Mackenzie R. Dobson

Contact Information	University of Virginia Gibson Hall 1540 Jefferson Park Avenue Charlottesville, VA	dkx9za@virginia.edu

Employment

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Richmond
Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Visiting Scholar, Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab, Rooney Center, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame
July 2024 - June 2025

Education

University of Virginia

Ph.D. Government, May 2026 (Expected)
> ***Dissertation*: From Campaigns to Governance: Understanding Bipartisanship in State Legislatures**
> *Committee*: Craig Volden, Jennifer Lawless, Justin Kirkland, Laurel Harbridge-Yong
> *Field*:American Politics & Methodology

Appalachian State University

M.A., Political Science, 2021
B.S., Political Science, 2020 (*Summa Cum Laude*)

Academic Interests

American political institutions, legislative institutions, state politics, representation, and methods for computational social science.

Manuscripts Under Review

1. "I'm Coming Out! How LGBTQ Candidates Become Effective Lawmakers" *with Jacob M. Lollis.*
   Invited to Revise & Resubmit at *PS: Political Science & Politics*

2. "Cashing in on Capacity? How Social Class Drives Citizens' Attitudes Toward Legislative Capacity" *with Jacob M. Lollis, Justin H. Kirkland, and Jeffrey J. Harden*

3. "Bipartisan Campaigners Become Bipartisan Legislators and Effective Lawmakers" *with Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman*

Working Projects

1. "Campaigning on Compromise: Exploring the Influence of Bipartisan Language in State Legislative Campaigns"

2. "Instituting Compromise? How Legislative Institutions Prevent and Promote Bipartisan Lawmaking"

3. "Bipartisanship Secured: How Secure Majorities Lead to Cross-Party Collaboration"

4. "The Consequences of Elite Action Against Elections" *with Jeff Harden, Rachel Porter, Abigail Hemmen, Emma Schroeder, Gessica de Freitas, and Emily Anderson*

5. "The Substantive Representation of LGBTQ Americans: Evidence from 1.6 Million State Legislative Bills" *with Jacob M. Lollis*

Conference Presentations

1. "Bipartisanship Secured: How Secure Majorities Lead to Cross-Party Collaboration" State Politics and Policy Conference. 2024.

2. "I'm Coming Out! How LGBTQ Candidates Become Effective Lawmakers" *with Jacob M. Lollis.* 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.

4. "Professional Capacity and the Quality of Representation in U.S. Legislatures" *with Mackenzie R. Dobson, Justin H. Kirkland, and Jeffery J. Harden.* State Politics and Policy Conference 2023.

5. "Bipartisan Campaigners Become Bipartisan Legislators and Effective Lawmakers" *with Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman.* MPSA 2023.

Invited Talks

1. Fall 2024: The Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy Seminar
   - The Consequences of Elite Action Against Elections (*with Emily Anderson and Jeff Harden*)

2. Spring 2024: Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)
   - I'm Coming Out! How Voter Discrimination Produces Effective LGBTQ Lawmakers (*with Jacob M. Lollis*)

**Fellowships &
Awards**

1. State Politics & Policy Conference Best Graduate Student Poster Award, 2024

2. Center for Effective Lawmaking Small Grant, 2023 (**$3,000**)

3. Summer Research Grant, Center for Effective Lawmaking, 2022 (**$3,000**)

4. Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics & Policy Conference, 2021 (**$300**)

5. Summer Research Grant, Center for Effective Lawmaking, 2021 (**$3,000**)

6. Politics Department Fellowship (Tuition & Stipend), University of Virginia, 2021-2026.

**Professional
Experience**

Research Director: Bipartisan Campaigners Project
- Developed coding protocol alongside Dr. Craig Volden.
- Trained and managed a team of undergraduate students at the University of Virginia tasked with identifying, compiling, and assessing congressional campaign materials for members of Congress' first congressional campaign from 1955-2019.

Research Team Member: State Legislative Bill Text Team
- Developed coding protocol alongside Dr. Andy Ballard.
- Developed and ran legislative bill website scrapers based on site APIs to collect archived legislation data.
- Pre-processed and managed legislative bill data from LegiScan for state legisatures from 2009-2024 and developed bill- (N= 1.6 million) and sponsor-level (N= 8.5 million) datasets.

Research Assistant

- Jennifer Lawless, Univesity of Virginia, 2023, 2024
- Justin Kirkland, University of Virginia, 2022, 2023.
- Rachel Potter, University of Virginia, 2022
- Adam Newmark, Appalachian State University, 2020, 2021

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

    S2024, F2023: Introduction to Public Policy, University of Richmond

Teaching Assistant

    S2024: Politics and the Political Economy of Development (Mark Schwartz)

    F2023: Introduction to American Politics (James Caesar)

    S2023: American Congress (Justin Kirkland)

    F2022: Presidential Power (Rachel Potter)

Service

Editorial Assistant, American Journal of Political Science (Fall 2022)

Programming

R, Stata, Python, Latex, Qualtrics, Machine learning/Large language models (e.g., HuggingFace, Caret)

Memberships

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

References

Craig Volden, Professor of Politics & 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, Associate Professor of Politics and Public Policy,
University of Virginia, `jhk9y@virginia.edu`