

Ian Ostrander

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Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Director of Graduate Studies	2023 – Present
Associate Professor	2022 – Present
Assistant Professor	2016 – 2022

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor	2013 – 2016
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UNITED STATES SENATE

APSA Congressional Fellow	2012 – 2013
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science. Washington University in St. Louis, August 2013.

M.A. in Political Science. University of Kansas, Summer 2007.

B.A. in Political Science & Philosophy. University of Kansas, Spring 2005.

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Presidential Politics

- Executive Appointments
- Policymaking Powers
- Inter-Branch Politics

American Institutions

- Legislative Politics & Procedure
- Judicial Appointments
- Bureaucratic Politics

Research & Politics

- Research Design
- Data Management
- Political Internships

RESEARCH

Books

Boyd, Christina, Michael Nelson, Ian Ostrander and Ethan Boldt. 2021. *The Politics of Federal Prosecution*. Oxford University Press.

– Reviewed in *Law and Politics Book Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Congress & the Presidency*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- (20) King, Jonathan M. and Ian Ostrander. 2025. “Quick to Judge? Confirmation by Cloture in the Post Nuclear Senate.” *American Politics Research*, Forthcoming. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1532673X251343029>.

- (19) King, Jonathan M., Jessica Schoenherr, and Ian Ostrander. 2025. "Anchoring or Expanding: Gender and Judicial Nominations," *Political Research Quarterly*, 78(1): 135-150.
- (18) Koss, Joshua, Ian Ostrander and Joel Sievert. 2024. "Analyzing Arguments in Executive Veto Messages." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 54(2):162-180.
- (17) King, Jonathan M., Peter McAndrews and Ian Ostrander. 2022. "President Trump and the Politics of Judicial Nominations." *Justice System Journal*, 43(4): 524-543.
- (16) Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. 2022. "Presidential Strategies in Statements of Administration Policy." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 52(4): 759-784.
- (15) Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. 2020. "Presidential Communication During the Legislative Process," *Social Science Quarterly*, 101(3): 1165-1182.
- (14) King, Jonathan M. and Ian Ostrander. 2020. "Prioritizing Judicial Nominations After Presidential Transitions," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 50(3): 592-610.
- (13) Ostrander, Ian and Toby J. Rider. 2019. "Presidents Abroad: The Politics of Personal Diplomacy," *Political Research Quarterly*, 72(4): 835-848.
- (12) Sievert, Joel and Ian Ostrander. 2017. "Constraining Presidential Ambition: Controversy and the Decline of Signing Statements," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 47(4): 752-776.
- (11) Ostrander, Ian. 2017. "The Politics of Executive Nominations in the Post-Nuclear Senate." *Congress & the Presidency*, 44(3): 323-343.
- (10) Madonna, Anthony and Ian Ostrander. 2017. "No Vacancy: Holdover Capacity and the Continued Staffing of Major Commissions," *Journal of Public Policy*, 37(4): 341-361.
- (9) McKee, Seth C., Ian Ostrander, and M.V. Hood III. 2017. "Out of Step and Out of Touch: The Matter with Kansas in the 2014 Midterm Election," *The Forum*, 15(2): 291-312.
- (8) Ostrander, Ian. 2016. "The Logic of Collective Inaction: Senatorial Delay in Executive Nominations," *American Journal of Political Science*, 60(4): 1063-1076.
- (7) Nelson, Michael and Ian Ostrander. 2016. "Keeping Appointments: The Politics of Confirming United States Attorneys," *Justice System Journal*, 37(3): 211-231.
- (6) Ostrander, Ian. 2015. "Powering Down the Presidency: The Rise and Fall of Recess Appointments." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 45(3): 558-572.
- (5) Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. 2014. "Presidential Signing Statements and the Durability of the Law" *Congress & the Presidency*, 41(3): 362-383.
- (4) Smith, Steven S., Ian Ostrander, and Christopher Pope. 2013. "Majority Party Power and Procedural Motions in the U.S. Senate" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 38(2): 205-236.
- (3) Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. 2013. "What's So Sinister About Presidential Signing Statements?" *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 43(1): 58-80.
- (2) Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. 2013. "The Logic of Presidential Signing Statements." *Political Research Quarterly*, 66(1): 140-152.
- (1) Ostrander, Ian and William R. Lowry. 2012. "Oil Crises and Policy Continuity: A History of Failure to Change." *Journal of Policy History*, 24(3): 384-404.

Book Reviews

- (5) Ostrander, Ian. 2021. Review of *The Unitary Executive Theory: A Danger to Constitutional Government* by Crouch, Jeffrey, Mark J. Rozell, and Mitchel A. Sollenberger. *Congress & the Presidency*, 48(3): 394–395.
- (4) Ostrander, Ian. 2019. Review of *The Congressional Endgame: Interchamber Bargaining and Compromise* by Josh M. Ryan. *The Legislative Scholar*, 4(Winter 2020): 24–25.
- (3) Ostrander, Ian. 2018. Review of *Congress’s Constitution: Legislative Authority and the Separation of Powers* by Josh Chafetz. *Congress & the Presidency*, 45(1): 111–112.
- (2) Ostrander, Ian. 2016. Review of *Czars in the White House: The Rise of Policy Czars as Policy Management Tools* by Justin S. Vaughn and Jose D. Villalobos. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 46(2): 495–496.
- (1) Ostrander, Ian. 2012. Review of *White House Politics and the Environment: Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush* by Byron W. Daynes and Glen Sussman. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 42 (September 2012).

Other Publications

- (3) Madonna, Anthony and Ian Ostrander. 2020. “Dodging Dead Cats: What Would it Take to Get Congress to Expand Capacity?” in *Congress Overwhelmed: The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform*, eds Lee Drutman, Kevin Kosar, and Timothy LaPira. University of Chicago Press: 268–276.
- (2) Ostrander, Ian. 2017. Encyclopedia entries for “Presidential Signing Statements;” “Executive Nominations;” and “Recess Appointments.” in *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency*, eds Michael A. Genovese and Alison D. Howard. Facts on File, Infobase Publishing.
- (1) Ostrander, Ian. 2015. “The Value of Time in the U.S. Senate: A Fellow’s Perspective on Obstruction.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 48(3): 558–560.
 - Reprinted in “Capitol Hill Insights: Voices from the Congressional Fellowship Program” *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Virtual Issue 2, 2016.

Works in Progress

- Liampert, Iliya, and Ian Ostrander. “President Biden and Diversity in Executive Appointments.” *Under Review*
- King, Jonathan M., Ian Ostrander, and Jessica Schoenherr. “Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Judicial Nominations.”
- King, Jonathan M., Ian Ostrander, and Jessica Schoenherr. “Judicial Appointment Politics in the Biden Administration.”
- Ostrander, Ian and Joel Sievert. “The Evolution of Executive Veto Messages: 1792–2024.”
- Ostrander, Ian. “A Matter of Time: Cloture and the New Politics of Executive Nominations.”
- Ostrander, Ian. “Personnel Problems: Examining Failure in Executive Nominations.”

- Medina, Mariana and Ian Ostrander. “Acting Alone on Immigration: Executive Politics & U.S. Immigration Policy.”
- King, Jonathan M. and Ian Ostrander. *Filling the Federal Bench: The Politics of Judicial Nominations*. [Working Book Manuscript]

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses Taught

- The American Presidency
 - *In-Person*: 14 Semesters (2010–2025)
 - *Summer Online*: 2022, 2021
- U.S. Presidents at War – Fall 2021; Summer: 2015
- Inter-branch Conflict – Spring 2021
- U.S. Congress – Spring 2020; Fall 2017
- Political Internships – Spring 2024, 2023; Fall 2015; Summer 2015
- Guided Research – Spring 2023; Fall 2021
- Public Administration & Policy Making – Spring 2019
- Honors Research Seminar – 2017-2018
- Bureaucratic Politics – Spring 2016, 2015, 2014
- Introduction to American Politics – Spring: 2014, 2009; Summer: 2009

Graduate Courses Taught

- Professionalization: Teaching in Political Science – Fall 2025
- American Politics – Fall: 2025, 2023, 2020; Spring: 2022, 2017
- Directed Readings – Spring 2025, 2020, 2019, 2017
- Political Institutions and Public Choice – Spring: 2024
- U.S. Presidency – Fall 2019
- U.S. Congress – Fall 2017
- Research Design – Fall 2015

AWARDS & GRANTS

Honors

- George C. Edwards III Dissertation Award 2015 (For Best U.S. Presidency Dissertation)
 - “Winning the Waiting Game: Senatorial Delay in Executive Nominations”
- Warner Morse Prize (Ethics) – Spring 2005 (Philosophy)

External Research Support

- Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant. 2019. (\$3,000).
- Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant. 2014. (\$3,100, with Anthony Madonna).
- APSA Congressional Fellowship – 2012-2013 (\$38,000).
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant SES 1123427. July 2011 – June 2012. (\$10,806).
- Travel Grants – APSA (2009, 2012); SPSA (2016).

Internal Research Support

- MSU Provost’s Undergraduate Research Initiative Program.
 - 2024-2025 (\$4,000, with Iliya Liampert).
 - 2024-2025 (\$2,000).
 - 2023–2024 (\$4,000, with Josh Koss).
 - 2016-2017 (\$2,000).
- MSU Summer Provost’s Undergraduate Research Initiative Program.
 - 2024 (\$1,500).
 - 2023 (\$3,000, with Josh Koss).
 - 2019 (\$2,000).
 - 2017 (\$1,500).
- MSU Honors Research Seminar Support 2017-2018 (\$5,600 for research and seminar expenses).
- TTU Undergraduate Scholar Project Funding Award. 2014-2015 (\$1,080 for RA support).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCE

Association Memberships

- American Political Science Association (Life Member)
- Midwest Political Science Association

Conference Participation as Author

APSA: American Political Science Association

– 2024, 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009

MPSA: Midwest Political Science Association

– 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2005

SPSA: Southern Political Science Association

– 2022, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2012

Conference Panel Chair/Discussant

- **MPSA:** 2022, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2009.
- **SPSA:** 2016, 2014.

Additional Conference Participation

- Steven S. Smith Conference – Washington University in St. Louis, June 2023
- Congress and History Conference – 2021, 2016, 2012
- Political Appointments Roundtable – UC Berkeley, June 2018
- The State of Congressional Capacity Conference – New America, Washington D.C., March 2018
- Separation of Powers Conference – University of Georgia, February 2016
- Unilateral Politics Conference – University of Houston, February 2015

Invited Presentations

- APSA Congressional Fellowship Program Orientation (Virtual):
 - *Congressional Delegation & Oversight*: 9 presentations 2020-2025.
- Warrior-Scholar Project Guest Lecture on the US Constitution & Democracy: July 2025, July 2024
- Northern Arizona University: Politics & International Affairs Research Colloquium, Oct. 2021
- Texas Tech University: QEP Global Communication Lecture Series, March 2018.
- University of Michigan: American Institutions Group, March 2017.
- Texas Tech Air Force ROTC: “The Constitution & Civilian Control of the Military,” October 2014.
- University of Georgia: Political Science Speaker Series, November 2011.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

- National Science Foundation, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Congress & the Presidency*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *The Forum*, *Governance*, and *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Service to the Discipline

- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Politics* (2025–Present).
- Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Political Research Quarterly* (2018–Present).
- Committee Member (2020-2021 & 2016-2017), The Richard E. Neustadt Award for the best book on executive politics for the Presidents & Executive Politics section of the American Political Science Association.
- APSA Section Newsletter Co-Editor, *Presidents & Executive Politics Report* (2015–2017).

University & Department Service

- Director of Graduate Studies: Aug. 2023–Present.
- Professorial Assistantship Mentor: Aug. 2025–Present.
- MSU Co-Liaison for The Washington Center D.C. Internship Program: 2022–2024.
- Graduate Grievance Hearing Committee: Member Aug. 2023–Present.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee: 2021–2022; 2015–2016 (TTU).
- University Committee on Faculty Affairs: 2017–2019.
- Faculty Advisory Committee: 2019–2020.
- Graduate Studies Committee: 2019–2020; 2017–2018.
- American Politics Field Committee: 2016–2022 (MSU); 2014-2015 (TTU).
- Social Science Scholars Program Mentor: 2017–2018.
- Dissertation Committee Member: Iliya Liampert (in progress); Olatayo Bakare (in progress); Matt Cota (in progress); Erika Vallejo (2025); Jonathan King (2023); Jessica Schoenherr (2020); Elizabeth Lane (2019); Daniel Bailey (2017); Miles T. Armaly (2017); Sylvia Gonzalez-Gorman (2014).
- Dissertation Chair: Joshua Koss (2024)

Media Contributions

- “Biden can’t instruct the new U.S. attorneys on how to prosecute the Capitol rioters. But they’ll listen to his signals.” *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, February 1, 2021. With Christina L. Boyd, Michael J. Nelson, and Ethan D. Boldt.
- “Senate Democrats are battling every Trump nomination. Here’s how that can hurt Trump’s policies.” *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, February 15, 2017.
- “Why US Senators obstruct some executive agency nominations over others.” The London School of Economics and Political Science Daily Blog on American Politics and Policy (LSE-APP), October 8, 2015.
- “If Congress keeps cutting its staff, who is writing your laws? You won’t like the answer.” *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, August 20, 2015. With Anthony Madonna.

REFERENCES

Ryan Black

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Michigan State University
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University of Georgia
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Steven Smith

Kate M. Gregg Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences
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