Geoffrey Clinton Willbanks

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
Doctor of Philosophy in Government (Spring 2027)
Dissertation: "Protecting My Party – A Behavioral Analysis of the Primary Voter"
Committee: Daron R. Shaw (chair), Bethany Albertson, Stephen Jessee, Nicholas Valentino
Subfields: American Political Institutions and Processes, Methodology and Formal Theory

Rice University, Houston, Texas
Bachelor of Arts – Political Science; Bachelor of Arts – Policy Studies (2014)
Thesis Advisors: Melissa Marschall, Robert Stein
Senior Honors Thesis: "The Price of Education: An Analysis of School Board Elections in the US"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political parties, voter behavior, political campaigns, political psychology, political communication, public opinion, political geography, survey research, quantitative methods

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Willbanks, Clinton and Michael E. Shepherd. 2026. "Texas in the Rearview Mirror? How the Democratic Party Ignores Rural America and Underperforms Statewide." *Political Behavior* 48: 657–694. DOI: 10.1007/s11109-025-10045-3

PAPERS IN REVIEW PROCESS

Carlos, Roberto, Vanessa Cruz Nichols, Miranda Sullivan, Allison Verrilli, Clinton Willbanks, Seung Wook Yoo, and Christopher Cassella. *Drawing a Line in the Sand: Embarrassment and Latinx Support for Punitive Immigration Policies.* Revise and Resubmit.

Theriault, Sean M. and Clinton Willbanks. *The Claims, Causes, and Consequences of the 2026 Redistricting War.* Under review.

BOOK CHAPTERS IN REVIEW PROCESS

Salzman, Jenna, Clinton Willbanks, and Daron R. Shaw. "Migration, Mobility, and the Realignment of the American Parties." In *Handbook of American Political Geography* edited by Kal Munis and Nicholas Jacobs. Manuscript under review.

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Willbanks, Clinton. *Win All You Can? Identifying Political Party Financial Sanctioning of Candidates for Their Behavior During Primary Elections.*

Willbanks, Clinton. *The Party Penalizes: An Examination of the General Election Effects of Party-Preferred Candidates Losing Primary Elections.*

Willbanks, Clinton. *Join the Party: How Local Parties Increase Primary Election Participation.*

Garza, Stephanie and Clinton Willbanks. *Fortifying the Message: The Electoral Impact of Immigration Framing in Republican Political Campaigns.*

Willbanks, Clinton, Daron R. Shaw, Sunshine Hillygus, Shanto Iyengar, Nicholas Valentino, and Matthew DeBell. *Does Highlighting Republican Involvement in a Poll Increase Response Rates?*

Shaw, Daron R. and Clinton Willbanks. *Gone to Texas: A Study of Mobility and Political Change in an Era of Polarization.*

INVITED TALKS

2025 Survey Analytics in Market Research Speaker Series, Arlington, Virginia (Data Quality Challenges with Survey Panels)

2023 American Politics Speaker Series, University of Texas at Austin (The Disengaging Effect of Uncontested Elections)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Not My Party: Anti-Establishment Support in Primary Elections." *American Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Boston, Massachusetts, September 3-6, 2026.

"Fortifying the Message: The Electoral Impact of Immigration Framing in Republican Political Campaigns." With Stephanie Garza. *American Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Boston, Massachusetts, September 3-6, 2026.

"Not My Party: Anti-Establishment Support in Primary Elections." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Chicago, Illinois, April 23-26, 2026.

"Fortifying the Message: The Electoral Impact of Immigration Framing in Republican Political Campaigns." With Stephanie Garza. *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Chicago, Illinois, April 23-26, 2026.

"Protecting the Herd: How Voters Evaluate Partisan Rhetoric in Primary Elections." *American Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Vancouver, British Columbia, September 10-14, 2025.

"Protecting the Herd: How Voters Evaluate Partisan Rhetoric in Primary Elections." *Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) APSA Pre-Conference.* Stony Brook, New York, May 29-31, 2025.

"Differential Effects of Political Endorsements on Primary Voters by Geographic Source Cues." *Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) APSA Pre-Conference.* Tallahassee, Florida, February 29-March 2, 2024.

"Texas in the Rearview Mirror? How the Democratic Party Ignores Rural America and Underperforms Statewide." With Michael Shepherd. *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Chicago, Illinois, April 4-7, 2024.

"Win All You Can? Identifying Political Party Financial Sanctioning of Candidates for Their Behavior During Primary Elections." *Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference.* New Orleans, Louisiana, January 10-13, 2024.

"Gone to Texas: A Study of Mobility and Political Change in an Era of Polarization." With Daron Shaw. *American Political Science Association Annual Conference.* Los Angeles, California, August 31 – September 3, 2023.

"The Disengaging Effect of Uncontested Elections." *Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference.* St. Petersburg, Florida, January 12-14, 2023.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor
Government Department, University of Texas at Austin

Research Internship Program (Summer 2025, Summer 2026)

- Design and oversee research tasks and assignments to give students exposure to various types of research methods in the social sciences

Head Teaching Assistant (Web)
Government Department, University of Texas at Austin

Campaigns and Elections (Fall 2024)
Introduction to American Government (Fall 2022, Summer 2023)

- Oversee and coordinate team of eight to 10 TAs for courses of 1100 students
- Manage in-class quizzes, grading, read in-class announcements, and assist in lectures during each class
- Assist in preparation of course materials, including lecture slides, quizzes, and exams

Teaching Assistant
Government Department, University of Texas at Austin

Political Parties (Spring 2025)
Constitutional Interpretation (Spring 2024)
Civil Liberties (Spring 2022)
United States Congress (Fall 2021, Fall 2025)

HONORS/AWARDS/GRANTS

- Summer Fellowship from UT Austin Government Department (Summer 2025)
- UT Austin Government Department's Outstanding TA (2024)
- Summer Fellowship from UT Austin Government Department (Summer 2024)
- Scholarship for Political Science Research from ICPSR (Summer 2024)
- Professional Development Award for 2024 EPOVB Conference from Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin (2024)
- Research Grant from Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin (Spring 2023)
    - With Roberto Carlos, Christopher Cassella, Megan Dias, Vianney Gomez, Miranda Sullivan, Allison Verrilli, Clinton Willbanks, Seung Wook Yoo.
- Professional Development Award for 2023 SPSA Conference from Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin (2023)
- Rice University President's Honor Roll (2014)
- John S. Ambler Award for Best Honors Thesis in Political Science (2014)
- Rice University Allen Trustee Distinguished Scholarship (2010 – 2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Government Department, University of Texas at Austin
Graduate Research Assistant – American National Election Study (Jan 2022 – Present)
Research Adviser: Dr. Daron R. Shaw

- Assist in the post-fielding finalization of 2024 ANES survey products
- Assist in the design and validation of instrumentation for the 2024 and 2028 ANES cycles
- Assist in the coordination and management of ANES Board Meetings held in Austin
- Conduct survey item validity testing of selected 2023 and 2024 pilot study results and prepare reports presented to the ANES Board
- Create project summary presentations for internal and external stakeholders

Survey Research Division, Hanover Research, Washington, D.C.
Product Analyst, Research Associate, Senior Research Associate (Jan 2020 – July 2026)

Domestic Politics, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, Washington D.C.
Assistant Analyst/Analyst (Feb 2017 – Jan 2020)

- Directed survey research processes from conception to delivery of results, including creating research plans and sampling universes, questionnaire design, data weighting, and statistical analysis for federal, state, and local political and issues campaigns in 29 states, including:
    - *2019 Kentucky Governor's election*
    - *2018 New Mexico Governor's election*
    - *2018 Minnesota U.S. Senate elections, including the 2018 Special Election*
    - *2018 Michigan U.S. Senate election*
    - *2018 Texas Seventh Congressional District (TX-07) election*
    - *National public research for the Human Rights Campaign (H.R.C.) on survey methodology on issues of gender and sexuality, including a 2018 exit poll*
    - *2017 New Jersey State House and Senate elections*
    - *2017 Manchester, New Hampshire Mayoral election*
- Worked closely with clients, vendors such as Catalist, TargetSmart, and Dynata, and internal departments to keep projects and deliverables on schedule and under budget. Performed under tight deadlines in a progressive, data-driven, high-stress environment
- Produced written and graphic analyses of data, providing strategic guidance for campaigns, organizations, and corporations, including messaging and targeting to inform paid media

Project Associate (2015 – 2017)

- Assisted in development, conduction, and reporting of quantitative and qualitative public opinion research for national, statewide, and local political campaigns, including:
    - *2016 New Hampshire U.S. Senate election*
    - *2016 New Hampshire Governor's election*
    - *Exit polling research on young voters and non-voters in the 2016 election for a national labor organization*

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C.
Legislative Fellow, 29th Congressional District of Texas, Gene Green (April – Sept. 2015)

Wendy Davis for Governor, Houston, Texas
Field Organizer (June – Nov 2014)

- Managed campaign voter outreach efforts in 3 Houston neighborhoods, including:

- Leading door-to-door canvassing efforts from myself to repeatedly reach more than 7,000 voters
- Organized voter and volunteer database from outreach efforts using VAN to support a statewide campaign
- Assisted in coordination of a public appearance for the candidate in Fort Bend County

RELEVANT SKILLS AND TRAINING

- Software languages and package proficiency: LaTeX, Stata, R, Microsoft PowerBI, ArcGIS Pro
- Programming language and package training: SPSS, Python
- Survey programming packages and software proficiency: Qualtrics, MarketSight, OSCAR
- Trained focus group moderator and in-depth interviewer

REFERENCES

Dr. Daron R. Shaw (dshaw@austin.utexas.edu)

Dr. Michael Shepherd (meshep@umich.edu)

Dr. Bethany Albertson (balberts@austin.utexas.edu)