

Jason Matthew Roberts

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Professor of Political Science, July 2017–

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Adjunct Professor–School of Civic Life and Leadership, October 2023–June 2024

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Acting Chair–Political Science, January 2021–June 2021

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Associate Chair–Political Science, July 2013–December 2020

CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE LAWMAKING AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Faculty Affiliate, September 2019–

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Associate Professor of Political Science, July 2010–June 2017

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, Assistant Professor of Political Science, July 2008–June 2010

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Law, August 2004–June 2008

EDUCATION

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY—ST. LOUIS, Ph.D in Political Science, 2005
Dissertation: *“Parties, Procedures, and Agendas: Institutional Choice and Congressional Decision-Making.”* Steven S. Smith, Chair.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY, M.A. in Political Science, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA, B.S. *Magna Cum Laude* in Political Science and History, May 1998

BOOKS

- The Politics of Ballot Design: How States Shape American Democracy.* 2020. Cambridge University Press. With Erik J. Engstrom.
- Ambition, Competition, and Electoral Reform: The Politics of Congressional Elections Across Time.* 2013. University of Michigan Press. With Jamie L. Carson
- Why Not Parties?: Party Effects in the United States Senate* 2008, University of Chicago Press. Co-edited with Nathan Monroe and David W. Rohde.
- The American Congress* 10th edition, 2019. Rowman and Littlefield. With Steven S. Smith and Ryan J. Vander Wielen.
- The American Congress* 4th edition, 2005; 5th edition 2007; 6th edition 2009; 7th edition 2011; 8th edition 2013; 9th edition, 2015, Cambridge University Press. With Steven S. Smith and Ryan J. Vander Wielen.
- The American Congress Reader* 2008, Cambridge University Press. With Steven S. Smith and Ryan J. Vander Wielen.

REFEREED ARTICLES

- “Interpersonal Relationships, Bipartisanship, and January 6th.” *American Political Science Review.* 119 (August 2025) 1542-1548. With James Curry.
- “Dropbox Allocation and Use Among Georgia Voters in the 2020 Election.” *Election Law Journal.* November 2023. With Michael Greenberger.
- “Inter-Personal Relationships and Legislative Collaboration in Congress.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 48 (May 2023) 333-369. With James Curry.
- “Careerism, Status Quo Bias, and the Politics of Congressional Apportionment.” *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 2 (October 2022) 391-414.
- “Nomination Struggles in the Post-Nuclear Senate.” January 2021. *The Forum.* With Emily M. Cottle.
- “The Electoral Consequences of Roll Call Voting: Health Care and the 2018 Election.” 2020. *Political Behavior.* With Austin Bussing, Will Patton, and Sarah A. Treul.
- “Obstruction and the Politics of Civilian Nominations.” *American Politics Research* 48 (May 2020) 414-421. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “The De-Institutionalization of Congress.” *Political Science Quarterly* 133 (Fall 2018) 475-495. With Anthony J. Chergosky.
- “The Dimensionality of Congressional Voting Reconsidered.” *American Politics Research* 44 (September 2016) 794-815. With Steve Haptonstahl and Steven S. Smith.
- “The Cost of Majority Party Bias: Amending Activity Under Structured Rules.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 41 (August 2016) 633-655. With Michael S. Lynch and Anthony J. Madonna.

- “Party Committee Targeting and the Evolution of Competition in U.S. House Elections.” *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*, 26 (February 2016): 96-114. With Jacob F. Smith and Sarah A. Treul.
- “Short Term Goals and Long Term Effects: The Mongrel Tariff and the Creation of the Special Rule in the U.S. House.” *Journal of Policy History*, 28 (Summer 2016) 318-341. With Scott A. Hendrickson.
- “The Politics of Obstruction: Republican Holds in the U.S. Senate.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 40 (May 2015): 273-294. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “The Development of Special Orders and Special Rules in the U.S. House, 1881-1937.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 35 (August 2010): 307-336.
- “The Statistical Analysis of Roll Call Data: A Cautionary Tale.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 32 (August 2007): 341-360.
- “Candidate Quality, the Personal Vote, and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress.” *American Political Science Review*, 101 (May 2007): 289-301. With Jamie L. Carson and Erik J. Engstrom.
- “Redistricting, Candidate Entry, and the Politics of Nineteenth Century U.S. House Elections.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (April 2006): 283-293. With Jamie L. Carson and Erik J. Engstrom.
- “Minority Rights and Majority Power: Conditional Party Government and the Motion to Recommit in the House, 1909-2000.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 30 (May 2005): 219-234.
- “Strategic Politicians and U.S. House Elections, 1874-1914.” *The Journal of Politics* 67 (May 2005): 474-496. With Jamie L. Carson.
- “Pivotal Politics, Presidential Capital, and Supreme Court Nominations.” *Congress and the Presidency* 32(Spring 2005): 31-48. With Timothy R. Johnson
- “Presidential Capital and the Supreme Court Nomination Process.” *The Journal of Politics*. 66 (August 2004): 663-683. With Timothy R. Johnson.
- “Procedural Contexts, Party Strategy, and Conditional Party Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1971-2000.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (April 2003): 305-317. With Steven S. Smith.
- “Are All Amateurs Equal? Candidate Quality in the 1992-1998 U.S. House Elections.” *Politics and Policy* 30 (September 2002): 482-501. With Stephen C. Roberds.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “The Value of Relationships in a Changing Congress.” 2025.. In *Congress Reconsidered, 13th edition*. eds. Lawrence Dodd, C. Larry Evans, and Ruth Bloch Rubin. CQ Press.
- “The Nationalization of Congressional Elections.” 2020. In *New Directions in Congressional Politics*. eds. Jamie L. Carson and Michael S. Lynch. Routledge. With Rachel Porter.

- “Measuring Party Leadership Effectiveness in the U.S. Congress. *Democracy Papers*, 2019.
- “The Politics of Ballot Choice.” 2016, *The Ohio State Law Journal* 77 (4): 839-865. With Erik J. Engstrom.
- “House Rules and Procedure: A Procedural Arms Race.” In *New Directions in Congressional Politics*. Jamie L. Carson, editor. New York: Routledge, 2011.
- “House and Senate Elections.” In *Oxford Handbook of Congress*. Frances Lee and Eric Schickler, editors. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- “Assessing the Impact of Parties in the U.S. Senate.” 2008. In *Why Not Parties?: Party Effects in the United States Senate*. University of Chicago Press. Editors, Nathan Monroe, Jason M. Roberts, and David W. Rohde. With Nathan Monroe and David W. Rohde.
- “Scoring the Senate: Scorecards, Parties, and Roll-Call Votes.” 2008. In *Why Not Parties?: Party Effects in the United States Senate*. University of Chicago Press. Editors, Nathan Monroe, Jason M. Roberts, and David W. Rohde. With Lauren Cohen Bell.
- “The U.S. Supreme Court Justices Database.” *Law and Courts* (Spring 2007): 14-15. With Lee Epstein, Nancy Staudt, Thomas G. Walker, and Scott Hendrickson.
- “Selecting Supreme Court Justices Dialogue.” *Focus on Law Studies* XX(2) (Spring 2005): 1-20. With Timothy R. Johnson.
- “The Evolution of Agenda-Setting Institutions in Congress: Path Dependency in House and Senate Institutional Development.” 2007. In *Process, Party and Policy Making: Further New Perspectives on the History of Congress*. David Brady and Mathew McCubbins, editors. Stanford University Press. With Steven S. Smith.
- “Candidates, Parties, and the Politics of U.S. House Elections Across Time.” 2007. In *Process, Party and Policy Making: Further New Perspectives on the History of Congress*. David Brady and Mathew McCubbins, editors. Stanford University Press. With Jamie L. Carson.
- “Parties, Presidents, and Procedures: The Battle Over Judicial Nominations in the U.S. Senate.” *Extensions: A Journal of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center* Spring 2004: 13-18. Reprinted in *Courts, Judges, and Politics: An Introduction to the Judicial Process*. 6th Edition, Walter F. Murphy, C. Herman Pritchett, Lee Epstein, and Jack Knight, editors. McGraw Hill.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Center for Effective Lawmaking, Small Grant Competition, 2023. \$1,000. With James Curry.
- Evolving Election Administration Landscape, MIT, 2022. \$60,819. With Michael Greenberger.

- Program on Legislative Negotiation, American University, 2020. \$19,000. With James Curry.
- Center for Effective Lawmaking, Small Grant Competition, 2019. \$2,000. With James Curry.
- “Collaborative Research: Causes and Consequences of the American Ballot” Co-PI with Erik J. Engstrom. 2012-2014. National Science Foundation, SES-1060978. 25% effort \$130,367; \$91,865 direct, \$38,502 indirect.
- University of North Carolina-University Research Council, 2009. \$4150.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Travel, Relationships, and Bipartisan Collaboration in Congress.” Inaugural Isakson Legacy Fund Presentation at the University of Georgia, September 2025.
- “Relationships and Collaboration in Congress.” Presented at Purdue University, September 2023.
- “Election Worker Recruitment and Retention in North Carolina” Presented at the North Carolina State Elections Conference, August 2023.
- “The Politics of Ballot Laws: How States Shape American Democracy.” Presented at Washington University in St. Louis (virtually), April 2021.
- “Interpersonal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at American University (virtually), September 2020.
- “Ballot Type and Legislative Effectiveness.” Presented at the University of Virginia, June 2019.
- “Party Effectiveness in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at the University of Rochester, March 2016.
- “The Politics of Institutional Change: Evidence from State Ballot Laws.” Presented at the 2015 Symposium on The History and Future of Election Law, Moritz School of Law, Ohio State University.
- “The Politics of Apportionment.” Presented at the 2014 University of Maryland Congress and History Conference.
- “The Politics of Obstruction.” Presented at the University of Wisconsin, March 2014.
- “Obstruction and Holds in the U.S. Senate.” Presented at Duke University, January 2014.
- “Special Rules in the U.S. House.” Presented at the College of William and Mary, October 2011.
- “Agenda Setting in the U.S. House: Then and Now.” Presented at the University of South Carolina Political Science Research Workshop, October 2010.

“Bicameralism, Ballot Type, and Split-Ticket Voting.” Presented at the 2009 Legislative Elections, Process, and Policy: The Influence of Bicameralism Conference. Vanderbilt University, October 2009.

“The Dimensionality of Congressional Voting Reconsidered” Presented at the 2009 Duke University Conference on Bicameralism.

“Ballot Type and Congressional Elections.” Presented at the 2008 Duke University Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models workshop.

“Ballot Type and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress.” Presented at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill American Politics Research Group, February 2008.

“Ambition, Competition, and Electoral Reform.” Presented at the 2007 Duke University Political Institutions and Public Choice (PIPC) seminar. With Jamie L. Carson.

“The Impact of Progressive Era Reforms on U.S. House Elections.” Presented at the 2007 Princeton University History of Congress Conference. With Jamie L. Carson.

“The Politics of Congressional Redistricting, Past and Present.” Presented at the 2006 Restoring Electoral Competition conference at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. With Erik J. Engstrom.

“Scoring the U.S. Senate: Scorecards, Parties, and Roll-Call Votes.” Presented at the 2006 Duke University Conference on Party Effects in the United States Senate conference. With Lauren Cohen Bell.

“Assessing the Incumbency Advantage Over Time: Evidence from the Nineteenth Century U.S. House of Representatives.” Presented at the 2005 Washington University Congress and History Workshop. With Jamie L. Carson and Erik J. Engstrom.

“The Evolution of Agenda-Setting Institutions in the House and Senate.” Presented at the 2003 History of Congress Conference, San Diego, CA. With Steven S. Smith.

“Using History as a Laboratory to Study Congressional Elections and Institutional Development.” Presented at the 2003 History of Congress Conference, San Diego, CA. With Jamie Carson.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Interpersonal Relationships, Lawmaking, and the Sedition Caucus.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Associate, April 2023. With James Curry.

“Election Worker Recruitment and Retention in North Carolina.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Associate, April 2023. With Michael Greenberger.

“Interpersonal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2021. With James Curry.

“Parties, Elections, and Whipped Votes in Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2021. With Sarah A. Treul.

- “Interpersonal Relationships and Legislative Action in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2020. With James Curry.
- “The Distributive and Representational Consequences of House Vacancies.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2020. With Emily Cottle, Michael Greenberger, and Sarah Treul.
- “Party Effectiveness in Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2019.
- “Party Effectiveness in Congress.” Presented at the Anxieties of Democracy Workshop at the Social Science Research Council, October 2018.
- “Party Effectiveness in Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2018.
- “The Effect of Town Halls on Representation in Congress.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Associate, April 2018. With Austin Bussing, Will Patton, and Sarah Treul.
- “Everyones a Little Bit Activist: Judicial Activism on the U.S. Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Ryan J. Williams.
- “Party Effectiveness in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nathan W. Monroe.
- “The Deinstitutionalization of Congress.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Anthony J. Chergosky.
- “Party Effectiveness in the U.S. Congress.” Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Nathan W. Monroe.
- “The Effect of Ballot Type on Congressional Behavior.” Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Erik J. Engstrom.
- “The Politics of Nominations: Obstruction and Civilian Nominations.” Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “Institutional Variation in Constituents’ Responses to Congressional Votes.” Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Steven S. Smith.
- “Holding Up the Senate: A Preliminary Analysis of Republican Holds Under Dole.” Presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “The Politics of Ballot Choice.” Presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. With Erik J. Engstrom.
- “Party Organizations, Candidate Recruitment, and U.S. House Elections.” Presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Sarah A. Treul.
- “The House Majority Party and the Rules Committee: Bargaining over Chamber Procedure. ” Presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Michael Lynch and Anthony Madonna.

- “The Politics of Institutional Choice: Evidence from Ballot Laws.” Presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Erik J. Engstrom.
- “The Dimensionality of Congressional Voting Reconsidered.” Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Steven S. Smith and Steve Haptonstahl.
- “The Effect of Ballot Type on Congressional Elections, 1946-2006.” Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Winner the Patrick J. Fett award for the best paper on the scientific study of Congress and the Presidency
- “The Will of the Minority: The Rule of Four on the United States Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Songying Fang and Timothy R. Johnson.
- “Scoring the U.S. Senate: Scorecards, Parties, and Roll-Call Votes.” Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Lauren Cohen Bell.
- “Keeping Score: Parties, Interest Groups, and Roll-Call Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives.” Presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Lauren Cohen Bell.
- “Assessing the Incumbency Advantage Over Time: Evidence from the Nineteenth Century U.S. House of Representatives.” Presented at the 2005 Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association and the 2005 American Political Science Association. With Jamie L. Carson and Erik J. Engstrom.
- “Issues, Agendas, and Amendments: The House and Senate Roll Call Records in Comparative Perspective.” Presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “Congressional Redistricting and Candidate Entry Decisions in Nineteenth Century U.S. House Elections.” Presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Jamie L. Carson and Erik Engstrom.
- “The Development of Special Orders and Special Rules in the U.S. House, 1883-1945.” Presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “The Will of the Minority? The Rule of Four on the United States Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Timothy R. Johnson.
- “Minority Rights and Majority Power: Conditional Party Government and the Motion to Recommit in the House, 1909-2000.” Presented at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “The Historical Context of Congressional Elections: Candidate Emergence in 19th and Early 20th Century U.S. House Elections.” Presented at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Jamie L. Carson.
- “Strategy and Choice in 19th Century House Elections.” Presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Jamie L. Carson.

- “Conditional Party Voting: House Voting Reforms and Aggregate Voting Measures.”
Presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Steven S. Smith.
- “The Use of Presidential Capital in Supreme Court Nominations.” Presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Timothy R. Johnson.
- “Choosing Wisely: Assessing the Politics of Supreme Court Nominations.” Presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Timothy R. Johnson.
- “Determining ‘Predominate Motive’: Race, Redistricting, and the Supreme Court in North Carolina.” Presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Guy-Uriel E. Charles.
- “One Dimension or Two?: Analyzing Roll-Call Votes on Women’s Issue.” Presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “Divisive Primaries in U.S. House Elections: An Analysis of the 1990s.” Presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Stephen C. Roberds.
- “Dimensions of Voting: Women’s Issues in the 105th Congress.” Presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Lisa Dean.
- “Are All Amateurs Equal? Candidate Quality in the 1992-1998 U.S. House Elections.” Presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Stephen C. Roberds.
- “Incumbent Scandals in the 1998 House Elections.” Presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. With Stephen C. Roberds.
- “Amateur Candidate Quality in U.S. House Elections: 1992-1996.” Presented at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Stephen C. Roberds and Darren T. Kennemer.

SERVICE

Service to Discipline

- Council Member, Midwest Political Science Association, 2022 –
- Co-editor, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 2021–
- Editorial Board, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 2019–
- Member, APSA Presidential Task Force on Congressional Reform, 2019
- Subcommittee Chair, APSA Presidential Task Force on Congressional Reform, 2019
- Editorial Board, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, 2014-2018
- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Political Science*, 2010-2013

Service to Community

- Member, Orange County, NC Board of Elections, 2019–

Service to University

- Carolina Covenant Mentor, August 2023 –
- Strategic Plan Captain for “Promote Democracy, ” August 2022 –
- UNC Committee on Academic Freedom and Free Speech, January 2023 –
- Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee, August 2022 –
- Administrative Boards of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences, July 2022 –
- Acting Chair, Department of Political Science, January 2021–June 2021
- Associate Chair, Department of Political Science, July 2013–December 2020
- Social Science Data Science Curriculum Working Group, 2019