

Leah A. Murray

Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor,
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Director,
Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service

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Education

Ph.D.: Political Science, University at Albany, SUNY, 2004
B.A.: Political Science and Newspaper Journalism (*Cum Laude*), Syracuse University, 1996

Employment

2022 - ff Director, Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service
2020 - 2022 Academic Director, Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service
2015 - ff Professor, Department of Political Science and Philosophy
2010-2015 Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Philosophy,
Democratic Engagement Coordinator, Center for Community Engaged Learning
2004-2010 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Philosophy,
2002-2004 Instructor, Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Previous Employment

2001-2002 Adjunct Faculty, College of St. Rose, Albany, New York
2001 Visiting Instructor, Skidmore College, Saratoga, New York
1999-2001 Adjunct Faculty and Graduate Instructor, University at Albany, SUNY
1997-1999 Research Assistant, Rockefeller Institute, Albany, New York

Publications

Books

American National Government. San Diego: Cognella, 2011.
Politics and Popular Culture. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.

Book Chapters

"Who's in the Room When it Happens: Use of Data Driven Analysis and Power Mapping to Build an Inclusive Political Engagement Coalition." In *Leaning into Politics: Higher Education's Role in Building the Democracy We Need*. Abraham

- Goldberg and Carah Ong Whaley, ed. Information Age Publishing, 2024.
- “Is the Engagement Working? Assessing Political Engagement Across Multiple Departments.” In *Civic Pedagogy: Teaching Engagement in an Era of Divisive Politics*. Lauren Bell, Carah Ong Whaley, and Allison Rank, ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.
- “George W. Bush.” In *Hatred of America’s Presidents: Personal Attacks on the White House from Washington to Trump*. Lori Cox Han, ed. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2018.
- “Effectively Using Facebook to Foster Civic Engagement.” In *Technology and Civic Engagement in the College Classroom: Engaging the Unengaged*, Suzanne Chod, Stephen Caliendo, and William Muck, eds. Hounmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015.
- “Tea for Only Two: The Ousting of Utah Senator Robert Bennett.” In *Tea Party Effects on 2010 U.S. Senate Elections: Stuck in the Middle to Lose*, William J. Miller and Jeremy Walling, eds. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2011. (co-authors: Matthew D. Frei, J. Quin Monson, Kelly D. Patterson)
- “Democracy Indicted: The Case for Political Judgment Found in *Battlestar Galactica*.” In *Politics and Popular Culture*, Leah A. Murray, ed. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.
- “Hollywood Politics: The Popular Culture Factor in 21st Century Politics.” In *Politics and Popular Culture*, Leah A. Murray, ed. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.
- “Utah.” In the *Political Encyclopedia of States and Regions*, Donald P. Haider-Markel, Michael A. Card, Ronald Keith Gaddie, Gary Moncrief, and Kenneth T. Palmer, eds. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2009.
- “The Limitations of E-Democracy.” In *Communicating Politics: Engaging the Public in Democratic Life*, M.S. McKinney, L.L. Kaid, D.G. Bystrom, and D.B. Carlin, eds. New York: Peter Lang, 2005. (co-authors: Anne Hildreth and J.C. Strachan)

Journal Articles

- “A Comparative Assessment of Approaches to Studying Institutional Climates for Political Learning and Participation in Democracy.” With Nancy Thomas and Kyle Upchurch, in *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, Volume 27, No. 3, 2023.
- “Assessing and Improving Political Learning and Engagement on College Campuses.” With Nancy Thomas and Kyle Upchurch, in *eJournal of Public Affairs* volume 10, No. 3, 2021.
- “Stewards of Place: The Role of Dialogue and Deliberation in Strengthening Our Universities and Colleges.” With Windy Y. Lawrence, Zach Justus and Barbara A. Brown. *eJournal of Public Affairs*, Volume 4, No. 3, 2015.

Additional Publications

- “A State-Centered Approach to Teaching Presidential Elections.” In Presidents and Executive Politics Section of the American Political Science Association Report Volume 35 Number 1 (December) 2012.

Selected entries (7) in *Encyclopedia of American Government and Civics*, Lori Cox Han and Michael Genovese, eds. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Items for The Democratic Debate: An Introduction to American Politics by Bruce Miroff, Ray Seidelman, and Todd Swanstrom. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.

"Interconnecting Tissue: A Quantitative Analysis of the Inter-Branch Policy Conversations." In APSA Legislative Studies Section Newsletter Volume 25 Number 1 (January), *Extension of Remarks*, 2002.

Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Items for The Democratic Debate: An Introduction to American Politics by Bruce Miroff, Ray Seidelman, and Todd Swanstrom. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001. (co-author: Paul S. Goggi III)

"Dilemmas of Representation: The Home Styles of New York State Representatives in the 1990s." In APSA Legislative Studies Section Newsletter Volume 22 Number 2 (July), *Extension of Remarks*, 1999.

Reviews

Walter Nugent, *Color Coded: Party Politics in the American West 1950 – 2016*. *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 2021.

Murray, Leah A. "Review of the *Consortium for Inter-Campus SoTL Research*." *Journal of Political Science Education* Volume 12 Issue 3 15 April 2016, pp 369-370.

Located online:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15512169.2016.1153871>

Barbara Jacoby and Associates, *Civic Engagement in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices*. *eJournal of Public Affairs*, Volume 3, No. 2, 2014.

Steven A. Shull, *Policy by Other Means: Alternative Adoption by Presidents*. *Congress and the Presidency*, Volume 35, No. 1, Spring 2008.

Roger T. Larocca, *The Presidential Agenda: Sources of Executive Influence in Congress*. *Congress and the Presidency*, Volume 34, No. 2, Autumn 2007.

David Mark, *Going Dirty: The Art of Negative Campaigning*. *Political Science Quarterly* Volume 121, No. 3, Winter 2006.

Michael Comiskey, *Seeking Justices: the Judging of Supreme Court Nominees*. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Volume 35, No. 4, December 2005.

Honors and Awards

Awards

2024	Weber State Athletics Faculty Mentor of the Year
2019	Brady Distinguished Professor
2018	Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy Distinguished Alumna in Political Science
2017 – 2020	College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Endowed Professor
2015	John A. Lindquist Award

- 2015 Hemingway Faculty Excellence Award for Four Freedoms
- 2012 Utah Campus Compact Service-Learning Engaged Scholar
- 2011 Weber State University Outstanding Partner to Student Affairs
- 2007 Hemingway Faculty Excellence Award for Constitution Week
- 2007 Utah System of Higher Education Exemplary Use of Technology Faculty Award
- 2005 Hemingway Faculty Collaboration Award for a Civically Engaged Department

Additional Honors

- 2024 Nominee for Thrive Teaching Award
- 2019 Nominee for Presidential Award for Community-Engaged Faculty Member
Nominee for Exemplary Collaboration Award
- 2017 American Democracy Project Civic Fellow
- 2016, 17 Nominee for Crystal Crest Rodney H. Brady Master Teacher Award
- 2016 Nominee for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor
- 2006 Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Good Citizenship Medal
- 2004 University at Albany, SUNY Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award

Grants and Professional Development

- 2024 Elections Assistance Commission Grant for Poll Workers
- 2022 Ask Every Student Translation of Voter Materials
- 2020 Ask Every Student Co-Designer Grant for Digital Voter Materials

Teaching Activity

Courses

Introduction to American National Government; Political Behavior; American Congress; American Presidency; Political Parties; Campaigns and Elections; Political Analysis; Media and Politics; American Founding

Conference Participation

Paper Presentations

American Political Science Association

- “Engaging Citizenship: Teaching Democracy in an Era of Rising Authoritarianism.” Panel presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Centers of Civic Engagement: Supporting Campuses for the 2024 Elections.” Panel presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Teaching Civic Engagement in an Era of Divisive Politics.” Panel presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association,

- Philadelphia, PA.
- “Is the Engagement Working? Assessing Political Engagement Across Multiple Departments.” Panel presented at the annual meeting of APSA, Los Angeles, 2023.
- Delivered Keynote Address at the annual meeting of the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, Los Angeles, 2023.
- “Pandemic Proofing Your Voter Engagement.” Panel presented at the annual meeting of the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, virtual 2021.
- “National Student Leader Study.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, Long Beach, CA, February 2017.
- “Effectively Using Facebook to Foster Civic Engagement.” Paper presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Teaching and Learning Conference, Long Beach, CA. (listed on the Social Science Research Network’s Top 10 Downloads for PSN Educator for the year 2013)
- “Agenda Setting in Polarized Government: Bush Initiatives.” Paper presented at the 2006 annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Dominant Cue Givers and Voting on Ballot Propositions.” Paper presented at the 2005 annual meeting, Washington, D.C. (co-authors: Quin Monson and Kelly Patterson)
- “Do the Institutions Respond? Mass Movement Politics.” Paper presented at the 2004 annual meeting, Chicago, IL. (co-author: Carrie Schneider)
- “Declare Victory and Depart the Field.” Paper presented at the 2004 annual meeting, Chicago, IL. (co-author: Frank Guliuzza)
- “Raise or Call: Judicial Nominees as Ideological Legacy.” Paper presented at the 2003 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA. (co-author: Frank Guliuzza)
- “In Search of Effective Civic Education Messages.” Paper presented at the 2002 annual meeting, Boston, MA. (co-authors: J. Cherie Strachan and Anne Hildreth)
- “Interconnecting Tissue: A Quantitative Analysis of the Inter-Branch Policy Conversation.” Paper presented at the 2001 annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- “Striking the Balance: Local and National Representation in the Empire State.” Paper presented at the 1999 annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. (co-authors: Sally Friedman, Joe Cavazos, Paul S. Goggi III, Krista Ketterer, and Michael Rogers)
- American Association for Public Opinion Research*
- “Election Security and Audit Practices and Voter Confidence.” Paper presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Association For Public Opinion Research, Atlanta, GA. (co-authors Damon Cann, Quin Monson)
- Midwestern Political Science Association*
- “No Longer Fly Over Country: The Politics of Rural America.” Paper presented at the 2024 annual meeting, Chicago, IL. (virtual) (co-author Karen Kedrowski)
- “Dilemmas of Representation.” Paper presented at the 1999 annual meeting, Chicago, IL. (co-authors: Sally Friedman, Joe Cavazos, Paul S. Goggi III, Krista Ketterer, and Michael Rogers)

Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

“Building a Campus Climate that Meets the Challenges Facing Higher Education.”
Paper presented at the 2024 annual meeting, Detroit, MI. (co-author Jessica Oyler)

“Integrating Political Ideology Diagnostics in your Civic Engagement Work.”
Workshop presented at the 2024 annual meeting, Detroit, MI. (co-authors Patrick Dolenc and Kim Schmidl-Gagne)

“Who’s in the Room When it Happens: Use of Data Driven Analysis and Power Mapping to Build an Inclusive Political Engagement Coalition.” Plenary panel presented at the 2023 annual meeting, Boston, MA.

Continuums of Service

“Community Engaged Learning in an Online Environment: It Can Be Done Well.”
Paper presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Continuums of Service Conference, Honolulu, HI.

“Assessing Civic Engagement: Use of a Rubric to Measure Engagement in Online and Face to Face Courses.” Paper presented at the 2013 annual meeting, Portland, OR. (co-author: Becky Jo Gesteland)

Western Political Science Association

“Letters to the Editor as Community Discourse.” Paper presented at the 2012 annual meeting, Portland, OR. (co-authors: Anne Hildreth and Shannon Scotece)

“Guns v Butter: Letters to the Editor on National Issues.” Paper presented at the 2010 annual meeting, San Francisco, CA. (co-author: Anne Hildreth)

“Editing the War at Home: Managing Public Voices on Iraq.” Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting, San Diego, CA. (co-authors: Anne Hildreth and Shannon Scotece)

“HAVA Heart: The Help Americans Vote Act and Unfunded Mandates in American Counties.” Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting, San Diego, CA. (co-author: Gary Johnson)

“Utah Youth: Opinions on Bush’s State of the Union Address.” Paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

“Dominant Cue Givers and Voting on Ballot Propositions.” Paper presented at the 2005 annual meeting, Oakland, CA. (co-authors: Quin Monson and Kelly Patterson)

“Debate in a Red State: The Effect of Presidential Debate Deliberation in Bush Country.” Paper presented at the 2005 annual meeting, Oakland, CA.

“Presidential Effects on the Congressional Agenda: Congress as Agenda Setter.”
Paper presented at the 2003 annual meeting, Denver, CO.

Southern Political Science Association

“Election Administration Practices and Voter Confidence.” Paper presented at the 2025 annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. (co-authors: Damon Cann, Adam Hubbs, J. Quin Monson)

“Influencing Home Style: The Effect of Background on Representation in New York State.” Paper presented at the 1999 annual meeting, Savannah, GA. (co-author: Paul S. Goggi III)

Northeastern Political Science Association

"*The West Wing: How Fiction Speaks to Reality.*" Paper presented at the 2000 annual meeting, Albany, New York. (co-author: Paul S. Goggi III)

International Communication Association

"Civic Education Messages: Do High School Texts Promote Collective Political Participation?" Paper presented at the 2004 annual meeting, New Orleans, LA. (co-authors: J. Cherie Strachan and Anne Hildreth)

"Can Internet Voter Simulation Projects Promote Youth Voting?" Paper presented at the 2001 annual meeting, Washington, D.C. (co-authors: J. Cherie Strachan and Anne Hildreth)

National Communication Association

"Deliberative Democracy Day." Paper presented at the 2015 annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, November 19 – 22. (co-author Susan Hafen)

"How can we have Dot.Gov Without Dot.Org?" Paper presented at the 2000 summer conference, Washington, D.C. (co-authors: J. Cherie Strachan and Anne Hildreth)

Association for the Study of Higher Education

"Assessing Campus Climates for Politically Charged Times." Paper presented at the 2019 annual meeting, Portland, OR, November 15.

International Association for Research on Service-Learning

"Multiple Outcomes of Students' Engagement: Community Engagement Student Designation Programs: A Historical, Demographic, and Learning Outcomes Analysis." Paper presented at the 2014 annual meeting, New Orleans, LA, September 29 – October 1.

American Democracy Project

"Social Studies Curriculum in Elementary Schools." Paper presented to the 2019 annual meeting, Jacksonville, FL, June.

"2016 Elementary School Election Project." Paper presented to the 2017 annual meeting, Long Beach, CA, June.

"Deliberation on State College Campuses." Paper presented to the 2014 annual meeting, Louisville, KY, June 5 – 7.

Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association

"Post-Apocalyptic Government." Paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

New York State Political Science Association

"Fenno Revisited." Paper presented at the 1998 annual meeting, Albany, New York. (co-authors: Sally Friedman, Joe Cavazos, David Filbert, Paul S. Goggi III, Krista Ketterer, and Michael Rogers)

"Consensus on the Creed." Paper presented at the 1998 annual meeting, Albany, New York.

Professional Service

American Political Science Association - Civic Engagement Division

2020 - ff Division Program co-chair

American Democracy Project

2018 - 2020 Institute for Democracy and Higher Education Liaison

2015 - 2018 Steering Committee Member

2016 - 2017 Past Chair of National Steering Committee

2015 - 2016 Chair of National Steering Committee

2014 - 2016 Citizen Alum Intergenerational Learning College Students TaskForce

2013 American Democracy Project Advisory Committee

American Political Science Association – Presidents and Executive Politics Division

2025 Founders Award Committee Chair

2013 Best Undergraduate Paper Award Committee

2008 Organized Short Course on Teaching the Presidency

2006, 2007, American Political Science Association Presidency Research Group

Western Political Science Association

2015 Charles Redd Center Award Committee, Chair

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

Western Political Science Association

Midwestern Political Science Association

Book Proposal Reviewer

2023 Norton

2019 Taylor and Francis Group

2015 Norton

2009 Wadsworth Cengage Learning

2009 Lynne Rienner Publishers

2007 Prentice Hall

Journal Reviewer

2023 *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*

2018 *The Review of Politics*

2015 *eJournal of Public Affairs*

2007 *American Politics Review*

Community Service

Community Initiatives

2016 Roy City Survey, conducted and analyzed with the Community Research Extension

2004 Guided survey of the Peterson Master Plan Committee under Morgan County General Plan

Leah A. Murray, *Curriculum Vitae*

June 2025, Page 8 of 9

Media Commentary

Television

- 2024 The Hinckley Report, PBS Utah
- 2020 KUTV, Fox 13
- 2008 Talking Points, KSL-5
- 2007 Utah Now, KUED
- 2006 State of the State panelist, Davis County Cable Access
- 2004,2006 KBYU Congressional Debate Panelist

Newspaper

- 2020 - ff Monthly Standard Examiner Editorial Contributor

Radio

- 2022 - ff KSL co-host
- 2021 KUER 45 Days Podcast
- 2020 KUER, expert for Congressional District 4 election story
KUER, expert for Congressional District 1 election story
- 2016 Radioactive, KRCL
- 2010 Thinking Aloud, KBYU
- 2006 Tim Axelrod Show, WKLO
- 2006 Access Utah, Utah Public Radio

Blogs

- 2010 *The Hill's* Congress Blog

Civic Organizations

- 2003 ff. Weber County League of Women Voters
- 2015 ff. Golden Spike Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2012 ff. Girl Scouts of Utah
Served on State Board 2019 - 2023
- 2016 ff. Boy Scouts of Utah