

Alexander Cohen

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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

Summa cum laude

Honors and Distinction in Politics, Distinction and Commendation in Economics

Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 2014–May 2018

Working Papers

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

Under Review at *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

“Can Low Cost Advocacy Tactics Advance Legislation? Interest Groups and Climate Policymaking in California, 2001-2020” (with Cory Struthers, Scott MacKenzie, Matthew Shugart, Siddharth Kishore, Mehdi Nemati, and Ariel Dinar)

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

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

Under Review at *Political Behavior*

“Democratic Campaigners: How Congressional Candidates Emphasize Issues of Democracy in Contemporary American Elections” (solo-authored)

Research Experience

University of California, Davis

Graduate Student Researcher, Professor Scott MacKenzie

Research Aide, Professor Greg Downs

Graduate Student Researcher, Professor Erik Engstrom

Aug. 2022–Apr. 2024

Jun. 2023–Sep. 2023

Jun. 2023–Sep. 2023

Teaching Experience

University of California, Davis *Teaching Assistant*

POL012A (Politics and Sports), Professor Ethan Scheiner Winter 2022
POL100 (Local Government and Politics), Professor Scott MacKenzie Spring 2022, 2024
POL7V (Introduction to Law and Politics), Professor Mark Verbitsky Fall 2024

Undergraduate Tutor

POL 194/IRE 194 (Honors Thesis Seminar) Winter 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 on *The People's Constitution* (Kowal & Codrington 2021).

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

Conferences

American Political Science Association 2024
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

Professor, Department of Political Science
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Scott MacKenzie

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Benjamin Highton

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Wilfred Codrington

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Theodore Johnson

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New America Foundation
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