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# EDITORS' NOTE

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Reading the news today, it can feel like decision makers in the United States and around the world are faced with more challenges than ever. From environmental degradation to threats to the social safety net to ever-growing concerns about data protection, modern-day leaders increasingly need not only political will, but policy ingenuity to tackle the problems of our time. That is why we are excited to present to you this year's crop of articles from some of the best and brightest emerging policy leaders at the Trachtenberg School.

The pieces featured in Volume 26 of *Policy Perspectives* are diverse in topic, reflecting the varied experiences and interests of the authors themselves. But what they all offer are creative solutions to pressing problems facing society, using tools such as behavioral economics and benefit-cost analysis to reframe these challenges in a new light. In addition, making their return in Volume 26 are the Best of the Blog, which spotlights several stand-out pieces published in Brief Policy Perspectives, and interviews with distinguished Trachtenberg alumni who exemplify our school's motto of "doing good and doing it well."

As always, *Policy Perspectives* would not exist without the talents and dedication of the team who worked so hard to bring it over the finish line. We are immeasurably grateful to our Associate Editors Kendall Banks, Erik Chen, David Gellman, Carly Gordon, Miranda Hines, Andrew Miller, Emma Pellerin, and Jackie Wheeler, who worked tirelessly to make these articles the very best they can be. Jessica Blackband, Executive Editor of Brief Policy Perspectives and the GW WonkCast, was an unending source of support, inspiration, and friendship throughout the entire process. Samantha Sears and our friends on the board of the Trachtenberg Student Organization provided assistance in organizing events and promoting our organization across the school. We would also like to thank Ellen Wang, our incredibly talented Layout Editor who makes everything she touches look beautiful.

And many thanks to everyone at the Trachtenberg School and beyond, including Dr. Kathy Newcomer, for always being in our corner; Amber Palma-Halma and Pamela Brown, for their support with administrative matters large and small; Dolsy Smith, for helping us to redesign our journal's website and ensure this year's volume has a place to live online; Allyson Criner Brown and Garrett Jackson, for their willingness to share their experiences for the next generation of Trachtenberg students; and to our brilliant faculty reviewers for lending their expertise to the editing process.

It has been an immense honor to serve as Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor of Volume 26 of *Policy Perspectives*. We are thrilled to share the insights offered in these pages with the world.

**Marissa Esthimer**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Claire Oto**  
Managing Editor