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ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, VOTER PARTICIPATION, REDISTRICTING



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Areas of expertise: Best practices in state and local election administration, effects of election laws on voter participation and the activities of political parties and candidates, voter registration, measuring public opinion and political surveys, gender differences in attitudes about politics, voter participation and turnout, and voting technology.

Short bio: Barry Burden is a national expert on election law and election administration in the U.S. He founded the Elections Research Center (ERC) at UW-Madison in 2015 and has studied the effects of election reforms, ballot access rules for minor parties, factors affecting voter turnout, the gender gap, and the performance of state election systems. He has provided expert witness testimony in district court cases across the country and provided testimony and reports to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration and Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. The ERC is conducting polls in Wisconsin and two other Midwest battleground states during the 2020 presidential campaign. Burden earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Barry Burden's top takeaways for legislators based on his research:

- ★ The dramatic shift to voting by mail during the COVID-19 pandemic has not only revealed the value of no-excuse absentee voting, but also its limitations. To make voting by mail successful, election officials must educate the public, develop partnerships with the U.S. Postal Service, implement systems for tracking ballots, and offer ballot drop-off opportunities. It is essential that neighborhood polling places not be consolidated or understaffed because they serve as a safety net for voters whose mail ballots did not arrive and for many voters with disabilities.
- ★ The best existing approach for drawing congressional and state legislative district lines is to delegate the authority to a nonpartisan state agency. This approach is the least expensive, least litigious, and least biased in favor of one political party. Bipartisan citizen commissions such as those used in Arizona and California are also better than state legislatures for the same reasons.
- ★ To ensure election security, every vote cast must produce a paper ballot record for later review. The two main voting technologies in use – touchscreen voting machines and optically scanned paper ballots – are equally accurate in counting the vote. Where counting errors do appear in Wisconsin, they are mainly due to inconsistent counting by poll workers of minor party and independent candidates on the ballot and write-in votes for other candidates.



WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY, NATIONAL ECONOMY, RECESSIONS AND RECOVERY



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Areas of expertise: Impact of COVID-19 on state and national economies, recessions and recovery, impact of minimum wage legislation, Federal Reserve Board, macroeconomics, and GDP.

Short bio: Menzie Chinn's research is focused on international finance and macroeconomic interactions between countries. He served as a senior economist for international financial issues on the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2000 to 2001. He has been a visitor at the Federal Reserve Board, European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund, and a fellow at the Congressional Budget Office. He currently is a Research Associate in the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a co-editor of the Journal of International Money and Finance. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is coauthor of the macroeconomics weblog, Econbrowser.

Menzie Chinn's top takeaways for legislators based on his research:

- ★ The outlook for GDP and employment is very uncertain because it is inextricably dependent on the course of the pandemic and public health measures (or lack thereof) implemented to address it. Consensus forecasts do not envision a recovery of GDP to end-2019 levels until the second half of 2021, and no return to the pre-COVID trendline for many years.
- ★ The Fed has done much of what it can by dropping interest rates to near zero, so effective action can be undertaken only by the executive and legislative branches.
- ★ The likelihood of passage of another fiscal recovery package with enhanced unemployment benefits, aid to state and local governments, and continued financial assistance to small and medium sized firms seems low. Accordingly, the prospects for zero—or even negative—growth in the 4th quarter have increased, along with increased financial distress (e.g., personal and business bankruptcies).
- ★ Continued political uncertainty—such as from a contested election or gridlock over another fiscal package—and the ensuing economic uncertainty would likely further slow the recovery by deterring businesses from making investment and hiring decisions.

WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CHILD CARE, BROADBAND



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Areas of expertise: Broadband access and economic development in rural areas, brain drain/gain, labor market trends in Wisconsin, business relocation, entrepreneurship (especially women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color), the role of child care in economic development, small business dynamics, and regional economics.

Short bio: Tessa Conroy's research focuses on Wisconsin's economic development and labor market, entrepreneurship, and business climate. As an Extension specialist, she has produced fact sheets on Wisconsin's economy, job creation, and the education pipeline. She is working on two studies that are looking at rural broadband availability as a way to increase entrepreneurship and business activity. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics at Colorado State University.

Tessa Conroy's top takeaways for legislators based on her research:

- ★ Entrepreneurs are crucial to job creation. Roughly one-third of gross job creation comes from new businesses, making entrepreneurial support an especially important component of economic recovery and generating employment following COVID-19.
- ★ Business owners of color in WI are more concentrated in sectors most vulnerable to impacts of COVID-19, compared to white business owners. Their businesses also tend to be smaller and they less frequently use banks for financing, making it more challenging to access lending programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program.
- ★ Financing is a critical component of fostering entrepreneurship, particularly now due to the financial strain of COVID-19. To effectively serve the smallest and most vulnerable businesses with grant and lending programs it may be necessary to adjust application processes, incentives, and institutional partners alongside fostering a robust network of community banks, community development financial institutions, and credit unions.
- ★ Broadband is essential to economic development and community well-being and has been linked to entrepreneurship, home values, and health outcomes. As remote work becomes more common, rural areas may have the opportunity to reverse some population loss and attract new residents partly by competing on their broadband availability.
- ★ Childcare is essential for labor force participation and entrepreneurship. As employers recover from the downturn, childcare can help workers return to work. Similarly, entrepreneurs need childcare to focus on their businesses. Paths forward include cooperatives, expanded dependent care saving plans, regulatory assistance, and public investment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY, COVID IN PRISONS, POLICING, SENTENCING



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Areas of expertise: Sentencing, policing, community supervision and prisoner reentry, youth justice, collateral consequences of criminal conviction, evidence-based corrections, sentencing and corrections reform, criminal justice administration, and mental and behavioral health challenges of prisoners.

Short bio: Cecelia Klingele's research focuses on criminal justice administration, with an emphasis on community supervision of those on conditional release. Prior to becoming a professor, she served as a law clerk for a U.S. Supreme Court justice, U.S. Court of Appeals judge, and U.S. District Court judge in the Western District of Wisconsin. She currently serves on the Board of the Wisconsin State Bar's Criminal Justice Section and served five years on the Wisconsin Catholic Conference's Policy Advisory Group. She grew up in Nekoosa and received her law degree from UW-Madison.

Professor Klingele's top takeaways for legislators based on her research:

- ★ **Policing:** Police reform can take multiple forms, from improving training standards and agency accountability to reducing the barriers to litigation against officers and agencies to creating external mechanisms for accountability and study of critical incidents in policing.
- ★ **Youth Justice:** Youth justice reform, in terms of both correctional interventions for youth and the age for adult criminal prosecution, should be informed by science of human development. Adolescence and early adulthood are critical times in identity-formation. Delinquent behavior in the teen years is common, usually transient, and typically resolves as young adults begin to mature and take on more adult responsibilities. It is critical that youth justice interventions avoid interfering with this natural maturation and identity-building process.
- ★ **Alternatives to Incarceration:** Electronic monitoring is a popular innovation that has seen increased use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although electronic monitoring can be an effective way to manage safety risks without incarceration, it is important that it is used thoughtfully, with attention to the fiscal and social costs that are involved. Before imposing electronic monitoring, practitioners and policymakers should consider the costs of monitoring to the monitored individual and the state; the degree to which monitoring is likely to deter or incapacitate the monitored person from committing crime; and whether monitoring is being used to divert a person from prison or jail or to increase the surveillance of a person for whom less invasive forms of supervision would suffice to protect public safety.
- ★ **Community Supervision:** Although most people on probation or post-release supervision succeed or fail within the first three years of supervision, in Wisconsin we allow people to serve terms of community supervision that sometimes last decades. Providing full or partial credit to people on probation, parole, or extended supervision for days spent in compliance with the conditions of their supervision could save state resources and promote reintegration of former offenders, without reducing public safety.



Professor Klingele's top takeaways (continued)

- ★ *Management of Sex Offenders*: When deciding how best to monitor the risks posed to the community by people convicted of sexual crimes, it is important to distinguish between types of offenders and to ensure that interventions do not increase the risk that people will offend in the future. Recent research has called into question the common assumption that many sex offenders are destined to continue sexual offending. In light of these findings, it is important to notice that residency restrictions and prolonged registration can lead to homelessness and unemployment, making it difficult for people to reintegrate successfully into their communities. Providing clear pathways to reintegration is essential to reducing the risk of future re-offense by people convicted of sex crimes.
- ★ *Promoting Desistance from Crime*: In most cases, behavioral change is a process that takes place over time. The success of youth and adult criminal justice programs should be assessed not only in terms of absolute recidivism but also in terms of harm reduction, including decreases in the severity and frequency of offending behavior. The most helpful interventions connect people under correctional control with community resources, such as employment opportunities, mentors, and outpatient health providers that will provide support and stability that outlast the involvement of the criminal justice system.