

Editors' Note

As the nation and the world continue to recover from the economic recession of the mid-2000s, and as citizens grow increasingly concerned with the size and role of their governments and public institutions, it is important to constantly evaluate how public policy impacts our lives. Focused policy analysis and program evaluation serve an invaluable role in fostering this understanding, helping decision-makers direct funds to where impacts can be maximized in order to grow a strong and sustainable public sector.

Like the 20 volumes that have come before, Volume 21 of *Policy Perspectives* continues the journal's tradition of excellence by providing detailed analysis and critique of public policy and administration in order to offer meaningful solutions. Yet, this year more than ever, we have increased the size of our palette to expand the range of issues with which we paint the journal each year. We hope that in doing so, *Policy Perspectives* can reflect the diversity of its readership and increase its reach—promoting decision-makers and the public alike to engage in meaningful debate and increase the effectiveness of our public institutions.

This year's journal features eight new articles that speak to a wider array of issues than in the past, ranging from the effectiveness of genetically modified food labeling to the alignment of public opinion and state-level policy regarding abortion. Consistent with our expanded scope, we also offer reviews and critiques of four recent book publications on topics that include women in public service and the for-profit education sector.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Volume 21's dedicated and exceedingly focused editorial staff: Odia B. Cisse, Julian Hoffman, Michael Holzer, Andrew Kim, Anne Kruse, Erin Lockett, Tony Mastria, Christine Mellen, Laura Saltzman, and Mathew Vicknair.

In addition, we wish to thank our faculty advisor and Trachtenberg School Director Kathryn Newcomer. Thanks are also due to the exceptional GW faculty and staff who generously donated their time and expertise to significantly advance this year's articles throughout the rigorous editorial process.

Lastly, we extend a special thank you to Dolsy Smith and Amber Palmer-Halma for offering their guidance on the journal's communication strategy, design, and distribution.

We are proud and honored to have served as the 21st editors of *Policy Perspectives*, and we look forward to watching the journal develop and expand in the years to come. As we conclude this academic year and move forward in our own lives and careers, we hope Volume 21 advances public discourse on many of today's most important challenges.

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