

Institute of Public Policy

Harry S Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

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Institute of Public Policy

University of Missouri

Meet the Associate Directors



Emily Johnson,
Associate Director
of Operations

It has been another exciting year at the Institute of Public Policy! This March, I celebrated my 15th year with the Institute and I can honestly say each of those years has been exciting. This year, the Institute has taken on new projects, facilitated the growth of older projects, worked through challenges, and embraced new opportunities. We have said goodbye to good friends and welcomed new colleagues and students to take part in this exciting journey.

The realities of COVID-19 have changed the global workforce and our ability to connect with each other. The leaders, staff and students at the Institute have consistently risen to the challenge to provide exceptional research, analysis, evaluation and service to our clients and stakeholders. We look to the future with a shared vision for how the Institute can continue to inform public policy throughout Missouri. As always, we look forward to another exciting year.

This year marks another productive year at the Institute of Public Policy. Although I've not had the length of tenure that Emily has had at IPP (I marked three years with IPP as of January of this year), I can say that the energy and expertise of the staff at IPP were in full evidence this last year, especially as it relates to academic endeavors.

In addition, IPP is undertaking a number of new activities on the scholarship side of things. We've initiated a faculty peer review process for our policy briefs to ensure their highest quality and relevance. We are also planning on developing one peer-review publication per year based on our internal projects. And, as you'll see in this report, we are involved in presenting and discussing research and its effect on policy in a number of arenas. Stay tuned for more about our academic and scholastic activities!



Dr. Wayne Mayfield
Associate Director
of Research

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Government

Issue Brief Highlight:

The Timing of Missouri Municipal Elections: Advantages and Disadvantages of Merging Municipal and Federal Elections

In this edition of the Annual Update, IPP highlights an issue brief by James W. Endersby, a professor in the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs.

Executive Summary

Missouri municipal elections are held in the spring. One cost-cutting proposal is to move municipal elections to the fall, concurrently with county, state, and federal elections. Moving municipal elections, particularly if held simultaneously with the general election in November of even-numbered years, has both benefits and costs.

Two primary benefits of merging municipal and state/federal elections are reducing costs and increasing turnout. County election officials could save money by holding fewer elections. Moreover, voter turnout in federal elections is significantly higher than in spring municipal elections.

However, there are unintended consequences for merging municipal and other elections. First, merged elections are likely to nationalize local elections. November voters are drawn to the election by partisan preferences, and these divisions would naturally seep into local contests.

Second, many Missouri municipalities hold non-partisan elections, and spring election voters seem more informed and concerned about local issues than November voters. Third, a large ballot roll-off from state to municipal contests should be expected, particularly for municipalities with non-partisan elections.

Fourth, the cost of local election campaigns should increase, due to market competition from simultaneous national, state, and county campaigns. Fifth, the outcome of state elections, particularly ballot propositions, may be disproportionately influenced by large urban areas with competitive contests and higher turnout.

The decision to merge municipal and other state elections comes down to a choice between values. Should we increase the rate of voter turnout for municipal elections or should municipal election outcomes be determined by more engaged and knowledgeable, local-oriented voters.

Education

IPP examines many aspects of education in Missouri.

*In 2020, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) received a \$33.5 million award, *Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five*, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the project is to assist Missouri in building a comprehensive, collaborative, and coordinated early care and education system. DESE contracted with IPP to evaluate the three-year undertaking, consult on the kindergarten entry assessment, assist with a needs assessment for the final phase of the project, and update a study examining Parents as Teachers participation and child academic performance.*

IPP also works with DESE by conducting annual surveys that are used to inform educational decision-making. *The First Year Surveys*, administered to new teachers, administrators, and counselors, provides DESE and higher education institutions with feedback on how to better prepare education professionals. *The Special Education Parent Survey* gathers information from family members about their perceptions of the quality of special education services that their children receive in grades PreK-12. IPP is also developing the *Missouri School Climate and Culture Survey*. This survey will measure student, parent, and educator opinions about school climate. IPP is also the statewide evaluator for federally funded *21st Century Community Learning Centers* afterschool programs. For this project, IPP works closely with the Missouri Afterschool Network and DESE to analyze data about the quality of afterschool programs and conduct reviews of program practices.

The Missouri Parents as Teachers (PAT) Parent Education program is a home visiting program that serves families that are expecting a child or have children under the age of kindergarten entry.

The goals of PAT include promoting parental knowledge of early childhood development, promoting appropriate parenting practices to enhance early learning and development, using periodic screening data to identify any potential delays or health concerns, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The overall aim of PAT is to increase children's school readiness and later success in life. Using administrative data, IPP examined the associations between children's PAT participation and various child outcomes among students in 28 Missouri school districts.

The quasi-experimental study used propensity-score matching to estimate the effects of PAT on a number of outcomes. Compared to their peers who did not receive PAT services, children who received PAT services were more likely to be proficient on Missouri's state assessments of English language arts and mathematics in third grade and were less likely to have to repeat a grade between kindergarten and third grade.

IPP has long partnered with local public health agencies, schools, and other community organizations to evaluate efforts to improve health-related outcomes.

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)

The MU Institute of Public Policy (IPP) recently entered its twelfth year as the statewide evaluator for Missouri's teen pregnancy prevention program (MOTPP), *Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)*. Using evidence-based educational materials, health educators and teens talk about the choice to have sex or to abstain, safe sexual health practices, and the importance of effective communication skills for their intimate relationships. Every fall, IPP staff implement the Community Readiness Tool to assess communities' level of "readiness" to address the issue of teen pregnancy. The tool analyzes current attitudes and knowledge among PREP contractors and community partners and produces a readiness score. The score allows IPP staff to determine how willing and prepared a community is to act on the issue and provides strategies for addressing teen pregnancy. This allows the community to direct energy and resources toward the most efficient strategies for their level of readiness.

In 2021-2022, MOTPP contractors that implemented PREP reported that experiencing the difference the program makes for youth was rewarding. Contractors also indicated that providing youth with accurate information about their relationships and sexual health is important. The PREP lessons help youth become more educated about their health, encourage them to make informed decisions, and build self-confidence. Through our involvement with MOTPP, IPP has helped communities understand and acknowledge the importance of teen pregnancy prevention programs and their role in youth health and well-being.

Health

"I think just seeing the impact on these young people and that they have a place to go and get good information and have a place where they can actually talk about these things in a factual way with other youth."

- MOTPP Contractor

Community

MU IPP values our collaborations with community partners to evaluate programmatic initiatives and provide valuable information to decision makers.

Kinship Caregiver Needs Assessment

With funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health, ParentLink, an outreach unit of MU's College of Education and Human Development, subcontracted with IPP to *Address Health Inequity for Older Adults by Increasing Access to Resources for Kinship Caregivers*. The project aims to dismantle policy and resource barriers

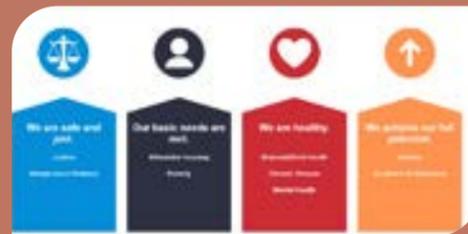
so that kinship caregivers have equitable access to the legal, financial, and health supports they need for themselves and for the children in their care. Kinship caregivers are most often relatives and family friends who care for other people's children 24/7

when the children's parents cannot. From March through August, 2022, IPP conducted telephone interviews with 205 kinship caregivers statewide and, in October, completed three focus groups with kinship caregivers. Analysis and report writing are underway and will inform advocacy groups and policy makers on kinship caregivers' needs and gaps in the current landscape of supports available to them.



Boone Indicators Dashboard

The Institute has been working closely with their community partners in the last year to update and improve the usability of the Boone Indicators Dashboard, an online resource that displays up-to-date information, drawn from credible sources, about community safety, affordable housing, maternal and child health, and educational achievement. The purpose of the Dashboard is to clearly outline our community's performance in these four priority community issue areas. For each issue area, key indicators of performance are included. Indicators include data for City of Columbia, Boone County, and the State of Missouri (when available). Benchmarks, targets, and progress toward the targets are included for each indicator. When available, the Dashboard includes vital equity indicators of disparities. These data are useful to community stakeholders, policy makers and community members to have access to data that informs decision making.



“Overall, Boone County and the city of Columbia fare relatively well on most indicators, but we want to stress the fact that our communities still suffer from large inequities between our Black and White citizens on many important measures of community well-being. We hope that the dashboard can inspire communities to develop strategies to address these inequities.”

Dr. Wayne Mayfield,
Associate Director of Research,
MU Institute of Public Policy

Economic Development

IPP's work in economic development takes a critical look at the effects of current and potential policies on the state's economic well-being.

Occupational Licensing and Women Entrepreneurs

In 2022, IPP released an updated report on *Occupational Licensing and Women Entrepreneurs* for United Women's Empowerment. Occupational licensing and professional registration balance protecting the health and safety of the public with the potential economic barriers posed by those requirements. IPP's 2022 report updates previous research conducted in 2016 with new information concerning licensing requirements, women's participation in the workforce, national and state policy updates, and the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, Missouri policy makers identified areas to reduce some of the burdens of occupational licensing requirements by waiving selected fees and enacting new opportunities for state-to-state reciprocity.

Research on Paid Leave

In 2022, IPP continued their past research on paid family and medical leave with funding provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). MFH contracted with MU IPP to conduct an extensive study of paid leave in Missouri. The primary focus of this study was to examine current availability and potential (economic/health) impacts of expanded access to short-term, paid sick leave for one's own health needs or to attend to the needs of a family member or loved one. Particular attention was given to the availability of paid leave for different groups of workers, including essential workers, by occupation, and among women, individuals with low incomes, and racial and ethnic minority populations. The pandemic placed additional stress on already burdened systems (e.g., health care, education, child care), pulled essential workers into the spotlight, and amplified the problems associated with uneven access to paid sick leave, including disparities in infection rates, employment impacts, and workforce participation.

“Due to COVID-19, women lost their jobs at higher rates than men, were less likely to regain them when the economy started to recover, and were more likely to have increased their unpaid household and care work.”

—Dr. Rachel Dicke

IPP Student Research Assistants

The Institute of Public Policy would like to recognize all of the students who contribute to the success of the Institute. Graduate Research Assistants provide support through data collection, entry and analysis, literature reviews, key informant interviews, survey design and distribution, and contributions to progress reports and final reports to funders. This year, the Institute also hosted Jada Mulholland, an undergraduate student in the Truman School, as an office support assistant. The Institute could not provide the volume and quality of work to our partners without the support of these students. Below, we recognize our May graduates. Thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication. Best of luck in the future!

2022 Graduates



Rachel Dicke, Ph.D.
Truman School of
Government
and Public Affairs



Shakealia Finley, MPA
Truman School of
Government
and Public Affairs



Mark Benton, Ph.D.
Truman School of
Government
and Public Affairs



Chastity Haxton, MPA
Truman School of
Government
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Ellen Thieme, MLIS
Library and Information
Science, MU

Graduate Research Assistants

Abigail Antesana
Nana Aikins
Aida Bilali Ka
Ikhee Cho
Intae Choi

Syrus Duffy
Taylor Grimsley
Jacob Hansen
Emmie Harcourt
Amelia Holliday

Jiwoong Jung
Elizabeth Knight
Afiah Modh Fozi
Jada Muholland
Ann Obadan

Hang Qi
Cayley Schmitt
Ridwan Sifat
Beau Underwood
Jonathon Zars

Student Spotlight



Adam Thorp, MPA
Truman School of Government
and Public Affairs

Before I enrolled at the Truman School I worked as the editor of a newspaper in a small town in Missouri. I covered a whole variety of people trying to make their communities better — and developed an interest in the logic behind public policy. How can we design public policy so their initiatives would have the highest possible chance of success? I enrolled at the Truman School in order to get better answers to that question. My time at the Institute of Public Policy turned out to be a big part of that exploration.

I feel very lucky in the research projects I worked on during my time at IPP. These projects — a report on paid sick leave for the Missouri Foundation for Health and a study of rural healthcare providers through a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services administration — provided a meaningful chance to apply my coursework on real-world problems.

I started on the sick leave project the summer between my first and second year with the program. We were charged with summarizing the state of the field on mandated paid sick leave, running a model designed to generate cost estimates of paid leave programs, and expanding on the cost estimates produced by the model into a full cost-benefit analysis of the program.

This meant getting intimately familiar with a highly specialized policy design — the proliferation of these laws around the country has not yet generated much of a literature explaining how they are meant to work. In the absence of a synoptic overview I made a survey of the various pieces of legislation instituted and proposed around the country to try and determine what a plausible design for Missouri would be.

On the other hand, a decent amount of research has been conducted on the association between these mandates and various health and economic outcomes. Previous cost-benefit analyses had depended on research that found that people with paid sick leave tended to be better off in various ways than people without. However, workers who have paid sick leave because their boss offers it to them voluntarily are very different from the population that gains the benefit only once a mandate goes into effect, limiting the application of that research. Our cost-benefit analysis, which depends on the effect of actual mandates passed by American cities and states, should contribute to policy makers' understanding of this issue.

My other project involved research into the rural health care workforce. As Medicaid eligibility expands in the state, we wanted to know what drove doctor's decisions around whether or not to accept people insured under the program. It was a great introduction to the careful, methodical work necessary to credibly answer complicated public policy questions.

I was only able to make what I did out of these experiences thanks to the help of the researchers who led and worked on these projects. Throughout these projects, I benefited from their guidance — and their confidence in my ability to contribute to their work.

I will begin working this summer as a Govern for America fellow at the state of Missouri's Department of Economic Development. My work there — and, I'm sure, my work throughout the rest of my career — will absolutely be informed by what I learned working at IPP this past year.

Presentations & Publications

Endersby, James W. (March, 2022). *The Timing of Missouri Municipal Elections: Advantages and Disadvantages of Merging Municipal and Federal Elections*. Institute of Public Policy, University of Missouri.

Farmer, J. E., Falk, L. W., Clark, M. J., Mayfield, W. A., & Green, K. K. (2022). *Developmental monitoring and referral for low-income children served by WIC: Program development and implementation outcomes*. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 26(2), 230-241.

Haxton, C. (December, 2021). University of Missouri. *Columbia Missouri's Recycling Program: Existing Challenges Amplified by COVID-19*. Institute of Public Policy.

Mayfield, W. A., & Patrie, J. (November, 2021). *Statewide afterschool evaluation 2019-20: What do the data tell us*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Missouri School-Age Community Coalition, Lake Ozark, MO.

Underwood, B.T. (May 4-6, 2022). *Characterizing the care coordination landscape in rural Missouri* [poster presentation], National Health Outreach Conference, Kansas City, MO, United States.

Johnson, Emily (July 2022) Topic: *Paid Family Leave in Missouri*, Heartland Labor Forum Radio Program, KKFI 90.1FM, Kansas City, MO; Details: Guest Speaker

Johnson, Emily (September 2022) *Professional Licensing Reform: An Opportunity for Impact at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development*; Details: Panelist

Johnson, Emily (August 2022) Press Conference with United WE for the release of the report, *Occupational Licensing and Women in Missouri an update to the 2016 report*. Details: Presented findings and answered questions about the report.

Mayfield, W. A., & Patrie, J. (2022, June). *Statewide afterschool evaluation: What do the data tell us*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Missouri Association for Adult and Continuing and Community Education, Osage Beach, MO.

Mayfield, W. A. (2021, November). *The 2021 PER Report: Workforce trends with a focus on racial/ethnic equity*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Workforce Registry Alliance, virtual conference.

Mayfield, W. A. (2021, November). *PER Data: Preliminary COVID-specific findings*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Workforce Registry Alliance, virtual conference.

Ressel, K., Gable, S., DeSpain, R., Bilali Ka, A. & Quinn, K. (2022, March). *University of Missouri Medical Student Education Program Evaluation Logic Models*. Presentation virtually at the HRSA Medical Student Education Program Grantee Ad Hoc Group, Columbia, MO.

Ressel, K. & Simelus, S. (2022, April). *Missouri Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Evaluation Overview & Performance Measure Updates*. Presentation presented virtually at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Adolescent Health Annual Contractor Meeting, Columbia, MO.

Underwood, B., Ressel, K., Kapp, J.M. & Quinn, K. (2022, May). *Characterizing the Care Coordination Landscape in Rural Missouri*. Poster presented at the National Health Outreach Conference, Kansas City, MO.

Funders & Partners

City of Columbia, Boone County, and Heart of Missouri United Way Boone Indicators Dashboard

Missouri Afterschool Network *Statewide Evaluation of Afterschool Programs*

Missouri Department of Corrections *Community Reentry Project Evaluation (Year 13); Pay for Success Initiative*

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education *Preschool Development Grant: Birth to 5 Program Performance Evaluation; First Year Teacher, Administrator, and Specialist Surveys; Survey with Parents of Students with Special Education Needs; and, School Climate and Culture Survey Development*

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services *MO Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Project Evaluation, (Year 12)*

Missouri Department of Social Services and MU Center for Health Policy *No Kid Hungry Evaluation*

Missouri Foundation for Health and MU Center for Health Policy *Medicaid Expansion Evaluation Project*

Missouri Foundation for Health *Research on Paid Leave in Missouri*

Missouri Foundation for Health and ParentLink (MU College of Education and Human Development) *Kinship Caregiver Needs Assessment*

National Workforce Registry Alliance *COVID-19 and the ECE Workforce*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and MU Department of Human Development and Family Science *Show-Me Healthy Relationships Program Evaluation*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health and MU Extension *Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach*

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, MU Office of Health Outreach, Policy, and Education, and MU Center for Health Policy *Innovative Model to Increase Primary Care Physicians for Rural and Underserved MO*

United Women's Empowerment *Occupational Licensing and Women in Missouri*

Institute of Public Policy

The University of Missouri Institute of Public Policy conducts independent, non-partisan research and analysis to inform public policy and benefit all Missourians.

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