

**BENJAMIN HIGHTON**

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Professor, University of California, Davis, 2012-present (Department Chair, 2021-2024).  
Associate Professor, University of California, Davis, 2005-2012.  
Assistant Professor, University of California, Davis, 1999-2005.  
American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, Washington, DC, 1998-99.

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Political Science, 1998.  
A.B. Brown University, *magna cum laude*, Political Science, 1990.

**PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES**

- Collitt, Samuel, and Benjamin Highton. 2021. "The Policy Polarization of Party Activists in the United States." *American Politics Research* 49:386-399.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Walter J. Stone. 2021. "Reconciling Candidate Extremism and Spatial Voting." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 46:585-613.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2020. "The Cultural Realignment of State White Electorates in the 21st Century." *Political Behavior* 42:1319–1341.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2019. "Issue Accountability in U.S. House Elections." *Political Behavior* 41: 349-367.
- Boydston, Amber E., Benjamin Highton, and Suzanna Linn. 2018. "Assessing the Relationship between Economic News Coverage and Mass Economic Attitudes." *Political Research Quarterly* 71:989-1000.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2017. "Voter Identification Laws and Turnout in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20:149-167.
- Buttice, Matthew K., and Benjamin Highton. 2016. "Assessing the Mechanisms of Senatorial Responsiveness to Constituency Preferences." *American Politics Research* 44:767-793.
- Highton, Benjamin, Robert Huckfeldt, and Isaac Hale. 2016. "Some General Election Consequences of California's Top-Two Primary System." *California Journal of Politics and Policy* 8:1-12.
- Highton, Benjamin, Eric McGhee, and John Sides. 2014. "Constitutional Design and the 2014 Senate Election Outcomes." *The Forum* 12:653-661.
- Buttice, Matthew K., and Benjamin Highton. 2013. "How Does Multilevel Regression and Poststratification Perform with Conventional National Surveys?" *Political Analysis* 21:449-467.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2012. "Updating Political Evaluations: Policy Attitudes, Partisanship, and Presidential Assessments." *Political Behavior* 34:57-78.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2012. "Sorting the American States into Red and Blue: Culture, Economics, and the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election in Historical Context." *The Forum* 10:11-19.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2011. "The Influence of Strategic Retirement on the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 23:431-447.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Cindy D. Kam. 2011. "The Long-Term Dynamics of Partisanship and Issue Orientations." *Journal of Politics* 73:202-215.

## **PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES, CONT.**

- Highton, Benjamin. 2011. "Prejudice Rivals Partisanship and Ideology when Explaining the 2008 Presidential Vote across the States." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44:530-535.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2010. "The Contextual Causes of Issue and Party Voting in American Presidential Elections." *Political Behavior* 32:453-471.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2009. "Revisiting the Relationship between Educational Attainment and Political Sophistication." *Journal of Politics* 71:1564-1576.
- Claassen, Ryan L., and Benjamin Highton. 2009. "Policy Polarization among Party Elites and the Significance of Political Awareness in the Mass Public." *Political Research Quarterly* 62:538-551.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2008. "Job Approval and Senate Election Outcomes in the United States." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 33:245-262.
- Claassen, Ryan L., and Benjamin Highton. 2006. "Does Policy Debate Reduce Information Effects in Public Opinion? Analyzing the Evolution of Public Opinion on Health Care." *Journal of Politics* 68:410-420. Reprinted in *Health Politics and Policy*, ed. S. Tolleson-Rinehart and M. A. Peterson. Los Angeles, CA: Sage. 2011.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2006. "Long Lines, Voting Machine Availability, and Turnout: The Case of Franklin County, Ohio in the 2004 Presidential Election." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39:65-68.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Michael S. Rocca. 2005. "Beyond the Roll Call Arena: The Determinants of Position Taking in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly* 58:303-316.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2005. "Self-Reported Versus Proxy-Reported Voter Turnout in the Current Population Survey." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 69:113-123.
- Wolfinger, Raymond E., Benjamin Highton, and Megan Mullin. 2005. "How Postregistration Laws Affect the Turnout of Registrants." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5:1-23.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2004. "Voter Registration and Turnout in the U.S." *Perspectives on Politics* 2:507-15.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2004. "Policy Voting in Senate Elections: The Case of Abortion." *Political Behavior* 26:181-200.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2004. "White Voters and African American Candidates." *Political Behavior* 26:1-25.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2002. "Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich, and the 1998 Congressional Elections." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66:1-18.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Arthur L. Burris. 2002. "New Perspectives on Latino Voter Turnout in the United States." *American Politics Research* 30:285-306.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 2001. "The Political Implications of Higher Turnout." *British Journal of Political Science* 31:179-192.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 2001. "The First Seven Years of the Political Life Cycle." *American Journal of Political Science* 45:202-209.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2000. "Senate Elections in the United States, 1920-1994." *British Journal of Political Science* 30:483-506.
- Highton, Benjamin. 2000. "Residential Mobility, Community Mobility, and Voter Turnout." *Political Behavior* 22:109-120.
- Highton, Benjamin, and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 1998. "Estimating the Effects of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993." *Political Behavior* 20:79-104.
- Highton, Benjamin. 1997. "Easy Registration and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 59:565-575.

## **PUBLICATIONS – SELECTED OTHER**

- Sniderman, Paul M., and Benjamin Highton, eds. 2011. *Facing the Challenge of Democracy: Explorations in the Analysis of Public Opinion and Political Participation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

## **PUBLICATIONS – SELECTED OTHER, CONT.**

Traugott, Michael, Henry E. Brady, and Benjamin Highton. 2005. “A Review of Recent Controversies Concerning the 2004 Presidential Election Exit Polls.” National Research Commission on Elections and Voting. Social Science Research Council.

Highton, Benjamin (co-authored with 15 others). 2005. “Challenges Facing the American Electoral System: Research Priorities for the Social Sciences.” National Research Commission on Elections and Voting. Social Science Research Council.

Highton, Benjamin (co-authored with 5 others). 2004. “Interim Report on Alleged Irregularities in the United States Presidential Election of 2 November 2004.” National Research Commission on Elections and Voting. Social Science Research Council.

Citrin, Jack, and Benjamin Highton. 2002. *How Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Shape the California Electorate*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

Highton, Benjamin (co-authored with 4 others). 1993. *California Latina/Latino Demographic Data Book*. California Policy Seminar.

Highton, Benjamin (co-authored with 3 others). 1992. *Latina/Latino Public Opinion*. California Policy Seminar.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Graduate:	American Politics Political Behavior	Applied Quantitative Analysis Research in American Politics
Undergraduate:	Introduction to American Politics Elections and Voting Behavior Scientific Study of Politics Political Internships	Quantitative Analysis Election Law Honors Thesis Writing Freshman Seminars (various topics)

## **GRANTS**

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Grant. 2017-2020. “Will California’s New Electorate Reflect the New California?” (Lead PI – Thad Kousser, UCSD). \$545,641.

UC Davis Instructional Improvement Program Grant. 2013-14. \$5,853.

Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation. 2003-04. “How Postregistration Laws Affect the Turnout of Blacks and Latinos” (with Raymond Wolfinger). \$55,000.

Carnegie Scholar, Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2001-03. “Race and Representation in the U.S. Congress.” \$100,000.

University of Maryland Foundation/Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (Funded by Pew Charitable Trusts). 2002. “How State Laws Affect the Turnout of Young Registrants” (with Raymond Wolfinger). \$78,338.

## **DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (2018-2023)**

Administrative Chair, Orange Cluster, UCD College of Letters & Science (2021-2024)

College of Letters & Science Library Committee, UCD (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23)

Academic Senate Library Committee, UCD (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23)

UC Center, Sacramento, Faculty Council (2018-2023).

Advisory Committee for the UC Davis Washington Program, member (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21)

Academic Senate Representative Assembly, UCD (2020-21)

University of California Committee on Academic Freedom, systemwide Academic Senate, UCD Division Representative (2019-20, 2020-21).

Academic Senate Freedom and Responsibility Committee, UCD, (2018-19, chair 2019-20, 2020-21).

Graduate Affairs Committee, Political Science (2018-19, 2019-20).

American Politics Field Committee, Political Science (2018-19, 2020-21).