



Introduction

Dear Colleague,

We invite and encourage you to participate in the 2015 APSA Membership Survey. We welcome the views of political scientists, both members and nonmembers, on the programs and operations of the Association. Your participation in this survey is strictly voluntary but we hope you will participate since the association is in the midst of a strategic planning process. Important decisions on the annual meeting, member benefits, and new initiatives and programs will be directly influenced by your responses on this survey.

The profession is diverse and broad, with members in the United States and around the world working as academics in colleges and universities and many other professional roles in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. We greatly value input from all fields and sub-fields of the discipline.

The survey may take about 8-10 minutes to complete. All responses are strictly confidential and only aggregate data will be reported. We are also going to select one participant who completes the survey to receive an iPad mini. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and helpful contributions.

Sincerely,

Steven Rathgeb Smith
Executive Director
American Political Science Association

Membership

Which of the following describes your APSA membership status?

- ☐ I am currently an APSA member
- ☐ I have been an APSA member in the past, but not currently
- ☐ I have never been an APSA member

Why have you not joined APSA (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ It is too expensive
- ☐ I do not see sufficient professional benefits
- ☐ I have a stronger affiliation with another professional association
- ☐ I disagree with APSA's goals
- ☐ I am regularly unable to attend the APSA Annual Meeting
- ☐ Other

Why did you allow your APSA membership to lapse (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ It is too expensive
- ☐ I do not see sufficient professional benefits
- ☐ I have a stronger affiliation with an alternative professional association
- ☐ I disagree with APSA's goals
- ☐ I decided not to attend last year's Annual Meeting
- ☐ My proposal to last year's Annual Meeting was not accepted
- ☐ I am regularly unable to attend the Annual Meeting
- ☐ Other

How long have you been a member of APSA?

- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years

- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 16-20 years
- ☐ 21-25 years
- ☐ 26-30 years
- ☐ More than 30 years
- ☐ Not sure

By marking all choices that apply, please complete the statement, "I am a member of the American Political Science Association because ..."

- ☐ It makes going to the Annual Meeting affordable
- ☐ It gives me access to the APSA journals
- ☐ It gives me access to APSA eJobs
- ☐ It provides professional development resources and opportunities
- ☐ It provides support for scholarship
- ☐ It provides support for teaching
- ☐ It provides opportunities for networking and sharing research
- ☐ It helps me stay informed about the profession
- ☐ It allows me to support the profession
- ☐ It allows me to support the Association
- ☐ It makes me feel connected to the profession
- ☐ It gives me the opportunity to be involved in Association decision making
- ☐ Other

Please rank your reasons for being a member of the APSA (by dragging and dropping the choices):

- » It makes going to the Annual Meeting affordable
- » It gives me access to the APSA journals
- » It gives me access to APSA eJobs

- » It provides professional development resources and opportunities
- » It provides support for scholarship
- » It provides support for teaching
- » It provides opportunities for networking and sharing research
- » It helps me stay informed about the profession
- » It allows me to support the profession
- » It allows me to support the Association
- » It makes me feel connected to the profession
- » It gives me the opportunity to be involved in Association decision making
- » Other

By marking all choices that apply, please complete the statement, "I would be a member of the American Political Science Association if ..."

- ☐ I could afford the membership fee
- ☐ I had the support/funding to attend the Annual Meeting
- ☐ The Annual Meeting were held at a time when I could regularly attend
- ☐ Research in my field was published more often in the journals
- ☐ My papers were accepted for the Annual Meeting program
- ☐ Association benefits were more relevant to my professional needs
- ☐ I felt more connected to the profession
- ☐ APSA was more outspoken on issues that are important to me
- ☐ I had an academic appointment
- ☐ Other

Please rank the factors that would make you decide to become a member of the APSA (by dragging and

dropping the choices):

- » I could afford the membership fee
- » I had the support/funding to attend the Annual Meeting
- » The Annual Meeting were held at a time when I could regularly attend
- » Research in my field was published more often in the journals
- » My papers were accepted for the Annual Meeting program
- » Association benefits were more relevant to my professional needs
- » I felt more connected to the profession
- » APSA was more outspoken on issues that are important to me
- » I had an academic appointment
- » Other

Have you served as an APSA officer, council member, member of an APSA committee (e.g. award committees, Annual Meeting Program Committee, etc.), or as an Organized Section officer?

- ☐ Yes, I am currently serving as such
- ☐ Yes, I have served in the past, but not currently
- ☐ No, I have never been an APSA officer, council member, or committee member

If you are currently a faculty member, is your department an institutional member of APSA?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

What are the primary challenges you face in your role as a political science educator, student, or practitioner (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Availability of research funding
- ☐ Availability of support and resources for course development
- ☐ Staying current with the field
- ☐ Availability of travel funding
- ☐ Obtaining relevant employment
- ☐ Career planning (academic)
- ☐ Career planning (non-academic)
- ☐ Balancing teaching, research, and service
- ☐ Meeting research goals
- ☐ Other

How do you view subscription to APSA journals as a component of APSA membership?

- ☐ It is my primary reason for membership
- ☐ It is not my primary reason for membership, but is an important factor
- ☐ It is nice, but not central to my membership decision
- ☐ It is of little or no importance because I have institutional access to the APSA journals
- ☐ It is of little or no importance because I am not interested in the APSA journals

Of what other professional associations are you a member (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ International Political Science Association
- ☐ International Studies Association
- ☐ Midwest Political Science Association
- ☐ National Conference of Black Political Scientists
- ☐ Southern Political Science Association
- ☐ Western Political Science Association

- ☐ Other regional or state political science association (fill in)
- ☐ Other academic/professional association (fill in)
- ☐ None

APSA Role and Focus

On what, if anything, do you think APSA should focus more attention than it currently does (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Professional support and mentoring for graduate students and junior faculty
- ☐ Support for faculty research
- ☐ Focused intellectual networking around shared research interests
- ☐ Teaching and pedagogical support
- ☐ Advocacy and support on employment issues affecting the discipline (including adjunct faculty, parental leave etc.)
- ☐ Diversity and inclusion
- ☐ Public engagement
- ☐ Other

Please rank the things that you think APSA should focus more attention on than it currently does (by dragging and dropping the choices):

- » Professional support and mentoring for graduate students and junior faculty
- » Support for faculty research
- » Focused intellectual networking around shared research interests
- » Teaching and pedagogical support
- » Advocacy and support on employment issues affecting the discipline (including adjunct faculty, parental leave etc.)

» Diversity and inclusion

» Public engagement

» Other

Please indicate the relative priority you think APSA should give the following activities (by dragging and dropping the choices):

Professional development support and mentoring for graduate students and junior faculty

Support for faculty research (research grants, Centennial Center, Annual Meeting, workshops, etc.)

Focused intellectual networking around shared research and teaching interests

Support for teaching and pedagogy

Advocacy and support on employment issues affecting the discipline (including adjunct faculty, parental leave etc.)

Diversity and inclusion

Public engagement

How satisfied are you with APSA's career resources (eJobs, Annual Meeting Placement Interviews, mentoring program)?

- ☐ Not at all satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Not aware of these resources

How satisfied are you with APSA's teaching resources (Teaching and Learning Conference, Distinguished Teaching Award, syllabus collection, Annual Meeting programming)?

- ☐ Not at all satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Not aware of these resources

How satisfied are you with APSA's diversity and inclusion programs (Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, Minority Fellows Program, Minority Student Recruitment Program)?

- ☐ Not at all satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Not aware of these resources

APSA's endowment funds currently support the Annual Meeting, the Centennial Center, diversity programming, and travel grants for graduate students, untenured faculty, and international scholars to attend the Annual Meeting. Are there any other activities or programs that you believe the Association should support from its endowment?

- ☐ Yes (please specify)
- ☐ No

Prior to taking this survey, were you aware that APSA offers travel grants to graduate students, junior faculty, and international scholars?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you ever received an APSA travel grant?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Annual Meeting

Do you plan to attend the 2015 APSA Annual Meeting?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

In the past ten years, how often have you attended the APSA Annual Meeting?

- ☐ Every year or nearly every year
- ☐ About every other year
- ☐ Less than five times
- ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Never

What are typically the motivating factors for you to attend the meeting (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ The meeting offers high-quality, interesting panels and good intellectual exchange

- ☐ I have administrative responsibilities that require me to attend the meeting
- ☐ Presenting at conferences is important to my efforts to get a job/get tenure/get promoted
- ☐ The meeting offers good opportunities for professional development and disciplinary networking
- ☐ I enjoy seeing friends and colleagues from other institutions
- ☐ The meeting is held in an appealing location
- ☐ Other

Please rank the motivating factors for you to attend the meeting (by dragging and dropping the choices):

- » The meeting offers high-quality, interesting panels and good intellectual exchange
- » I have administrative responsibilities that require me to attend the meeting
- » Presenting at conferences is important to my efforts to get a job/get tenure/get promoted
- » The meeting offers good opportunities for professional development and disciplinary networking
- » I enjoy seeing friends and colleagues from other institutions
- » The meeting is held in an appealing location
- » Other

What are typically the deterrents to your attending the meeting (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ My paper proposal was not accepted
- ☐ The panel topics are not of interest to me
- ☐ The panels are not of high quality
- ☐ I don't find the meeting to be particularly welcoming or inviting
- ☐ The conference location is unappealing
- ☐ The meeting time conflicts with personal or professional obligations
- ☐ My institution will not fund my trip
- ☐ Members of my professional network will not be there

- ☐ I can only go to so many meetings, and place a higher priority on other conferences
- ☐ Other (fill in)

Please rank the deterrents to your attending the meeting (by dragging and dropping the choices):

- » My paper proposal was not accepted
- » The panel topics are not of interest to me
- » The panels are not of high quality
- » I don't find the meeting to be particularly welcoming or inviting
- » The conference location is unappealing
- » The meeting time conflicts with personal or professional obligations
- » My institution will not fund my trip
- » Members of my professional network will not be there
- » I can only go to so many meetings, and place a higher priority on other conferences
- » Other (fill in)

The APSA Annual Meeting currently holds short courses on the Wednesday of the Annual Meeting week and regular panels on Sunday. What is your preference for scheduling the fourth day of panel sessions?

- ☐ Prefer current Sunday panel schedule
- ☐ Would prefer to move current Sunday panels to Wednesday, concurrent with the short courses
- ☐ I don't have a preference

The APSA Annual Meeting is currently held every Labor Day weekend. Would you prefer to keep the current

Labor Day schedule, or to move the APSA Annual Meeting?

- ☐ Prefer current Labor Day schedule
- ☐ Would prefer to move the APSA Annual Meeting
- ☐ I don't have a preference

Moving the date of the APSA Annual Meeting could mean higher costs for hotels and meals. How would changes in costs affect your preference for the date of the Annual Meeting?

- ☐ I prefer the current Labor Day schedule even if moving it would not increase costs
- ☐ I prefer the current Labor Day schedule if moving it would increase costs even a little bit
- ☐ I prefer to move the APSA Annual Meeting even if that meant costs would be at least a little higher

I prefer to move the APSA Annual Meeting even if that meant costs would be (check all that apply):

- ☐ 1-10% higher
- ☐ 11-20% higher
- ☐ 20-30% higher
- ☐ More than 30% higher

When would you prefer the APSA Annual Meeting be held? Please check any choice that you would find preferable to the current Labor Day schedule:

- ☐ The weekend before Labor Day
- ☐ Mid/late September
- ☐ Early October
- ☐ Mid/late October (with consideration for Jewish holidays)
- ☐ The first weekend after New Year's
- ☐ Another date (please specify):

APSA is currently scheduled to hold its Annual Meeting in San Francisco (three times), Washington, DC, Boston, and Philadelphia over the next six years. Please indicate which, if any, of the following cities you would regard as an appealing site for the Annual Meeting, even if expenses may be higher:

- ☐ Vancouver
- ☐ Chicago
- ☐ Seattle
- ☐ New York City
- ☐ Los Angeles
- ☐ Toronto
- ☐ Montreal
- ☐ Miami

In thinking about whether to attend a conference in a given city, which factors are important in your decision-making process (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Weather in the host city
- ☐ Cost/convenience of air transportation to the host city
- ☐ Feasibility of driving to the host city
- ☐ Historical, cultural, and entertainment attractions of the host city
- ☐ Ease of access from the airport to the conference venue
- ☐ Quality/extensiveness of public transportation in the host city
- ☐ Appeal/suitability of the host city for children
- ☐ The socio-political climate of the host city
- ☐ Number and quality of restaurants and attractions within walking distance of the conference hotel
- ☐ Other (fill in)

Please rank the factors important in your decision about whether to attend a conference in a given city (by dragging and dropping the choices):

- » Weather in the host city
- » Cost/convenience of air transportation to the host city
- » Feasibility of driving to the host city
- » Historical, cultural, and entertainment attractions of the host city
- » Ease of access from the airport to the conference venue
- » Quality/extensiveness of public transportation in the host city
- » Appeal/suitability of the host city for children
- » The socio-political climate of the host city
- » Number and quality of restaurants and attractions within walking distance of the conference hotel
- » Other (fill in)

What other association meetings do you attend regularly (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ International Studies Association
- ☐ Midwest Political Science Association
- ☐ National Congress of Black Political Scientists
- ☐ Political Methodology Summer Methods Meeting
- ☐ Political Networks Conference
- ☐ Southern Political Science Association
- ☐ Western Political Science Association
- ☐ Regional studies conferences (please specify):
- ☐ Academic conferences outside of political science (please specify):
- ☐ Other academic conferences/meetings (please specify):
- ☐ None

When you attend an academic conference, how are your travel expenses typically paid?

- ☐ Institutional or grant funds cover all of my costs
- ☐ Institutional or grant funds cover more than half, but not all, of my costs
- ☐ Institutional or grant funds cover some, but less than half, of my costs
- ☐ I cover all of my costs without institutional or grant support
- ☐ I do not attend academic conferences

APSA Publications

When you read APSA journals, how do you generally read them?

- ☐ In print
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Both
- ☐ I don't read APSA journals

When you access APSA journals online, what access point do you use?

- ☐ APSA website
- ☐ Institutional access
- ☐ Mobile app
- ☐ Other (fill in)

Do you agree or disagree that APSA should offer other publications, in addition to the American Political Science Review, Perspectives on Politics, and PS: Political Science and Politics?

- ☐ Disagree

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ No opinion

If APSA were to offer new journals, how important would you find the following types of journals:

Journal with quick review and publication

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Open access journal

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Subfield journals

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Journal of review articles

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

On-line discussion for individual articles

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Journal with short research notes

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Journal for longer articles

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important

- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important

Overall Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with the work of APSA?

- ☐ Very Dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very Satisfied

Overall, how satisfied are you being a member of the APSA?

- ☐ Very Dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very Satisfied

APSA recently converted its web content system and its data management system. Please rate the quality of the new APSA website on the following dimensions:

Ease of navigation

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good

- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Availability and navigation of members-only resources

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Process for online membership renewal

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Please share any additional comments you have on the APSA website:

APSA supports scholarship in a variety of ways, including small grants, awards, journals, the Annual Meeting,

and others. In what additional ways can APSA continue to advance the scholarship of all political scientists?

APSA is committed to improving the professional lives of political scientists. If you could choose one (1) overarching thing that the Association could do to increase the overall quality of your professional life, what would it be?

Respondent Information

What is your current primary position within the discipline?

- ☐ University-Based Faculty Position
- ☐ Academic Administration
- ☐ Graduate Student
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Research Organization or Think Tank
- ☐ Consulting
- ☐ Undergraduate Student
- ☐ Other (fill in)

What is your current academic rank?

- ☐ Full Professor
- ☐ Associate Professor
- ☐ Assistant Professor
- ☐ Retired Professor
- ☐ Full-time Instructor/Lecturer
- ☐ Adjunct
- ☐ Other (fill in)

At what type of academic institution are you currently employed or studying?

- ☐ A university with a doctoral program in political science
- ☐ A university without a doctoral program in political science
- ☐ A liberal arts college
- ☐ A two-year/community college
- ☐ Other (fill in)

Where is the institution at which you are currently employed or studying located?

- ☐ Midwest
- ☐ Northeast
- ☐ South
- ☐ West
- ☐ Other US region
- ☐ Outside the US

Where outside the US is the institution at which you are currently employed or studying?

- ☐ North America (non-US)
- ☐ Latin America
- ☐ Europe
- ☐ Asia
- ☐ Oceania
- ☐ Africa
- ☐ Middle East

In which of the following fields is your primary research and/or teaching interest?

- ☐ American Politics
- ☐ Comparative Politics
- ☐ International Relations
- ☐ Judicial Politics
- ☐ Political Methodology
- ☐ Political Theory
- ☐ Public Policy/Public Administration
- ☐ Other (fill in)

In which of the following fields is your secondary research and/or teaching interest?

- ☐ American Politics
- ☐ Comparative Politics
- ☐ International Relations
- ☐ Judicial Politics
- ☐ Political Methodology
- ☐ Political Theory
- ☐ Public Policy/Public Administration
- ☐ Other (fill in)

Which of the following social media platforms do you use regularly as part of your professional life (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ Other social media (fill in)
- ☐ I do not use social media as part of my professional life

Do you follow APSA on any of the following social media platforms (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ Other social media (fill in)
- ☐ I do not follow APSA on any social media platforms

What is your preferred method for receiving information about APSA events, programs, and initiatives (choose all that apply)?

- ☐ E-mail
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Postal mail
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Other (fill in)

How old are you?

- ☐ Under 30
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ Over 60

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

What is your primary racial or ethnic identification?

- ☐ Asian/Asian Pacific American
- ☐ Asian/Asian Pacific (non-American)
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Black/African
- ☐ Latino/Hispanic American
- ☐ Latino/Hispanic (non-American)
- ☐ Native American
- ☐ Other Native/Aboriginal
- ☐ White/Caucasian American
- ☐ White/Caucasian (non-American)
- ☐ Other (fill in)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Giveaway Information

Thank you very much for your time. Also, many thanks to the APSA council, staff, and members who provided

input on the design of this survey.

In appreciation for your participation, please enter your email address below to participate in our drawing to give away an iPad mini to one survey participant.

To be included in the drawing, please enter your email address:

Powered by Qualtrics