SORELLE WYCKOFF GAYNOR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA *August 2025 - Present*
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Politics
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Effective Lawmaking

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA *August 2022 - August 2025*
Assistant Professor of Political Science

George Mason University Schar School of Public Policy and Government, Arlington, VA *Spring 2022*
Instructor, Political Science Department

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park, MD *August 2022*
PhD, Department of Political Science and Government

University of Maryland, College Park, MD *May 2020*
MA, Department of Political Science and Government

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL *May 2013*
BA, History and Journalism, with Honors

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

U.S. House of Representatives *Dec. 2019 - March 2021*
APSA Public Service Fellow, Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

U.S. Senate *July 2015 - August 2017*
Speechwriter, the Honorable John Cornyn

U.S. House of Representatives *May 2014 - July 2015*
Press Secretary, House Republican Conference

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Echo Chambers: How Partisan Communication Took Over Congress*, forthcoming, University of Chicago Press.
- *Congress Explained: Representation and Lawmaking in the First Branch, Second Edition*, with Burgat C. and Hunt, C. (2025) CQ Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Gaynor, S. W., Hayes, S. D. (2025). "New lines, new districts, new representation: Institutional impacts of congressional redistricting", *Political Research Quarterly*. DOI: `https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0291169`.

- Gaynor, S. W. and Millburne, R. Gaynor, S.W. and Millburne R. (2025). "Playing Ball: Collaboration in the U.S. Congress", *American Politics Research*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X251382546.

- Gaynor, S. W., Miler, K., Goel, P., Hoyle, A. M., and Resnik, P. (2025). Express Yourself (Ideologically): Legislators' Ideal Points Across Audiences. *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

- Gaynor, S. W. (2024). "Following the leaders: Asymmetric party messaging in the U.S. Congress", *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12479

  Discussed in P*olitical Science Now*, 2024 Post-Election Reflection Series.

  Discussed in Bipartisan Policy Center's 2024 Governance report, "How Primary Elections Impact Behavior in the House of Representatives".

- Hayes, S. and Gaynor, S.W. (2024) "Secure Majorities, Unequal Districts: One Person, One Vote and State Bipartisanship." *Electoral Studies* 91, 102835. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2024.102835.

- Goel, P., Malkin, N., Gaynor, S. W., Jojic, N., Miler, K., and Resnik, P. (2023). "How donor activity predicts US legislators' attention to political speech." *PLOS ONE*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0291169

- Gaynor, S. W., and Gimpel, J. G. (2023). Building Support Through the Personalization of Twitter Messages in a Permanent Campaign. *American Politics Research*, 51(5), 570-587. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X231184434.

- Safarpour, A. C., Gaynor, S. W., Rouse, S. M. Swers, M. (2022). When Women Run, Voters Will Follow (Sometimes): Examining the Mobilizing Effect of Female Candidates in the 2014 and 2018 Midterm Elections. *Political Behavior*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-02109767-x.

- Gaynor, S. W. The (Financial) Ties That Bind: Social Networks of Intraparty Caucuses, Gaynor, S. W. (2021). *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12360.

  Awarded the Roger H. Davidson Award for the best paper in American Politics, University of Maryland

- Gaynor, S. W. & Gimpel, J. G. (2021). Small Donor Contributions in Response to Email Outreach by a Political Campaign. *Journal of Political Marketing*. DOI: 10.1080/15377857.2021.1910611.

- Gaynor, S. W., & Gimpel, J. G. (2021). Reapportioning the US Congress: The shifting geography of political influence. *Political Geography*, 86, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102365.

  Discussed in "The Fate of Biden's Agenda Hangs in the Balance (and it isn't all about the filibuster)", Thomas B. Edsall, *New York Times*

Reports and Public-Facing Research

- Gaynor, S.W. 2026. "Congress Takes Up Health Care Again – and Impatient Voters Shouldn't Hold Their Breath for a Cure." *The Conversation*, January 7, 2026. Link.

- Gaynor, S. W. (2025). "Speaker Johnson's Choice to Lead by Following the President Goes Against 200 Years of House Speakers Building Up the Office's Power." *The Conversation*, December 1, 2025. Link.
- Gaynor, S. W., J. D. Rackney, and M. Currinder (2023). "PhDs in Congress: Opportunities for employment and improvement." *PS: Political Science Today*, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/psj.2023.27.
- Gaynor, S. W., "Here's how Republican and Democratic party leaders reward the faithful and punish wayward members", The Monkey Cage, *Washington Post*, Dec. 14, 2021.
- U.S. Congress. House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Final Report. Washington: U.S. Government Publishing Office, October 2020. (1009-E). (Y 4.2:M 72/R 29). Lead author, with support from the American Political Science Association Public Service Fellowship. https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo146079.
- Wyckoff, S., & Lee, F. E. (2020). Advice for Women and Their Colleagues: An Interview with Frances E. Lee. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 53(2), 310-312. DOI: 10.1017/S1049096519002129.
- Wyckoff, S. (2017). "Should Congressional Incumbents be Concerned About the 2018 Midterm Elections?", Center for American Politics and Citizenship, University of Maryland.

Book Reviews and Chapters

- Gaynor, S. W., "Applying Content Analysis to a Social Media Campaign", in *Political Science Research*, 3rd ed, Akin Malici and Elizabeth Smith, forthcoming. Routledge Press.
- Gaynor, S. W. (2023). The Forum Review: The Collaborative Congress: Reaching Common Ground in a Polarized House. Alison Craig. Cambridge University Press.
- Gaynor, S. W. (2022). "Congress and External Influencers: Interest Groups, Activists, and Media." Burgat, C., & Hunt, C. *Congress Explained: Representation and Lawmaking in the First Branch.* CQ Press.

WORKING PROJECTS

- Dataset development: Expansion of Text-Based Ideal Points
- "Bringing Home the Field Hearing"
- "Ideological Identity: The Strategic Communication of Minority Members of Congress"
- "Influencing up: How congressional staff impact the ideology of members"

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- "Echo Chambers: The content of leader-led messaging", University of North Carolina American Politics Research Group. September 2025.
- "Teaching Political Science Today", Sage Press podcast series. August 2025.
- "Roundtable: "Reverse" Roundtable: Personnel Management and Expertise in Legislatures", Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. April 2023.

- "Excerpts from Follow the Leaders: Centralization and Party Messaging", Women in Legislative Studies Fall Conference. October 2023.
- "Following the Leaders: Asymmetric party messaging in the U.S. Congress", Junior Americanist Workshop Series. April 2023.
- "The Past, Present, and Future of Congressional Reform," Princeton University, Policy Task Force. January 2023.
- "The Financial Ties that Bind: Social Networks and Intraparty Caucuses in Congress." University of Maryland American Politics Workshop, College Park, MD. September 25, 2020.
- "The New Year of the Woman: How Candidate Gender Affected Voter Turnout in the 2014 and 2018 Midterm Elections", with Alauna Safapour and Dr. Stella Rouse. University of Maryland American Politics Workshop, College Park, MD. October 18, 2019.
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- JD Power Center Research Fellowship Grant, College of the Holy Cross *Spring 2022, 2023*
- National Science Foundation (NSF), Grant 2008761 *Fall 2021 – Spring 2023*

  Grant to study the measurement of ideology in Congress; With Philip Resnik, Kristina Miler, Pranav Goel, and Alexander M. Hoyle
- Roger H. Davidson Award in American Politics *December 2020*

  University of Maryland, College Park; Awarded to the best graduate student paper in the field of American Politics
- Graduate Student Research Fellowship, University of Maryland ($5,000) *2020, 2021*
- American Political Science Association Public Service Fellowship *Dec. 2019 – March 2021*

  Fellow with the U. S. House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Maryland *AY 2019 – 2020*
- Elizabeth Jean Spencer Award for excellence in American Politics ($6,000) *Fall 2019*
- UMD College of Behavioral and Social Science Dean's Fellowship ($5,000) *2018, 2019, 2020*
- University of Maryland GVPT Methodological Field Funding ($400) *2019*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Political science profession

- "Future of the Senate" Working Group, Brookings Institution *January 2023 – Current*
- Board Member, Junior Americanist Workshop Series *Fall 2023 – Current*
- Legislative Studies Quarterly Assistant Editor *AY 2018-2019*

- Congressional Research Service *January 2019*

  Outside evaluator for the 2018 New Member program (with Dr. Frances E. Lee)

- Reviewer for: American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Perspectives on Politics, Political Geography, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Electoral Studies, Political Analysis, Congress and The Presidency, Election Law Journal, SAGE Textbooks.

College of the Holy Cross

- Faculty Advisor, University Honors Program *AY 2022-2025*
- Research Associate Program, JD Power Center *AY 2022, 2023, 2024*
- Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society *AY 2023*
- Faculty Advisor, "Dialogue Dinners" *AY 2023-2025*
- Host, Holy Cross Commencement Speaker, The Honorable Peter Welch *May 2022*
- Political Science Graduate Student Advisor *AY 2022 - 2023*

University of Maryland

- BSOS Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Council (DGSAC) *AY 2019–2020*
- Chair, Graduate Student Association, University of Maryland *AY 2018-2019*
- Center for American Policy and Citizenship, University of Maryland *Fall 2017 –Spring 2018*

  Internship Coordinator