

James M. Curry

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Employment **University of Utah, Department of Political Science**

Associate Professor, 2019-
Assistant Professor, 2012-19

APSA Congressional Fellow

Office of Representative Daniel Lipinski, 2011-12

University of Maryland, Department of Government & Politics

Instructor, 2009-11

Education

University of Maryland

Ph.D., Government & Politics, 2011

M.A., Government & Politics, 2009

SUNY, College at Brockport

B.S., Political Science, 2006

Awards & Honors

Presidential Scholar Award, University of Utah, 2020-23 (\$30,000)
(<https://academic-affairs.utah.edu/presidential-scholar-award>)

Betty Glad Memorial Fund (\$15,000) University of Utah, 2020
(w/ Juliet Carlisle) “For a Western States Survey”

American University’s Program on Legislative Negotiation, Understanding
Legislative Negotiation Grant (\$19,000), 2019 (w/ Jason Roberts),
“Personal Relationships and Legislative Negotiation in the U.S. Congress”

Center for Effective Lawmaking, Small Grant (\$2,000), 2019 (w/ Jason Roberts),
“Personal Relationships and Legislative Effectiveness in Congress”

College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Teaching Award (Finalist),
University of Utah, 2019 & 2020

Madison Initiative Grant, Hewlett Foundation (\$63,669), 2017 (with Frances
E. Lee) “Party Power and Lawmaking in the Contemporary Congress”

College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Research Award (Finalist),
University of Utah, 2017 & 2018

Alan Rosenthal Prize, APSA Legislative Studies Section, 2016

University Research Committee (URC) Faculty Research & Creative Grant
(\$6,000), University of Utah, 2016

Congressional Research Grant (\$2,652), Dirksen Center, 2015
“Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in Congress”

Betty Glad Memorial Fund (\$14,500), University of Utah, 2014

E. E. Schattschneider Dissertation Award, APSA, 2012

Carl Albert Dissertation Award, APSA Legislative Studies Section, 2012

Awards & Honors Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000), University of Maryland, 2011
 Roger H. Davidson Award in American Politics, University of Maryland, 2011

Publications **Books**

The Limits of Party: Congress and Lawmaking in a Polarized Era
(w/ Frances E. Lee) University of Chicago Press, 2020

Legislating in the Dark: Information and Power in the U.S. House of Representatives
University of Chicago Press, 2015
2016 Alan Rosenthal Prize winner

Journal Articles

“State Congressional Delegations and the Distribution of Federal Funds”
(with Christopher P. Donnelly), *Political Research Quarterly*, Forthcoming

“What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes”
(with Frances E. Lee), *Journal of Politics* 82(2), 2020

“Congressional Processes and Public Approval of New Laws”
Political Research Quarterly 72(4), 2019

“Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in the Contemporary Congress”
Legislative Studies Quarterly 44(2), 2019

“Non-Party Government: Bipartisan Lawmaking and Party Power in Congress”
(with Frances E. Lee), *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1), 2019

“Lawmaker Age, Issue Salience, and Senior Representation in Congress”
(with Matthew R. Haydon), *American Politics Research* 46(4), 2018

“The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives”
(with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor), *Political Research Quarterly*
71(2), 2018

“In-Depth Qualitative Research and the Study of American Political Institutions”
PS: Political Science & Politics 50(1), 2017

“The Impact of District Magnitude on Ballot Drop-off and Roll-off”
(with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor) *Legislative Studies Quarterly*
40(4), 2015

“The Impact of District Magnitude on Campaign Fundraising”
(with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor) *Legislative Studies Quarterly*
38(4), 2013

“Issue Voting and Partisan Defection in Congressional Elections”
(with Paul S. Herrnson) *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36(2), 2011

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Enduring Continuities in Congressional Lawmaking” (with Frances E. Lee)
in *Congress Reconsidered*, 12th Edition, 2020

“Change and Continuity for Committees in Congress”
in *New Directions in Congressional Politics*, 2020

- Publications “Capacity in a Centralized Congress” (with Frances E. Lee)
in *Congress Overwhelmed: The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform* (Chicago University Press), 2020
- “Congress at Work: Legislative Capacity and Entrepreneurship in the Contemporary Congress” (with Frances E. Lee). In *Can America Govern Itself?* (Cambridge University Press), 2019
- “Issue Voting in the 2006 Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives” (with Paul S. Herrnson) in *Congress Reconsidered*, 9th Edition, 2009

Other Writing

- “Unified or divided government? It won’t matter as much as you think...” (with Frances E. Lee), *Niskanen Center*, November 23, 2020
- “A Senate Majority Is Overrated. (We Checked.)” (with Frances E. Lee) *New York Times*, November 18, 2020
- “How centralized or decentralized should power be in the House of Representatives?” *LegBranch.com*, April 18, 2019
- “What is ‘regular order’ worth?” (with Frances E. Lee) *LegBranch.com*, April 4, 2018
- “Congress is old. Does it matter?” (with Matthew R. Haydon) *LegBranch.com*, March 7, 2018
- “Why would Pelosi step down? Parties don’t usually throw out congressional leaders after electoral losses” (with David Karol) *Washington Post*, June 30, 2017
- “Here’s why Senate Republicans are being so secretive with their Obamacare repeal plan” *Vox – Mischief of Faction*, June 20, 2017
- “Our Top-Down Congress,” *Medium* (subscription only), April 6, 2017
- “Why House Republicans are keeping their health care bill secret” *Vox – Mischief of Faction*, March 2, 2017
- “Congress is far more bipartisan than headlines suggest,” (with Frances E. Lee) *Washington Post*, December 20, 2016

Book Reviews

- Review of E. Lawrence Evans, *The Whips* (University of Michigan Press) in *Congress & the Presidency*, 2019
- Review of William Bernhard and Tracy Sulkin, *Legislative Style* (University of Chicago Press) in *Political Science Quarterly* 134(1), 2019
- Review of Ruth Bloch Rubin, *Building the Bloc* (Cambridge University Press) in *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4), 2018
- Review of Justin Grimmer, Sean J. Westwood, and Solomon Messing, *Impression of Influence* (Princeton University Press) in *Perspectives on Politics* 14(4), 2016
- Review of Marc J. Hetherington and Thomas J. Rudolph, *Why Washington Won’t Work* (University of Chicago Press) in *The Forum* 14(3), 2016
- Review of Tom Allen, *Dangerous Convictions: What’s Really Wrong with the U.S. Congress* (Oxford University Press) in *Public Integrity* 15(3), 2013-14

- Presentations & Talks (since 2018)
- “Minority Party Capacity in Congress” (w/ Andrew Ballard)
Invited Talk, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
January 25, 2021
 - “Inter-personal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress”
(w/ Jason Roberts) Invited Talk, American University, September 21, 2020
 - “Inter-personal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress”
(w/ Jason Roberts) 2020 APSA Annual Meeting, September 11, 2020
 - “Minority Party Capacity in Congress” (w/ Andrew Ballard)
University of Oklahoma, American Politics Workshop, June 11, 2020
 - “Party Unity and Minority Party Leverage in U.S. House Agenda Setting”
(w/ Andrew Ballard), 2020 MPSA Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR, January 9, 2020
 - “In the Dark Legislating and the Congressional Workplace”
Conference on the Organizational Climate of Congress, UMD, Oct. 24-25, 2019
 - “Reconsidering Responsible Parties: Majority Party (In)Capacity in a Polarized Congress”
(w/ Frances Lee), Partisanship Reconsidered: A Conference to Honor
David Magleby, BYU, Provo, UT, June 6, 2019
 - “Restrained Majority Party Agenda Control in the U.S. House of Representatives”
(w/ Andrew Ballard), 2019 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 5, 2019
 - “State’s Congressional Delegations and the Distribution of Federal Funds”
(w/ Christopher Donnelly) 2019 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 5, 2019
 - “The Limits of Party: Congress and Lawmaking in a Polarized Era,” Invited Talk
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, TN, March 22, 2019
 - “Congressional Organization, Power, and Capacity” Invited Talk,
Today’s Challenges to a Functional Congress: Revitalizing Article I, Sponsored by
the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Foundation, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2019
 - “Giving the Minority Credit: Restrained Majority Party Agenda Control in the
House of Representatives” (with Andrew Ballard), Winter 2019 NCAPSA
American Politics Workshop, College Park, MD, January 7, 2019
 - “The Limits of Party Influence: Congress and Lawmaking” Invited talk,
UNC, Chapel Hill, Department of Political Science, November 16, 2018
 - “Portraying Partisanship? Politicians’ Reactions to Congressional Action in
the News Media,” (with Frances Lee), 2018 APSA Annual Meeting, Sept. 1, 2018
 - “Why Do Majority Parties Fail to Enact their Agendas?” (with Frances Lee)
2018 Congress and History Conference, Princeton University, June 7-8, 2018
 - “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes”
(with Frances Lee) Legislative Rules & Procedures Conference, University
of Georgia, May 17-19, 2018
 - “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes”
(with Frances Lee) 2018 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 8, 2018
 - “Capacity in a Centralized Congress,” (with Frances Lee) The State of
Congressional Capacity Conference, New America, Washington, DC, March 1-2, 2018
 - “The Consequences of the Decline of ‘Regular Order’ in Congress,” Invited talk,
Duke University, Department of Political Science, January 11, 2018

Courses
Taught

Undergraduate

Introduction to American Government
U.S. Congress
The American Presidency
Research Seminar: Leadership & U.S. Politics
Research Seminar: Party Polarization in the United States
National Internship Program (with the Hinckley Institute)
Capital Encounter (with the Hinckley Institute)

Graduate

American Political Institutions
U.S. Congress / American Legislatures (independent study)
Advanced Quantitative Methods
Teaching Political Science

Service &
Memberships

American Political Science Association

Legislative Studies Section
Secretary-Treasurer, 2015-19
Chair, Alan Rosenthal Prize Award Committee, 2017
Member, Carl Albert Dissertation Award Committee, 2013
Other Service
Member, Committee on Organized Sections, 2019-
Take Force on Congressional Reform, 2019
APSA Dissertation Workshop on U.S. Congressional Politics, 2017 (co-leader)

Midwest Political Science Association

Section Head for Legislative Institutions, 2018 Annual Meeting

Scholars Strategy Network

Member: 2015-
Utah Chapter, co-leader: 2015-

Article Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review;
American Politics Research; Congress & the Presidency; Electoral Studies;
Interest Groups & Advocacy; Journal of Politics; Legislative Studies Quarterly;
Perspectives on Politics; Policy Studies; Political Behavior; Politics;
PS: Political Science & Politics; Presidential Studies Quarterly; Social Science Research

Manuscript Reviewer

Cambridge University Press; Princeton University Press; University of Chicago Press;
University of Michigan Press; University of Kansas Press

Service &
Memberships

Departmental Service

Director of Graduate Studies, Fall 2019-
Chair, American Politics Subfield, Fall 2020-
Member, Department of Political Science, Executive Committee, Fall 2019-
Chair, American Politics Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2020-21
Chair, Major Brent R. Taylor Endowed Scholarship Committee, Spring 2020
Chair, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, Spring 2019
Member, American Politics / Law & Courts Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2018-19
Member, Political Science Strategic Hiring Committee, 2016, 2018
Member, Political Research Colloquium Committee, 2012-13, 2017-19
Member, Society, Water, and Climate Cluster Hire Search Committee, 2015-16
Member, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, Spring 2014
Faculty advisor, *Hinckley Journal of Politics*, 2013, 2016, 2020, 2021

University Service

Member, Distinguished Scholarship Endorsement Committee, 2017-19
Member, Special UROP Awards Review Committee, 2017-18
Member, University Teaching Assistantships Committee, 2012-13

Testimony

“Fostering Deliberation in the U.S. House of Representatives”
Testimony before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress,
United States House of Representatives, February 5, 2020

(Updated: March 2021)