16th Annual:
State Politics and Policy Conference

University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas

May 19-21, 2016
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GENERAL INFORMATION

INTERNET ACCESS

UTD provides free wireless Internet access for guests through CometNet. First connect to UTDGuest, fill out the web form, and then click on Configure CometNet at the bottom of the form. Username and password information will be provided in your printed program to be handed out at registration. For additional instructions, you may visit: http://www.utdallas.edu/oit/howto/cometnet/.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle bus service between the hotel and the conference will be provided Friday and Saturday.
If you are driving direct to campus, the main entrance is by University Parkway at 800 W. Campbell Road in Richardson. You can get a visitor parking pass good for one day at the Visitor Center (VCB). The closest parking lot to the main conference area is Lot J.
Construction on campus seems to be a constant, so it would be wise to check the university website shortly before you travel for any changes to available parking or roads on campus. Campus maps are available on: http://www.utdallas.edu/maps/.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the conference, please call Robert Lowry (972-281-7919), Cheryl Berry (work: 972-883-2932, cell: 469-416-8562) or Adrienne Gathman (641-521-1650).

NEXT YEAR’S HOST INFORMATION

We hope to see you next year in St. Louis, as Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University co-host the event.

SPONSORS

We would like to offer a huge thanks to the following contributors who made this conference possible:

- UTD School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS)
- Dean Denis Dean, UTD EPPS
- Dr. Tom Brunell, UTD Professor of Political Science
- UTD Office of Research Development
- Stata: www.stata.com
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
REP. JASON VILLALBA BIOGRAPHY

Jason Villalba (R-Dallas) represents Lake Highlands, Preston Hollow and North West Dallas in the Texas House of Representatives. First elected to the Texas House in November 2012, Villalba currently serves on the Business and Industry and Economic Development Committees and was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Select Committees on Redistricting and Economic Development Incentives.

Representative Villalba, a fourth-generation Texan, was born and raised in Dallas and is the first in his family to graduate from college. Jason worked his way through Baylor University where he studied economics and finance. He received his BBA in December 1992 - a full semester early. After graduation, Rep. Villalba worked as an economist and financial analyst for a Fortune 500 Company where he built forecasting models and reviewed annual budgets and cost structures. Villalba later returned to school and obtained his Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law. Jason is now a partner at one of the most respected law firms in Texas. His practice focuses on the areas of public and private securities law, private equity, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate law.
THURSDAY, MAY 19

5:30 – 7:30 PM: REGISTRATION

6:00 – 8:00 PM: WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MAY 20

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM: REGISTRATION

7:30 – 8:30 AM: BREAKFAST
8:30 – 10:00 AM: PANELS 1A, 1B, AND 1C

1A. State Courts

DISCUSSANT: CHRIS BONNEAU, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

- The Effect of Judicial Campaigns on Judicial Decisionmaking
  - Michael Nelson, Pennsylvania State University
- They Had it Coming?: Court Visibility and Court-Curbing Legislation
  - Justin Kingsland, Georgia State University
  - Meghan Leonard, Illinois State University
  - Joseph Ross, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Polarizing the Bench? Considering the Influence of Party on State High Courts:
  - Jason Windett, Saint Louis University
  - Morgan Hazelton, Saint Louis University
  - Matthew Hall, University of Notre Dame
- State Constitutions and State Courts: How Supreme Courts Respond to Constitutional Revision
  - Adam Brown, Brigham Young University

1B. Direct Democracy

DISCUSSANT: MICHAEL BINDER, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

- Temporal Dynamics and Strategic Design of Referenda
  - Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, University of Rhode Island
  - Carrie Gill, University of Rhode Island
  - Corey Lang, University of Rhode Island
- Voter Recall of Ballot Measures
  - Craig Burnett, Hofstra University
  - Janine Parry, University of Arkansas
  - Jay Barth, Hendrix College
- At the Threshold of Awareness: Explaining Public Recognition of Ballot Measures
  - Shaun Bowler, University of California, Riverside
  - Stephen Nicholson, University of California, Merced
- Mary Jane Rocks the Vote: Analyzing the Impact of Geographic Context on Turnout and Support for Cannabis Initiatives
  - Regina Branton, University of North Texas
  - Victoria Knaupp, University of North Texas
1C. Intergovernmental Relations

**DISCUSSANT: ADAM MYERS, PROVIDENCE COLLEGE**

- *Return of the “Rightful Remedy”: Nullification Legislation in the American States*
  - Adam Olson, University of Minnesota
  - Timothy Callaghan, University of Minnesota
  - Andrew Karch, University of Minnesota
- *Unpacking State Legislative-Local Government Relationships*
  - Ann Bowman, Texas A&M University
- *Rebalancing Federalism in the 21st Century: Original Intent, Constitutional Foundations, and Intergovernmental Change*
  - Michael W. Hail, Morehead State University

10:00 – 10:15 AM: COFFEE BREAK

Coffee break sponsored by **STATA**.

10:15 – 11:45 AM: PANELS 2A, 2B, AND 2C

2A. Race and Ethnic Politics

**DISCUSSANT: SHANNA PEARSON, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**

- *Revisiting Majority-Minority Districts and Descriptive Representation: A View from the States*
  - Daniel Smith, University of Florida
  - William Hicks, Appalachian State University
  - Seth McKee, Texas Tech University
  - Carl Klarner, Independent Scholar
- *The (Dis)Enfranchisement of Poor, Minority Voters: The Case of Early Voting Site Selection in Texas*
  - Markie McBrayer, University of Houston
  - Lucas Williams, University of Houston
  - Andrea Eckelman, University of Houston
  - Daniel Hawes, Kent State University
- *The Invisible Poor? Where, When, and Why States Pay Attention to Poverty*
  - Jamila Michener, Cornell University
2B. Efficacy and Advocacy in State Politics

**DISCUSSANT: JANINE PARRY, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS**

- **Interest Groups with National and Subnational Branches: Cohesion or Conflict?**
  - Jaclyn Kettler, Boise State University
  - Ngoc Phan, University of Southern Mississippi
- **Donor Dynamics: Patterns of Campaign Contributions in State Legislative Races**
  - Jonathan Winburn, University of Mississippi
  - Salvatore Russo, California State University, Dominguez Hills
  - Zachary Baumann, Pennsylvania State University
- **Feelings of Efficacy in State Politics**
  - Jennifer Wolak, University of Colorado
  - Corey Barwick, University of Colorado

2C. Local Policy

**DISCUSSANT: VLADIMIR KOGAN, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

- **Causal Attributions in Cases of Police Misconduct and Public Unrest**
  - Mark Joslyn, University of Kansas
  - Donald Haider-Markel, University of Kansas
- **School Litigation, Legal Remedies, and Judicial Federalism: The Challenge of Vergara**
  - James Clinger, Murray State University
- **What Affects State Government Grants of Local Authority?**
  - Jeffrey Swanson, Florida State University
  - Charles Barrilleaux, Florida State University

**11:45 AM – 1:15 PM: LUNCH**

**STEVE BOILARD**, California State University, Sacramento, will present an award for work using the California Elections Data Archive (CEDA).

**11:45 AM – 4:00 PM: POSTER SET-UP**

The lobby of the Edith O’Donnell Arts and Technology Building will be available during this time for those wanting to set-up their poster presentations.
1:15 – 2:45 PM: Panels 3A, 3B, and 3C

3A. Immigration Policy

DISCUSSANT: JASON CASELLAS, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

- The Federalism of Immigration: Evaluating State Responses to the Federal Policies
  - John McIver, University of Texas
- State Welfare Policy and Immigrant Populations: A Test of Competing Explanations
  - Anne Whitesell, Pennsylvania State University
  - Michael Berkman, Pennsylvania State University
- Conflicting Constituencies: Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and Why States Pass Pro-Immigrant Policies
  - Michael Rivera, University of Texas

3B. Voters in State and Federal Elections

DISCUSSANT: STAN OKLOBZIJIA, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

- In Voters’ Minds, Are All Politics Really Local? Comparing Voters’ Knowledge of National and Local Politics
  - Michael Binder, University of North Florida
  - Matthew Childers, University of North Florida
  - Andrew Hopkins, University of North Florida
  - Colleen Hampsey, University of North Florida
- The Cost of Voting in the American States
  - Scot Schraufnagel, Northern Illinois University
  - Michael Pomante, Northern Illinois University
  - Quan Li, Wuhan University
- The Value of Political Endorsements: Who Matters? Who Doesn’t?
  - Darin Dewitt, California State University, Long Beach
  - Matthew D. Atkinson, Miami University
- Contestation, Incongruence, and the Autonomy of State Legislative Elections
  - Adam Myers, Providence College

3C. State Legislatures: Complications and Consequences

DISCUSSANT: CHRIS MOONEY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

- Consequences of Committee Jurisdiction Reorganization in State Legislatures
  - Todd Makse, Florida International University
- Legislative Productivity in the States
  - Nate Birkhead, Kansas State University
- Is Divided Government a Cause of Legislative Gridlock?
  - Justin Phillips, Columbia University
  - Patricia Kirkland, Columbia University
- The Use of Gatekeeping in State Legislatures
  - Emily Schilling, Washington University in St. Louis
2:45 – 3:00 PM: COFFEE BREAK

3:00 – 4:00 PM: ROUNDTABLE ON TEACHING STATE POLITICS

Tips, Tools, and Techniques of the Trade presented by:
- Michael Binder, University of North Florida
- Shannon Jenkins, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Justin Kirkland, University of Houston
- Janine Parry, University of Arkansas

4:30 – 5:45 PM: COMPREHENSIVE POSTER SESSION

Policies and Policymaking

DISCUSSANT: JAMES CLINGER, MURRAY STATE
- The Second Stage of the Policymaking Game: The Effect of State Political Institutions on Regulatory Discretion
  - Mona Vakilifathi, University of California, San Diego
- The Third House: Group Bills in the California State Legislature
  - Mary Kroeger, Princeton University
- Killing the Common Core: A 50 State Analysis of State Policymaking
  - Matthew Malone, Auburn University
- Is It Politics or Is It Measurement? Analyzing State-Level Immigration Policies
  - Amanda Durso, University of Illinois at Chicago

Elections

DISCUSSANT: CRAIG BURNETT, HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
- Beyond NVRA Compliance: State Responses to the Demand of Voter Registration
  - Thessalia Merivaki, University of Florida
- Parties, Protests, and Political Opportunity: State Primary Elections as Political Opportunity
  - Kevin Reuning, Pennsylvania State University
- State Election Reform Laws and Voting Cultures, Mobilization, and Voter Turnout
  - Michael Ritter, University of Iowa

Courts and the Law

DISCUSSANT: BILLY MONROE, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
- The Diffusion of the Law in the American States
  - Abigail Rury, University of Iowa
- Political Polarization and Federalism: An Empirical Analysis
  - Jay Medina, Florida State University
- Friends of the State Courts: Interest Groups and State Courts of Last Resort
  - Jared Perkins, University of North Texas
Executive Politics

**DISCUSSANT: SALVATORE RUSSO, CALIFORNIA STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

  - Denise Lillvis, University of Michigan
- *Bargaining to the Bitter End: Legislative Inaction Over Redistricting*
  - John Curiel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- *The Role of Religion in Executive Policymaking*
  - A. Diana Forster, University of Florida
  - Mitchell Sellers, University of Florida
- *He Shall, She Shall: Examining Gender Differences in Gubernatorial Policy Agendas and Success*
  - Samantha Guthrie, American University

Public Opinion

**DISCUSSANT: CHRISTOPHER WARSHAW, MIT**

- *Forming Attitudes in Low Information Environments: How People Use Cues to Help Inform Opinions on State Legislatures*
  - Stefani Langanhennig, University of Colorado Boulder
  - Joseph Zamadics, University of Colorado Boulder
- *How Obamacare has Altered State-Level Public Opinion on Medicaid*
  - Renu Singh, Georgetown University
- *Support for Preschool Expansion Among Louisiana Adults*
  - John Clawson, Louisiana State University

Legislators: Rules and Effects

**DISCUSSANT: TODD MAKSE, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

- *The Heavenly Chorus Sings Shutdown: Extremism and Political Fundraising*
  - Stan Oklobdzija, University of California, San Diego
- *The Citizen-Legislator Myth: How Electoral Reforms Increased Incumbency Effects*
  - Kevin Fahey, Florida State University
- *Washington Style Exported to State Legislatures: State Legislators Campaigning in Ballot Elections*
  - Marie-Catherine Wavreille, University of California, San Diego
- *Female Candidates Success and Term Limits*
  - Samantha Pettey, University of North Texas

6:00 – 8:00 PM: DINNER

**TENNAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE JASON VILLALBA** will deliver the keynote speech.
SATURDAY, MAY 21

7:30 – 8:30 AM: BREAKFAST CN Lobby

8:30 – 10:00 AM: PANELS 4A, 4B, 4C, AND 4D

**4A. Methods**

**Discussant: Jamie Monogan, University of Georgia**

- *Dealing with Separation in Logistic Regression Models*
  - Carlisle Rainey, Texas A&M University
  - Alexandra Filindra, University of Illinois at Chicago
  - Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, University of Rhode Island
  - Amanda D’Urso, University of Illinois at Chicago
- *Surveying State Legislators: Views on the Profession, K-12 Education, and Choice-based Reforms*
  - Paul Diperna, Friedman Foundation
- *Tweeting in the Lone Star State: Locating State Politicians in a Common Space using Twitter Followers*
  - Santiago Alles, Rice University
  - Mark P. Jones, Rice University

**4B. Gender and State Politics**

**Discussant: Kristin Kanthak, University of Pittsburgh**

- *Donor Networks and the Influence of Women Candidates in Political Parties*
  - Jaclyn Kettler, Boise State University
- *An Upward Trajectory?: Explaining Fluctuations in Women’s Representation in the U.S. States*
  - Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa
  - Rebecca Kreitzer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- *You’ve Got a Woman Friendly District in Pennsylvania: Exploring Gendered Geography in State Legislative Elections*
  - Nicholas Pyeatt, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona
  - Alixandra Yanus, High Point University
4C. State Legislators: Representatives and Decisionmaking  

**DISCUSSANT: SCOTT SCHRAUFNAGEL, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

- **Sources of Legislative Proposals: A Survey**
  - Rick Farmer, Extra Point Productions

- **Legislative Pay in the American States and Individual Retirement Decisions**
  - Benjamin Melusky, Franklin and Marshall College

- **Who You Are or Who You Represent: What Wins District Spending in the States?**
  - Thad Kousser, University of California, San Diego
  - Gerald Gamm, University of Rochester

- **What Makes a Decision Difficult for State Legislators?**
  - Kristin O’Donovan, Wayne State University
  - Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson, Wayne State University
  - Steven Betz, Wayne State University

4D. Partisanship and Policymaking  

**DISCUSSANT: EMILY SCHILLING, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**

- **The Role of Voters and Partisanship in Elite Compromises**
  - Sarah Anderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
  - Daniel Butler, Washington University in St. Louis
  - Laurel Harbridge, Northwestern University

- **Legislative Party Polarization and Trust in State Legislatures**
  - Kevin Banda, University of Nevada, Reno
  - Justin Kirkland, University of Houston

- **Estimating Party Competition in the U.S. States**
  - Zachary Baumann, Pennsylvania State University
  - Michael Nelson, Pennsylvania State University
  - Kevin Reuning, Pennsylvania State University

- **Polarization and Executive Policymaking: Evidence from the American States**
  - Michael Barber, Brigham Young University
  - Alexander Bolton, Duke University
  - Sharece Thrower, University of Pittsburgh

10:00 – 10:15 AM: COFFEE BREAK  

CN Lobby
10:15 – 11:45 AM: Panels 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D

5A. Redistricting

DISCUSSANT: JONATHAN WINBURN, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

- Considering the Prospects for Identifying a Gerrymandering Standard
  - Michael McDonald, Binghamton University
  - Robin Best, Binghamton University
- Legislators, Commissioners, and Traditional Redistricting Principles
  - Michael Crespin, University of Oklahoma
  - Barry Edwards, University of Central Florida
- Quantifying Tradeoffs in Redistricting through Clustering
  - Justin Levitt, University of California, San Diego

5B. Morality Policy and Culture Wars

DISCUSSANT: JACLYN KETTLER, BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

- Right to Choose? Top-Down Women’s Health Policy Diffusion and Partisan Politics
  - Matthew Ward, University of Houston
  - Andrea Eckelman, University of Houston
- State and Local Non-Discrimination Laws in Post-Obergefell Era
  - Alexander Wathen, University of Houston, Downtown
- Analyzing State Level Variance
  - Michael New, Ave Maria University

5C. Presidential Primaries

DISCUSSANT: SHANNON JENKINS, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH

- First in the South: The Importance of South Carolina in Presidential Politics
  - Scott Huffmon, Winthrop University
  - Gibbs Knotts, College of Charleston
  - Seth McKee, Texas Tech University
- Primary Voters and Polarization: The Case of New Hampshire
  - Joshua Dyck, University of Massachusetts Lowell
  - Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, University of Rhode Island
- Candidate Favorability and Elite Sentiment in the New Hampshire Primary
  - John Cluverius, University of Massachusetts Lowell
5D. Vertical and Horizontal Influences in a Federal System  

**DISCUSSANT: EUEL ELLIOTT, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

  - Sean Hildebrand, Ball State University
- **Playing it Safe: An Exploration of How County Managers Camouflage their Political Leanings**  
  - Craig Burnett, Hofstra University  
  - Christopher Prentice, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- **The Diffusion of Scientific Policy Innovations: How Salience and Controversy Contribute to State Adoptions**  
  - Rebecca Bromley-Trujillo, University of Kentucky  
  - Andrew Karch, University of Minnesota

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM: LUNCH  

CN Lobby

1:30 – 3:00 PM: PANELS 6A, 6B, AND 6C

6A. Political and Policy Dynamics  

**DISCUSSANT: TOM BRUNELL, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

- **The Effects of Electoral Cycles on Changes in Tax Rates, Expected Taxes, and Tax Collections**  
  - Richard Winters, Dartmouth College  
  - Carlisle Rainey, Texas A&M University  
  - Kevin Stout, University of New York, Buffalo
- **Contagious Republicanism in North Carolina and Louisiana, 1966-2008**  
  - Trey Hood, University of Georgia  
  - Jamie Monogan, University of Georgia
  - Chris Warshaw, MIT  
  - Devin Caughey, MIT
6B. Judicial Elections

**DISCUSSANT: MICHAEL NELSON, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

- *Competition and Regional Impact in Contributions to State Supreme Court Campaigns*
  - Brent Boyea, University of Texas at Arlington
- *Judicial Primary Elections: An Exploratory Analysis*
  - Billy Monroe, Prairie View A&M University
- *Judicial Labor Market Signaling: How Elected Judges Dissent*
  - Bennet Min, University of Texas at Dallas
- *The Effectiveness of PAC Contribution Limits in Judicial Elections*
  - Joseph Ross, Florida Gulf Coast University
  - Meghan Leonard, Illinois State University

6C. Voter Turnout, Voting Behavior, and Accountability

**DISCUSSANT: JASON WINDETT, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY**

- *A Critical Evaluation of the Stickiness of Party Registration: A Comparative Approach*
  - Matthew Thornburg, University of South Carolina Aiken
- *The Consequence of Election Timing*
  - Vladimir Kogan, Ohio State University
  - Stéphane Lavertu, Ohio State University
  - Zachary Peskowitz, Emory University
- *Timing the Habit: Voter Registration and Turnout in the American States*
  - Enrijeta Shino, University of Florida
  - Daniel Smith, University of Florida
- *Accountability in State Legislative Primary Elections*
  - Steven Rogers, Saint Louis University

3:00 – 3:30 PM: CLOSING REMARKS

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Not quite 50 years ago, our founders — three visionaries whose work led to the creation of what would come to be called the Silicon Prairie — stood in the middle of a field and declared that one day a world-class University would rise there, becoming one of the region’s leading economic catalysts. UT Dallas helps make its namesake city one of the fastest growing in the country, a top ten metropolitan area, and home of 18 Fortune 500 companies. Ingenious.