Mackenzie R. Dobson

CONTACT INFORMATION	2015 Jenkins Nanovic Halls Notre Dame, IN 46556 mackenzierdobson.com	mdobson2@nd.edu dkx9za@virginia.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, Knoxville, TN Assistant Professor of Political Science	2026 –

EDUCATION	**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA Ph.D. Government	2021 – 2026
	Appalachian State University, Boone, NC M.A. Political Science	2020 – 2021
	B.S. Political Science *(Summa Cum Laude)*	2018 – 2020

AFFILIATIONS	**Portman Center for Policy Solutions** University of Cincinnati Non-Resident Research Affiliate	2025 – Present
	Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab University of Notre Dame Visiting Scholar	2024 – Present
	Quantitative Collaborative University of Virginia Graduate Student Affiliate	2022 – Present
	Center for Effective Lawmaking University of Virginia Graduate Student Affiliate	2021 – Present

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[4] Rachel Porter, Jeffrey J. Harden, and **Mackenzie R. Dobson**. "Electing Amateur Politicians Reduces Cross-party Collaboration."
***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2025.**

[3] Porter, Rachel, Jeffrey J. Harden, Emily Anderson, Géssica de Frietas, **Mackenzie R. Dobson**, Abigail Hemmen, and Emma Schroeder. "The Consequences of Elite Action Against Elections."
***British Journal of Political Science*, 2025.**

[2] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.** "Selective Reciprocity in Bipartisan Collaboration: How Majority Security Shapes Legislative Success."
Forthcoming at *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.

- Winner of the Best Graduate Student Paper on State Politics (2025)
- Winner of the Best Graduate Student Poster (2024)

[1] Lollis, Jacob M., and **Mackenzie R. Dobson**. "I'm Coming Out! How Voter Discrimination Produces Effective LGBTQ Lawmakers." *PS: Political Science and Politics,* **2025.**

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

[4] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.**, Jacob M. Lollis, Justin H. Kirkland, and Jeffrey J. Harden. "Why Citizens Dislike Professional Legislatures: White-Collar Government and Policymaking for the Wealthy." **Invited to Revise & Resubmit.**

[3] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.** "The Bipartisan Path Revisited: Collaboration and Legislative Effectiveness in the U.S. States."

[2] Lollis, Jacob M. and **Mackenzie. R Dobson**. "Congressional Attention to Abortion After *Dobbs*."

[1] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.**, Craig Volden, and Alan Wiseman. "Bipartisan Campaigners Become Effective Lawmakers."

WORKING PROJECTS

[5] Ballard, Andrew, **Mackenzie R. Dobson**, Martín Gandur, Craig Volden, and Alan Wiseman. "Policy Agendas and Effective Lawmaking."

[4] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.**. "Cross-Party Coalitions in Policy-Specific Lawmaking."

[3] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.**, Géssica de Frietas, and James M. Curry. "Procedural Rights and Minority Party Influence in American Legislatures."'

[2] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.**, Emma Schroeder, Daniel M. Butler, James M. Curry, Thad Kousser, and Jeffrey J. Harden. "Does Training Politicians Improve Policymaking?"

[1] **Dobson, Mackenzie R.** and Jacob M. Lollis. "Abortion Policy and Electoral Accountability in American Legislatures."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[11] The Bipartisan Path Revisited: Collaboration and Legislative Effectiveness in the U.S. States. Effective Lawmaking in the American States. 2026.

[10] Congressional Attention to Abortion After *Dobbs*. Southern Political Science Association. 2026.

[9] Policy Agendas and Legislative Effectiveness in the American States. American Political Science Association. 2025.

[8] Selective Reciprocity in Bipartisan Collaboration: How Majority Security Shapes Legislative Success. American Political Science Association. 2025.

[7] Legislative Amateurs and Bipartisanship in the U.S. Congress. Midwest Political Science Association. 2025.

[6] Selective Reciprocity in Bipartisan Collaboration: How Majority Security Shapes Legislative Success. Effective Lawmaking in the American States Conference. 2025.

[5] Bipartisanship Secured: How Secure Majorities Lead to Cross-Party Collaboration. State Politics and Policy Conference. 2024.

[4] I'm Coming Out! How LGBTQ Candidates Become Effective Lawmakers. Center for Effective Lawmaking Conference. 2023.

[3] Does Bipartisan Lawmaking Improve the Public's Quality of Life? Evidence from the States. State Politics and Policy Conference. 2023.

[2] Professional Capacity and the Quality of Representation in U.S. Legislatures. State Politics and Policy Conference. 2023.

[1] Bipartisan Campaigners Become Bipartisan Legislators and Effective Lawmakers. Midwest Political Science Association. 2023.

INVITED TALKS	**The Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy**	
	Selective Reciprocity in Bipartisan Collaboration: How Majority Security Shapes Legislative Success	Fall 2025
	The Consequences of Elite Actions Against Elections	Fall 2024
	Junior Americanist Workshop Series	
	I'm Coming Out! How Voter Discrimination Produces Effective LGBTQ Lawmakers	Spring 2024

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS	**Rooney Democracy Institute Funding Recipient** ($2,000)	2026
	Portman Center for Policy Solutions Funding Recipient Computing Indices of Bipartisanship in Congress ($14,000)	2025
	Best Graduate Student Paper on State Politics State Politics and Policy Conference	2025

Best Graduate Student Poster Award
State Politics and Policy Conference   2024

Center for Effective Lawmaking Grant Recipient
CEL Small Research Grant ($3,200)   2024
CEL Small Research Grant ($3,000)   2023
CEL Summer Research Grant ($3,000)   2022
CEL Summer Research Grant ($3,000)   2021

Quantitative Collaborative Grant Recipient
QC Research Grant ($2,000)   2023

Tom Carsey Scholar Award
State Politics and Policy Conference ($300)   2025
State Politics and Policy Conference ($300)   2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Network Analysis Topical Workshop
ICPSR   2025

Graduate Instructor Seminar on the Teaching of Writing
University of Virginia   2023

Bipartisan Rhetoric in Congressional Campaigns
Center for Effective Lawmaking
Research Director   2021 - 2023

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer
Political Research Quarterly
Legislative Studies Quarterly
State Politics and Policy Quarterly

Editorial Assistant
American Journal of Political Science   2022 - 2023

PROGRAMMING   R, Python, Stata, LaTeX, Qualtrics

MEMBERSHIPS   American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association

REFERENCES   **Craig Volden**, Professor of Politics and Public Policy,
University of Virginia, `volden@virginia.edu`

Jennifer Lawless, Leone Reaves and George W. Spicer Professor of Politics,
University of Virginia, `jll9jx@virginia.edu`

Justin Kirkland, Professor of Politics and Public Policy,
University of Virginia, `jhk9y@virginia.edu`

Jeffrey J. Harden, Andrew J. McKenna Family Professor,
University of Notre Dame, `jharden@nd.edu`