

Benjamin Toll

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

Phone: (812) 929-9025
Email: benjamin.toll@wilkes.edu
Homepage: <http://www.benjamintoll.net>

Employment

Wilkes University (Spring 2024-)
Associate Professor of Political Science and Criminology

Wilkes University (Fall 2019-Spring 2024)
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Criminology

Lake Superior State University (Fall 2016-June 2019)
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Miami University (August 2014-June 2016)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington (2015).

M.A. Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington (2012).

M.A. J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, Baylor University (2010).

B.A. Political Science and Sociology, Taylor University (Upland, IN) (2006).

Other Applicable Work

Student Life Assistant-Interim Orientation Director
Austin Community College (2006-2008)

GEAR UP Graduate Assistant
Baylor University (2009-2010)

Emergency Math Teacher
LaVega High School (2010)

State Politics and Policy Conference Coordinator
Indiana University (2014)

Research Associate at Center For Public Management and Regional Affairs
Miami University (2014-2016)

Government Relations Director
Lake Superior State University (2017-2019)

Research

Peer Reviewed Work

A Paradox of Polarization? Cross-Pressured Representatives and the Missing Incentive to Moderate.
World Affairs Journal 182, no. 1: 61-96 (Spring, 2019).

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1177/0043820019825934>

Campaigns in the Eighth Congressional District: What Does It Mean to Be "One of Us"? in *Are All Politics Nationalized? Evidence from the 2020 Campaigns in Pennsylvania*. Temple University Press, (2022): 109-134.

Using TV to Teach? Teaching Civics and Democratic Ideals Through *The West Wing* and *House of Cards*.
Journal of Social Science Education (2022) 21(3). <https://doi.org/10.11576/jsse-4493>

Partisan Self-Interest and Views on the Electoral College: How Electoral Inversions Activate Differences in Support for the System. with Courtney Corona (*undergraduate student*), (2024) 52(2): 157-169
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1532673X231220651>

Religion and Congress in *The Routledge Handbook of Politics and Religion in Contemporary America*, (2025): Chapter 21.

Under Review

Politicizing Christianity Today? How Elite Evangelical Voices Communicate about Immigration with Nicholas Antolick (*undergraduate student*)—revise and resubmit at *Politics and Religion*.

The End of Straight Ticket Voting and its Impact on Congressional and State Legislative Races –under review

Working Papers

Terminally Online and Terminally Polarized: The Effect of Social Media Use on Issue Extremity in Election and Non-Election Years with Kae Hughes and Nick Antolick

The Different Paths Taken by States to Help Teens Aging Out of Foster Care

Education's Battle: How Universities and Community Colleges Fight in Scarcity

Politicizing Higher Education: Gubernatorial Appointments to State Higher Education Boards

The Religion of Whiteness and its Effect on Immigration Policy

Religious Language and Views of Social Welfare Policy in the United States

Non-Peer Reviewed

Ohio: A Sure Bet as Battleground & Bellwether. Invited editorial for *The Ripon Society*, February 2016.
–with **Bryan W. Marshall**

Book Review of *The People's news: Media, Politics, and the Demands of Capitalism*. By **Joseph E. Uscinski** – *Perspectives on Politics* 14, no. 4 (December, 2016): 1228-1229.

Book Review of *Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right*. By **Seth Dowland** – *Political Science Quarterly* 132, no. 1 (Spring, 2017): 189-191.

Book Review of *The Constant Two Plan: Reforming the Electoral College to Account for the National Popular Vote* by **Jay Wendland** – *Political Science Quarterly* <https://doi.org/10.1093/psquar/qqaf067>.

Media Interviews

More than 400 in recent years: YLE Press (Finnish Public Broadcasting), *Wikes-Barre Citizen's Press*, *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, Swedish Broadcasting Corporation, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *The Guardian*, *Scranton Times*, WNEP-TV (TV and podcast), *Tokyo Shimbun* (3,000,000 daily readers), France Info (national radio). *Beacon* (student newspaper), HBL (national radio in Finland), *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (largest newspaper in Germany), *Le Point* (French weekly), *Asahi Shimbun* (one of the largest newspapers in Japan), News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR), *Newspaper Ilta-Sanomat* (Finland), NOS News (public broadcasting in Netherlands), Newsweek digital, SKY News, *The Sault Star*, Canadian Broadcasting Company, and Jiji Press.

Teaching

Wilkes University

Introduction to American Politics, U.S. Congress, Public Policy Analysis, Urban Politics, Media and Politics, Politics of Money and Sports, Campaigns and Elections, Conspiracy Theories (team taught), Politics of Race and Policing, U.S. Presidency, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Introduction to Public Administration, Northern Ireland: Past, Present, and Future (team taught), American Polarization and Democracy, and Quantitative Reasoning for the Social Sciences.

Lake Superior State University

Introduction to American Politics, State and Local Politics, Congress and the Presidency, Political Science Research and Methods, Media and Politics, Introduction to the Legal Process, Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties, Honors Seminar on *The West Wing* and *House of Cards*, Public Opinion and Campaigns in the United States, and Senior Seminar in Political Science

Miami University

Politics and National Issues; American Political System; U.S. Campaigns and Elections, Public Opinion Laboratory, Public Opinion (writing course), and Political Communication

Indiana University, Bloomington

Introduction to American Politics; State and Local Politics; Voting, Elections, and Public Opinion; and U.S. Congress.

Conference Presentations

Paul Henry Symposium on Religion and Politics (2013)

Midwest Political Science Association (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2023)

Southern Political Science Association (2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, and 2025)

American Political Science Association (2018, 2020, 2023, and 2024)

Service

To The Discipline

Discussant at MPSA (2016, 2017, and 2022)

Chair at MPSA (2017 and 2022)

Discussant at APSA (2020, and 2023)

Discussant at SPSA (2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, and 2025)

Chair at SPSA (2020 and 2022)

Reviewer for *American Politics Research*, *Politics and Policy*, *Oxford University Press*, *Religion and Politics*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Penn State Press*, *Congress and the Presidency*

Committee on Best Poster Presented in Public Policy Section at APSA 2020

Graduate Assistant for Jerry Wright and the 2014 State Politics and Policy Conference hosted at Indiana University

Content Specialist (Team Lead) for Sage Press on Keeping the Republic 7th Edition Interactive Learning Program

Syllabus Collection Project for Courses on Political Parties, Interest Groups, Political Campaigns, and Elections, 2012 for the *Section on Political Organizations and Parties* of the *American Political Science Association*.-with **Marjorie Randon Hershey and Ian G. Anson**

To the University

Project Supervisor leading undergraduates with the *Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs* at Miami University.

Honors Council at Lake Superior State University (2016-2019)

Advisor of the Judiciary Board at Lake Superior State University (2016-2019)

Advisor of the Elections Committee for Student Government at Lake Superior State University (2016-2019)

Faculty Committee on First Year Experience at Lake Superior State University (2017-2019)

State Relations Officer for Lake Superior State University to the Michigan Association of State Universities (2017-2019)

Pre-Law advisor for Lake Superior State University (2017-2019)

Honors Co-Director at Lake Superior State University (2018-2019)
Men's Volleyball Faculty Member at Wilkes University (2019-2020)
AICUP Day on the Hill coordinator for Wilkes University (2019-2024)
Chess Club advisor at Wilkes University (2020-)
Academic Standards Committee at Wilkes University (2020-2024) *Chair for 2022-2023 AY, and 2023-2024 AY
Political Society at Wilkes University co-advisor (2020-)
Pi Sigma Alpha co-advisor at Wilkes University (2020-)
Barre Scholar Program faculty representative at Wilkes University (2021-)
Strategic Long Range Planning Committee at Wilkes University (2022-2026)
Honors Program Advisory Council at Wilkes University (2022-2028) *Chair for 2023-2024 AY
Faculty Affairs Council (2024-2027) *Chair for 2025-2026 AY
Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees Finance Committee (2024-2027)

To the Community

Licensed foster parent (2016-2024)

Youth soccer coach

Youth baseball/softball coach

Care Portal Advisory Team

Northeastern Pennsylvania Citizen's Review Panel of Child Welfare System (2021-2024) - We put together policy recommendations after a year of research for the Office of Children Youth and Family for Pennsylvania.

Awards/Memberships

2023-2024 Wilkes University President's Award for Research and Scholarship

2022-2023 Wilkes University Innovative and Non-Traditional Teaching Award (awarded to one faculty per year)

2021-2022 Outstanding Faculty Member at Wilkes University (voted by student government)

2020-2021 Outstanding New Professor at Wilkes University (awarded to one faculty in their second or third year)

2018-2019 Advisor of the Year at Lake Superior State University (voted by student government)

2011-2012 Recipient of John V. Gillespie Memorial Scholarship for Methods Training at ICPSR (\$2,500)

2012-2013 Recipient of Outstanding Associate Instructor for Department of Political Science

American Political Science Association (2009-Present)

Southern Political Science Association (2013-Present)

Midwest Political Science Association (2013-Present)

References

Marjorie Randon Hershey
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Indiana University
1100 East Seventh Street
Bloomington, IN 47405
812-332-6473
hershey@indiana.edu

Pat Haney
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Political Science
Miami University (OH)
143 Upham Hall
100 Bishop Circle
Oxford, OH 45056-1879
513-529-1232 (CAS) or 513-529-4321 (Political Science)
haneypj@miamioh.edu

Bryan Marshall
Professor of Political Science, Department Chair
Miami University
218 Harrison Hall
Oxford, OH
513-529-2000
marshabw@miamioh.edu

Kyle Kreider
Professor of Political Science, Division Chair
Wilkes University
84 W. South Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
570-408-4473
kyle.kreider@wilkes.edu