



May 18, 2026

APSA Statement on the Dismissal of the National Science Board

The American Political Science Association (APSA) condemns the Trump Administration's recent dismissal of all 22 members of the National Science Board (NSB), the independent advisory and oversight body for the National Science Foundation (NSF). This abrupt decision was carried out without any initial justification and may violate the [National Science Foundation Act of 1950](#), the statute that established both NSF and the National Science Board. Furthermore, the decision to dismiss the Board comes at a time when NSF is undergoing [extensive internal reorganization](#), [considering the outright elimination of funding for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences \(SBE\) Directorate that supports social and political science research](#), and lacking a permanent director. This move is antithetical to the goals of NSF to pursue rigorous, scientific research in a nonpartisan manner, and constitutes a disservice to the agency, to the American people and the future of scientific inquiry.

APSA expresses gratitude to the former members of the National Science Board for their service on behalf of the greater scientific community. We further call on the scientific community to unify and advocate against the diminishing of U.S. research agencies, and we call on the U.S. Congress to exercise its oversight authority to rein in the Administration's interference with NSF, the NSB, and the federally funded research enterprise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Stokes'.

Susan Stokes,
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Simmons'.

Beth Simmons,
President-elect

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taeku Lee'.

Taeku Lee,
Past President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly A. Mealy'.

Kimberly A. Mealy,
Executive Director

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Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 11,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.