

## Alexander Cohen

Ph.D. Candidate • University of California, Davis • agcohen@ucdavis.edu 667 Kerr Hall

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### Research Interests

American political institutions, democratic backsliding, voting rights and election law, Congress, political elite behavior and accountability, civil religion and symbolic politics, American Political Development

### Education

#### University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Department

Davis, CA

Sep. 2021–Present

#### Occidental College

B.A. in Politics and Economics

Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 2014–May 2018

*Summa cum laude*

Honors and Distinction in Politics, Distinction and Commendation in Economics

### Working Papers

“Can Corporations Support Democracy? The Vanishing Financial Cost of Election Denial Among House Republicans After January 6th” (solo-authored)

“Constitutional Amendment Proposals as Position-Taking Activity in the U.S. House of Representatives (1979-2020)” (solo-authored)

“Raising the Temperature: The Effects of Lobbying Activity on the Advancement of Bills Addressing Climate Change” (with Cory Struthers, Scott MacKenzie, Matthew Shugart, Siddharth Kishore, Mehdi Nemati, and Ariel Dinar)

“Proudly We Hail? American Affect Toward the Flag, Civil Religion, and Rising Christian Nationalism” (with Jonathan Dahlsten)

### Research Experience

#### University of California, Davis

*Graduate Student Researcher, Political Science Department*

Aug. 2022–Present

- Research California state legislative and executive data related to water, climate, and agriculture, assist in survey and dataset development, with Professors Matthew Shugart, Scott MacKenzie, and Cory Struthers

*Research Aide, History Department*

Jun. 2023–Sep. 2023

- Research patterns of slavery, population growth, and development in the Ohio River Valley in the early 19th century with Professor Greg Downs

*Graduate Student Researcher, Political Science Department*

Jun. 2023–Sep. 2023

- Research and assemble data on Republican members of Congress during and before the 2022 midterm elections with Professor Erik Engstrom

#### Occidental College

*Research Assistant*

Sep. 2027–May 2018

- Analyzed and code legal briefs on statewide same-sex marriage court cases with Professor Edward Kammerer

## Teaching Experience

### University of California, Davis *Teaching Assistant*

POL012A (Politics and Sports), Professor Ethan Scheiner Winter Quarter 2022  
POL100 (Local Government and Politics), Professor Scott MacKenzie Spring Quarter 2022

### *Undergraduate Tutor*

POL 194/IRE 194 (Honors Thesis Seminar) Winter Quarters 2023, 2024

## Professional Experience

**Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law** New York, NY & Washington, DC  
*Senior Research and Program Associate* Jun. 2020–Jul. 2021  
*Research and Program Associate* Oct. 2018–Jun. 2020

- Worked as sole research assistant and project manager *The People's Constitution* (Kowal & Codrington 2021).
- Arranged general administrative and programmatic support to the Fellows Program under Theodore R. Johnson
- Provided broad editorial assistance on op-eds and articles published in outlets including *The Atlantic*, *New York Times Magazine*, several law reviews, and the Brennan Center blog.
- Researched issues of constitutional reform, the Electoral College, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, the Equal Rights Amendment, and campaigns for an Article V Constitutional Convention.

**Tiny Snek Comics *Creator, Artist, Writer, Administrator*** Aug. 2016–Present

- Write and illustrate popular online webcomic with a combined audience of 900,000 followers across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Bluesky
- Fundraise for charitable causes and non-profits, raising upwards of \$250,000 for organizations included the Yellowhammer Fund, the National Network of Abortion Funds, RAICES, Feeding America, the International Rescue Committee, the Equal Justice Initiative, the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, and Equality Texas
- Profiled in the *New York Times* after creating top-trending hashtag in the United States in November, 2022
- Collaborate with Jason 'Anarchy' Wiseman to illustrate and produce two board games over Kickstarted, successfully financed with a combined CA\$108,203
- Partnered with Facebook to produce a sticker pack for Facebook Messenger, "Tiny Snek and Friends," downloaded by over 21 million users within its first four months
- Created five successfully crowdfunded plushies with Makeship
- Online Media Guest of Honor at ConnectiCon 2018 in Hartford, CT

## Conferences

Western Political Science Association 2018, 2023  
Midwest Political Science Association 2024

## Honors, Awards, and Grants

Larry Caldwell Outstanding Senior Award, Occidental College Politics Department May 2018  
Bennett W. Schwartz Award for Outstanding Senior, Occidental College Economics Department May 2018  
Summer Research Collaborative Award with Professor Erik Engstrom, \$5,000 Apr. 2023

## Organizational Membership and Leadership

Phi Beta Kappa, Junior Inductee Aug. 2017–Present  
Union Representative, Graduate Association of Political Science Students Oct. 2021–Oct. 2023  
Senior Advisor to the President, Graduate Association of Political Science Students October 2023–Present  
Facilitator, American Politics Reading Group at UC Davis Aug. 2022–Present

## Skills

Spanish (fluent: writing, reading; proficient: speaking)  
R, LaTeX, Stata, Tableau, Dedoose  
Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop

## Media, Public Writing, and Interviews

“On Twitter, Who Needs a Check Mark When You Can Have a Rat?” <i>New York Times</i> Interview	Nov. 4, 2022
“The 26th Amendment Turns 50 Amid Renewed Voter Suppression,” Brennan Center Analysis	Jun. 30, 2021
“Uncivil Religion in an Uncivil War,” <i>Newsweek</i>	Jan. 28, 2021
“The 19th Amendment at 100,” Brennan Center Opinion	Aug. 18, 2021
“The Promise and Pitfalls of the 15th Amendment over 150 Years,” Brennan Center Analysis	Feb. 3, 2020
“The Equal Rights Amendment Explained,” Brennan Center Analysis	Jan. 23, 2020
“Is the GOP Warming Up to the Equal Rights Amendment?” Brennan Center Analysis	Mar. 19, 2020
“The National Popular Vote Explained,” Brennan Center Analysis	Mar. 19, 2019
“Continuing the Fight for Constitutional Equality,” <i>Ms. Magazine</i>	Jan. 25, 2019

## References

### **Erik Engstrom**

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University of California, Davis  
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### **Scott MacKenzie**

Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
samackenzie@ucdavis.edu

### **Benjamin Highton**

Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
bhighton@ucdavis.edu

### **Wilfred Codrington**

Dean’s Research Scholar and Association Professor of Law  
Brooklyn Law School  
wilfred.codrington@brooklaw.edu

### **Theodore Johnson**

Senior Advisor, Executive Office  
New America Foundation  
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