

## *School Board Politics*

### *October 15 -17, 2003*

**Taubman Building, 5th Floor Conference Rooms**  
J. F. Kennedy School of Government

Sponsored by:  
**Program on Education Policy and Governance**  
**Taubman Center for State and Local Government**  
**Center for American Political Studies**

*Financial support provided by  
the John M. Olin Foundation, and the Center for American Political Studies*

### *Wednesday, October 15*

- 6:00**            **Debate: Should School Boards Be Abolished?**  
Anne L. Bryant – Executive Director, National School Boards Association  
Chester E. Finn, Jr. – President, Fordham Foundation  
Lisa Graham Keegan – CEO, Education Leaders Council  
Adam Urbanski – President, Rochester Teachers Association; Vice-President, American Federation of Teachers

### *Thursday, October 16*

- 8:15-8:45**        **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45-9:00**        **Welcome and Introductions**  
Paul E. Peterson – Director, Program on Education Policy and Governance; Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government, Harvard University  
William Howell – Assistant Professor of Government, Harvard University
- 9:00-10:45**      **SCHOOL BOARDS CONFRONT STATE, FEDERAL POWERS**
- “The Local School District in American Law,” Richard Briffault, Joseph P. Chamberlain Professor of Legislation, Columbia University Law School
  - “Desegregation and School Board Politics: The Limits of Court-Imposed Policy Change,” Luis Fraga, Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University; Nick Rodriguez, Master’s student, Stanford University; and Bari Anhalt Erlichson, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, Rutgers University
  - “Whither Localism? No Child Left Behind and the Local Politics of Federal Education Reform,” Douglas Reed, Associate Professor of Political Science, Georgetown University
  - **Chair:** Alan Altshuler, Director of the Taubman Center for State and Local Governance, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
  - **Discussants:** Christine Rossell, Professor of Political Science, Boston University; R. Shep Melnick, Thomas P. O’Neil, Jr. Professor of Political Science, Boston College

(cont'd)

**10:45-11:00 Break**

**11:00-12:30 ORGANIZED INTERESTS AND SCHOOL BOARD POLITICS**

- “Teacher Unions and School Board Elections,” Terry Moe, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution and William Bennett Monroe Professor of Political Science, Stanford University
- “School House Politics: Expenditures, Interests, and Competition in School Board Elections,” Frederick Hess, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute; and David Leal, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Texas
- **Chair:** Barry Bluestone, Russell B. and Andr e B. Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy, Northeastern University
- **Discussant:** Sunshine Hillygus, Assistant Professor of Government, Harvard University

**12:30-1:30 Lunch**

**1:30- 3:00 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

- “Retrospective Voting in Single Function Elections: School Boards, Test Scores, and Incumbents’ Electoral Fortunes,” Chris Berry, Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University; and William Howell, Assistant Professor of Government, Harvard University
- “Contextual Influences on Participation in Local and School Governance,” David Campbell, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame
- **Chair:** Jeffrey M. Berry, John Richard Skuse, Class of 1941, Professor of Political Science, Tufts University
- **Discussant:** Richard Murnane, Juliana W. and William Foss Thompson Professor of Education and Society, Harvard University

**3:00- 3:15 Break**

**3:15-4:45 RACE AND REPRESENTATION**

- “Electoral Structure and the Quality of Representation: The Policy Consequences of School Board Elections,” Kenneth J. Meier, Charles Puryear Professor of Political Science and Sara Lindsey Chair in Government, Department of Political Science and George Bush School of Government, Texas A&M University; Eric Gonzalez Juenke, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Political Science, Texas A&M University
- “Minority Representation and Local School Boards,” Melissa J. Marschall, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Rice University
- **Chair:** Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor of Government, Harvard University
- **Discussant:** Barry Burden, Associate Professor of Government, Harvard University

(cont'd)

## *Friday, October 17*

**8:15-8:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:45-9:00 Welcome and Introductions**

**9:00-10:45 REFORMING LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

- “When Mayors Lead Urban Schools: Toward Developing a Framework to Assess the Effects of Mayoral Takeover of Urban Districts,” Kenneth Wong, Professor of Public Policy and Education, Vanderbilt University; and Francis Shen, Ph.D candidate, Department of Government, Harvard University
- “School District Consolidation and Student Outcomes: Does Size Matter?” Chris Berry, Program on Education Policy and Governance Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University
- “The Market for Hamburgers is Simple Compared to the Market for Charter Schools: McDonalds, Burger King, and Local School Boards,” Mark Schneider, Professor of Political Science, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Paul Teske, Professor, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver; and Erin Cassese, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Political Science, State University of New York at Stony Brook
- **Chair:** Wilbur Rich, Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College
- **Discussants:** Charles Glenn, Professor, Boston University; Brian Jacob, Assistant Professor, Harvard University

**10:45-11:00 Break**

**11:00-12:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS ON SCHOOL BOARD POLITICS**

- Jennifer Hochschild, Henry LeBarre Jayne Professor of Government at Harvard University
- Joseph Viteritti, Visiting Professor of Politics, Princeton University
- **Chair:** William Howell, Assistant Professor of Government, Harvard University

**12:30-1:30 Lunch**