

---

# EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S NOTE

---

Three years ago, the pandemic highlighted longstanding inequities in American society — and raised urgent questions about how public policy can, and should, address them. As day-to-day life eases into a new normal, many of those questions remain unanswered but no less urgent. This year, from public transit to the tax code, the *Brief Policy Perspectives* team explored some of these pressing policy questions — explaining why inequities remain, the harms they cause and potential avenues to address them. Our team analyzed recommendations for lowering health care costs, lessening working parents' tax burdens, boosting affordable housing development, and designing more equitable cities. They also explored the challenges facing democracy, both at home and abroad, from a stagnating House of Representatives to right-wing extremism in Europe.

The blog pieces you see in this journal and on our website are the result of fruitful collaborations between our staff writers and deputy editors. It is not easy to find the time or energy to research, write, edit, fact-check and revise policy briefs on top of academic work, internships and full-time jobs. I am grateful to this team for doing so not only with enthusiasm for their topics, but also with kindness and respect for one another. Thank you to our dynamic staff writers Patrick Carr, Yaokun Shen, David Trimmer, Ali Ulin, Julia Vanella and Nathan Varnell for their strong writing and analysis this year. Thank you to my stalwart deputy editors, Leisha Goel, Gio Liguori and Annie Robey, who do not receive the glory of seeing their names in print but who make essential contributions to this work through their thoughtful feedback and careful edits.

I am also thrilled to share that Annie Robey, Ali Ulin and Nathan Varnell are relaunching the *GW WonkCast* podcast after a nearly yearlong break. This mid-semester revival will continue into the next school year, and I am looking forward to seeing their editorial vision for *WonkCast* unfold.

Our faculty champions provide ongoing guidance and support to the journal, blog, and podcast year after year. To our advisor Dr. Kathy Newcomer, Trachtenberg School Director Dr. Mary Tschirhart, and all the Trachtenberg faculty who promote our work and encourage their students to write and edit for us, thank you. Every year, you ensure we have the resources we need to produce high-quality work, so we would quite literally not be able to do this without you.

To my colleagues on the journal side, Evan Linett and Kody Keckler, it's been a tremendous pleasure getting to collaborate with you both to lead *Policy Perspectives*. I'm constantly impressed by your talent and dedication to this organization. You have been exceptional partners in this work — thank you.

Congratulations to the *Brief Policy Perspectives* team on a successful year! I am enormously proud of the growth I've seen in your writing and editing over the past nine months and am excited to see what you all go on to do next. I wish you all a restful, productive summer — you have earned it!

**Lancy Downs**  
Executive Editor