaign finance. She has also helped draft Supreme Court briefs. Torres-Spelliscy is the author of two books: [Corporate Citizen? An Argument for the Separation of Corporation](#) and [State Political Brands](#).

KIRA SANBONMATSU

Rutgers University-New Brunswick



Expertise: **Campaign finance, gender and elections**

Sanbonmatsu's research interests include gender, race/ethnicity, parties, public opinion, state politics, and campaign finance. Her most recent book, coauthored with [Kelly Dittmar](#) and Susan J. Carroll, is [A Seat at the Table: Congresswomen's Perspectives on Why Their Presence Matters](#).

BRIDGET G. TROGDEN

American University



Expertise: **Voter education, nonpartisan education**

Trogden has been working in the area of nonpartisan student voter engagement for the past decade, helping to strengthen the role of faculty and curriculum and to facilitate resource sharing among faculty, courses, and institutions. Trogden is on the steering committee for the Faculty Network for Student Voting Rights (FacNet), serving on subcommittees for tenure and promotion policies and for curricula and scholarship. In all her activities, she advocates for involvement of civic education in all disciplines to enable a healthy American democracy.

AMEL AHMED

University of Massachusetts-Amherst



Expertise: **Election reform, recounts, contested elections, election legitimacy**

Ahmed's main area of expertise is the study of democratic institutions and particularly electoral systems. She is especially interested in how the "rules of the game" affect democratic outcomes: who participates, how influential certain groups are, and what are the policy consequences of these two issues.

MARK RUSH

Washington and Lee University



Expertise: **Election reform**

Rush's research focuses on democracy, voting rights, and constitutional law around the world. Overarching themes in Rush's work address how globalization, modernization, and technological change force us to reconsider how we think about: democracy, fair elections, representation, human rights, the interaction between science and law, and liberal education and liberal democracy.

JAN LEIGHLEY

American University



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout**

Leighley's research focuses on American political behavior, voter turnout, media and politics, and racial/ethnic political behavior. Her most recent book, [Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality, and Turnout in the United States](#), examines voter turnout in presidential elections from 1972 to 2008.

ZOLTAN L. HAJNAL

University of California-San Diego



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout**

Hajnal is a scholar of racial and ethnic politics, urban politics, immigration, and political behavior. He is the author of a range of books and articles on partisan politics, voter turnout, minority representation, and local spending. Hajnal has published in the American Political Science Review, the Journal of Politics, Public Opinion Quarterly, and numerous other journals, edited volumes, and newspaper editorial pages.

ANDREA BENJAMIN

University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout, race and politics, local elections and voting behavior**

Benjamin's research interests include Race and Politics, Local Elections and Voting Behavior, and Public Opinion. She serves on the Editorial Board of Urban Affairs Review and Political Research Quarterly.

RAY BLOCK

Pennsylvania State University-University Park



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout**

Overarching themes in Block's writings include group differences in civic involvement, the formation and mutability of social identity, campaigns and elections, and other topics. He has published dozens of book chapters, manuscripts, and peer-reviewed journal articles and is co-author of [Losing Power: African Americans and Racial Polarization in Tennessee Politics](#).

MELISSA R. MICHELSON

Menlo College



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout**

Michelson's research focuses Latinx politics, voter mobilization experiments, and LGBTQ rights, and past president of the LGBT Caucus and of the Latino Caucus of the American Political Science Association. She is the award-winning author of six books, including [Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns](#) and, most recently, [Transforming Prejudice: Identity, Fear, and Transgender Rights](#).

SARA SADHWANI

Pomona College



Expertise: **Race and voter turnout**

Sadhvani's research focuses on voting behavior, elections, public opinion, public policy, and interest groups, with an emphasis on the representation of racial, ethnic and immigrant communities. Sadhwani's writings include Asian and Latino voting behavior and electoral institutions. Sadhwani serves on the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission for the State of California.