



# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**CENTER FOR  
EFFECTIVE  
LAWMAKING**



UNIVERSITY  
of VIRGINIA

FRANK BATTEN SCHOOL  
of LEADERSHIP and PUBLIC POLICY



VANDERBILT  
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Former Congressmen Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and David Skaggs (D-CO) at a CEL Event



# OUR VISION

**We envision a Congress comprised of effective lawmakers, strong institutional capacity, and the incentive structure needed to address America's greatest public policy challenges.**



The Center for Effective Lawmaking (CEL), established in 2017, is an organization that promotes legislative effectiveness among lawmakers in legislatures across the U.S. and around the world through research and engagement. The Center is currently focused on the U.S. Congress, but work is underway to expand to U.S. state legislatures and, eventually, to legislative institutions beyond the U.S.

The CEL is a joint partnership between the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University. It was created to advance the generation, communication, and use of new knowledge about the effectiveness of individual lawmakers and legislative institutions in Congress.

The Center grew out of the scholarship of the Legislative Effectiveness Project, as featured in the award-winning book *Legislative Effectiveness in the University States Congress: The Lawmakers*, written by CEL Co-Directors Craig Volden and Alan Wiseman.

# OUR MISSION

**We advance the generation, communication, and use of new knowledge about the effectiveness of individual lawmakers and legislative institutions in Congress.**

*a year's overview*

# FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Welcome to the 2019 edition of the Center for Effective Lawmaking Annual Report. This overview report represents our annual means of spreading the word about the accomplishments, broad goals, and future plans for the Center. In a time when observers of politics have been quick to lament political polarization in the United States, and express frustration about the inability of our lawmaking institutions to engage with pressing policy problems, we strive to draw on our skills as social scientists and academic scholars to bring some clarity to these discussions.

First, we identify who in Congress is consistently able to successfully navigate the lawmaking process to ensure that their bills eventually become law, such as through our release this February of Legislative Effectiveness Scores for the recently completed 115th Congress. Second, we draw broader lessons from our related analyses to provide guidance to current lawmakers and their staffs, potential legislators, and interested members of the public about what can be done to facilitate effective lawmaking in Congress.

This past year represented a major increase in the scope of scholarly output and public engagement by the Center and its affiliates. Center scholars are currently undertaking more than 30 separate research projects that engage questions related to the causes and consequences of effective lawmaking on Congress. Key findings suggest ways to cultivate effective lawmaking (such as relying on experienced staff and developing a well-tailored agenda) and highlighting the conditions under which voters hold their lawmakers accountable. Our second annual research conference, at the University of Virginia, featured seven presentations by prominent academics on the theme “The Pipeline of Potentially Effective Lawmakers: Who Runs and Who Gets Elected?”

The Center hosted numerous events at the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University, and in Washington, DC, including visits by notable academic scholars of Congress (such as Sarah Binder of George Washington University and the Brookings Institution, and Eleanor Powell of the University of Wisconsin) and highly effective former lawmakers (including Congressmen Barney Frank, Bob Goodlatte, and David Skaggs), as well as bipartisan programming for congressional staff and new members of Congress. We also presented scholarship in many academic and public forums throughout the year, while enhancing the Center’s web and media presence substantially.

Turning to the future, the Center is poised for even more success and growth, as we aim to expand our analysis of effective lawmaking to the American state legislatures, grow our small grant program, expand our partnerships with other organizations that are interested in effective lawmaking (such as the Lugar Center, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Millennial Action Project), and constitute our inaugural Board of Advisors.

Questions about what it takes to get things done in Congress are not going away anytime soon. The Center for Effective Lawmaking is well-positioned to bring rigorous data-driven insights to those willing to wrestle with how to advance plausible solutions and institutional reforms to improve our lawmaking institutions.





*last year's*

# KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The Center for Effective Lawmaking updated the Legislative Effectiveness Scores for the 115th Congress, shortly after its completion earlier this year. The new scores were released publicly in February 2019 via the “Find Legislators” feature on our website.

We simultaneously wrote and released a report documenting the “Highlights from the New 115th Congress Legislative Effectiveness Scores.” This report included Top Ten lists for both Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate, details on those with the longest streaks of being in our “exceeds expectations” category, and discussions of highly effective freshmen lawmakers. Full details are available on our website.

With their release, we promoted both the use of these scores and the underlying academic work they help produce, to media, scholars, and lawmakers, with significant interest and attention received from each group.

## 17

*faculty affiliates*

## 30

*active research projects*

## 10

*research assistants*

## 2

*post-doctoral researchers*

## \$14,000

*grants awarded by the CEL*

Senators						
Nelson, Bill	Dem	FL	➕ 1.459	0.842		5 / 48
Rubio, Marco	Rep	FL	➕ 1.985	0.990		10 / 54
Representatives						
Bilirakis, Gus	Rep	FL-12	➕ 2.181	1.171		39 / 245
Buchanan, Vern	Rep	FL-16	✓ 0.848	1.386		154 / 245
Castor, Kathy	Dem	FL-14	✖ 0.229	0.580		140 / 203
Crist, Charlie	Dem	FL-13	✖ 0.172	0.509		159 / 203
Curbelo, Carlos	Rep	FL-26	✓ 1.250	1.329		105 / 245
Demings, Val	Dem	FL-10	✓ 0.443	0.509		103 / 203
DeSantis, Ron	Rep	FL-6	✓ 0.701	1.343		175 / 245
Deutch, Theodore	Dem	FL-21	✖ 0.234	0.552		137 / 203
Díaz-Balart, Mario	Rep	FL-25	✖ 0.383	1.414		211 / 245

The Center for Effective Lawmaking's research team has developed three areas of focus for our research activities:

*identification* of the characteristics of those who would likely become effective lawmakers once elected;

*cultivation* of effective lawmakers and institutional structures within Congress; and

*accountability* of legislators for their lawmaking effectiveness.

Within these areas, we have been continuing our work advancing numerous research projects, detailed in the following list of publications and current research activities. We are proud to have a diverse list of those working on CEL projects, especially extending beyond projects coauthored by Center Co-Directors Craig Volden and Alan Wiseman. To help advance this research agenda, we continue to actively promote the work of CEL affiliates and CEL small grant award winners.

In sum, these efforts have resulted in 30 recent or currently active research projects, with a total of 26 researchers, amounting to an active research portfolio well exceeding our goals for the year:

- 1) **Exploring the extent to which effective lawmaking in state legislatures translates into effective lawmaking in Congress.** Coauthors: Peter Bucchianeri, Craig Volden, and Alan Wiseman. Currently entitled "Moving on Up: How Effective State Legislators Become Effective Lawmakers in Congress," presented at the American Political Science Association Conference in August of 2019.
- 2) **Exploring the degree to which educational backgrounds establish the skills and networks that enhance lawmaking effectiveness.** Coauthors: Craig Volden, Jonathan Wai, and Alan Wiseman. Current working paper entitled, "Elite Education and Effective Lawmaking in the U.S. Congress," to be revised and submitted for publication in 2020.
- 3) **Exploring the extent to which candidates reveal characteristics during their early electoral campaigns that can be used to identify them as future effective or ineffective lawmakers once elected.** Coauthors: Craig Volden, Alan Wiseman, and still recruiting others. Currently entitled "Campaigning to Be an Effective Lawmaker," with research in progress.
- 4) **Examination of who the effective lawmakers are in the U.S. Senate and what helps them advance their legislation.** Coauthors: Craig Volden and Alan Wiseman. Published as "Legislative Effectiveness in the U.S. Senate" in *Journal of Politics* in 2018.
- 5) **Examination of how the selection processes and institutional positions of party leaders in Congress influence their lawmaking effectiveness.** Author: Alan Wiseman. Published as "Filter and Pegs in Holes: How Selection Mechanisms and Institutional Positions Shape (Perceptions of) Political Leadership," in *Leadership in American Politics*, University Press of Kansas, 2017.
- 6) **Exploring which policy areas lawmakers focus their attention on, to be responsive to constituents, to take advantage of resources from staff, committees, and interest groups, and to learn from past successes.** Coauthors: Geoffrey Lorenz, Craig Volden, Alan Wiseman, and Hye Young You. Currently entitled "Lawmaking Portfolios" with research in progress.
- 7) **Examination and scoring of the extent to which legislators in Congress value the quality of legislation in solving public policy problems in addition to the ideological positions of such proposals.** Coauthors: Craig Volden, Alan Wiseman. Currently entitled "Who Cares about Quality Proposals in Congress?" with research in progress.
- 8) **Exploration of the role of gender equity in the production of legislation, with an empirical examination focused on congressional staff.** Coauthors: Melinda Ritchie and Hye Young You. Currently entitled "Legislative Effectiveness and Gender Equity in Congress: Evidence from Congressional Staff" with research in progress.
- 9) **Study of the backgrounds and representative styles of lawmakers.** Coauthors: Andrew Clarke Daniel Markovits. Currently entitled "District Representatives or National Lawmakers? Home Style and Legislative Effectiveness in the U.S. Congress" with research in progress.

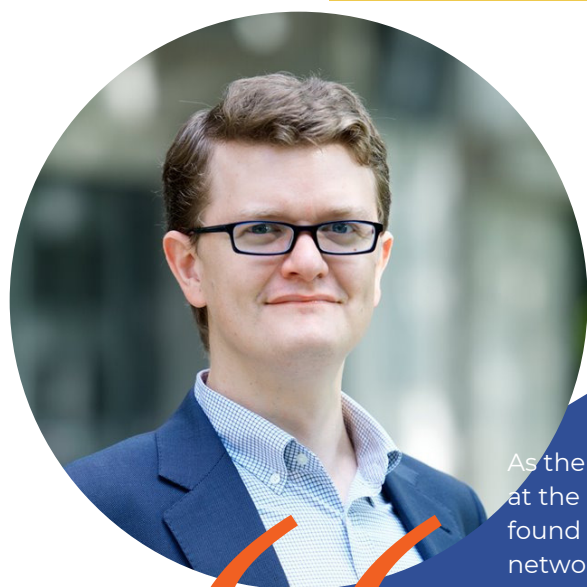


In the fall of 2018, the CEL hosted Professor Sarah Binder from George Washington University and the Brookings Institution (at Vanderbilt University) and Professor Eleanor Powell from the University of Wisconsin (at the University of Virginia). In the spring of 2019, the Center hosted award-winning author and journalist Robert Kaiser (at Vanderbilt University). All talks were well-attended, presenting thought-provoking new scholarship to academic audiences.

Our work with Dana Wittmer Wolfe at Colorado College on “Women’s Issues and their Fates in the U.S. Congress” won the European Political Science Association’s award for the best article published in EPSA’s flagship journal *Political Science Research and Methods* (2018).

- 10) **Theory of how ideology and effectiveness influence the legislation passed through Congress.** Coauthors: Matthew Hitt, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Published as “Spatial Models of Legislative
- 11) **Examination of how women’s issues (and women bill sponsors who tend to be more effective as lawmakers) progress through Congress.** Coauthors: Craig Volden, Alan E. Wiseman, and Dana E. Wittmer. Published as “Women’s Issues and their Fates in the U.S. Congress” in *Political Science Research and Methods* in 2018.
- 12) **Examination of the extent to which legislative staff experience influences the lawmaking effectiveness of members of Congress.** Coauthors: Jesse M. Crosson, Geoffrey M. Lorenz, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. To be published as “How Experienced Legislative Staff Contribute to Effective Lawmaking,” in *Congressional Capacity*, University of Chicago Press, likely in 2020.
- 13) **Survey of congressional staff to explore their work environment, capacity to do their jobs, and role in effective lawmaking.** Coauthors: Timothy LaPira and Alexander Furnas. Survey entitled “2019 Congressional Capacity Survey” to be launched in May 2019.
- 14) **Study of the role and capacity of congressional staff in conducting dual oversight and lawmaking activities.** Coauthors: Jennifer Selin and Hanna Brant. Currently entitled “Brain Drain? Understanding Congressional Staffers’ Legislative and Oversight Capabilities” with research in progress.
- 15) **Examination of whether participation in ideological caucuses in Congress enhances or undermines the effectiveness of members.** Coauthors: Andrew J. Clarke, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. CEL Working Paper 2018-03, entitled “The Legislative Effectiveness of Party Faction Members in Congress” to be revised and submitted for publication in 2019.
- 16) **Examination of the extent to which bipartisan lawmakers are more effective in Congress.** Coauthors: Laurel Harbridge Yong, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “Are Bipartisan Lawmakers More Effective?” to be revised and submitted for publication in 2019.
- 17) **Study of how lobbyists and lawmakers interact in forming coalitions that facilitate bill passage.** Author: Geoffrey M. Lorenz. Currently entitled “Lobbying Coalitions, Legislative Entrepreneurship, and Effective Lawmaking” with research in progress.
- 18) **Examination of the activities that newly elected members of Congress can engage in to become effective lawmakers in their initial years in office.** Coauthors: Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “How to Become an Effective Lawmaker from Day 1,” with research in progress, and preliminary results presented to freshman members of the 116th U.S. House of Representatives.
- 19) **Examination of the extent to which effective lawmakers are able to keep their original proposals intact through the lawmaking process or whether their openness to modifications in language makes them more effective.** Coauthors: Kelsey Shoub, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “Surviving the Lawmaking Process Intact,” with research in progress.
- 20) **Examination of the extent to which lawmakers who lose their committee positions due to changes in the majority party or number of seats on a particular committee subsequently become less effective.** Coauthors: Darrian Stacy, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Current working paper, entitled “The Importance of Committee Assignments for Legislative Effectiveness,” presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in April of 2019.
- 21) **Exploring whether those with more concentrated policy portfolios are more effective than those with more diffuse or diverse policy portfolios.** Coauthors: Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “Hedgehogs or Foxes?” with research work in progress.
- 22) **Exploring the patterns of effectiveness, proposals, bill advancement, and disengagement to explore the cultural shifts in minority-party lawmakers working with the majority party over time.** Coauthors: Sean Theriault, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “Gingrich Senators, Partisanship, and Effective Lawmaking” with research work in progress.
- 23) **Observational and case-study-based research project on the formation of foreign policy options within congressional committees over time.** Author: Gerry Warburg. Currently entitled “How Congress Shapes Foreign Policy Options: 1975-2020 and Beyond” with research work in progress.
- 24) **Exploration of how the ideological position of legislative proposals affects their viability and likelihood of becoming law.** Author: Jesse M. Crosson. Currently entitled “Using Interest Group Position-Taking to Study the Spatial Location and Viability of Legislation” with research work in progress.
- 25) **Exploring whether major laws put forth by effective lawmakers have greater longevity than those advanced by others.** Coauthors: Charles R. Shipan, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “Lawmaking Effectiveness and Policy Longevity” with research work in progress.
- 26) **Exploring media coverage of effective lawmakers in Congress.** Coauthors: Kelsey Shoub, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “The Distorted Image and Voice of Congress: Show Horses vs. Work Horses” with research in progress.

- 27) **Study of the extent to which constituents are aware of (and care about) the lawmaking effectiveness of their representatives in the U.S. House.** Coauthors: Daniel M. Butler, Adam G. Hughes, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Current working paper, entitled “Do Constituents Know (or Care) about the Lawmaking Effectiveness of their Representatives?” to be revised and submitted for publication in 2019.
- 28) **Exploration of the extent to which primary voters and potential primary challengers base their decisions on the effectiveness of lawmakers in Congress.** Coauthors: Danielle Thomsen, Sarah Treul, Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. Current working paper, entitled “Turning Legislative Effectiveness into Electoral Success,” presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in April of 2019.
- 29) **Examination of how voters hold U.S. Senators accountable for their lawmaking effectiveness.** Coauthors: Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman. Currently entitled “How Voters Hold U.S. Senators Accountable for their Lawmaking Effectiveness,” with research work in progress.
- 30) **Examination of the extent to which effective lawmakers can generate more in campaign contributions.** Coauthors: Geoffrey Lorenz, Craig Volden, Alan Wiseman, and Hye Young You. Currently entitled “Do Campaign Contributions Follow Legislative Effectiveness?” with research work in progress.



As the inaugural postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Effective Lawmaking at the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia, I found the CEL to be an ideal place to develop my academic career and professional networks. During my time at the CEL, working with Professor and CEL Co-Director Craig Volden, I completed two research projects. The first, a solo-authored article on how lobbying coalitions affect agenda-setting in Congress, is now forthcoming at the *Journal of Politics*, one of the discipline's top general interest outlets. The second project is coauthored with Volden, CEL Co-Director Alan Wiseman, and Jesse Crosson (Visiting Research Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton); it is forthcoming in edited volume, *Congressional Capacity*, to be published by Chicago University Press with the specific goal of informing ongoing congressional reform efforts. In addition to these, my work on CEL-supported research continues with a third project, with Volden, Wiseman, and Hye Young You (Assistant Professor of Politics, NYU), that explores the relationship between legislative effectiveness, issue specialization, and lobbying. These and related projects continue to shape my research agenda as new tenure-track faculty in the Political Science Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sources of support and professional development unique to the Center for Effective Lawmaking made these gains possible. Whether on coauthored projects or on my solo-authored work, Dr. Volden was generous with his time and tremendously helpful to improving the quality of my work. Finally, the CEL postdoc provided me with unique opportunities to meet, educate, and learn from sitting members of Congress seeking to be more effective lawmakers themselves. These opportunities instilled in me an ongoing passion for outreach to policy practitioners that I continue to pursue.

- Geoffrey Lorenz



# 2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Center for Effective Lawmaking hosted a research conference on June 10, 2019 at the University of Virginia. The conference featured seven presentations of work all surrounding the conference theme “**The Pipeline of Potentially Effective Lawmakers: Who Runs and Who Gets Elected?**”

This theme is consistent with our “Identification” category and complements the “Cultivation” category theme from last year’s conference.

We hosted out-of-town scholars from more than two dozen colleges, universities, and think tanks, as well as a significant local audience. This is approximately a 30% growth rate in participation.

In addition to the speakers, the Center hosted a working lunch where 2018-2019 grant recipients shared their research projects.

The presentations were informative and discussion after each lively and engaging. The Center was honored to host the speakers and affiliates the night before for dinner in downtown Charlottesville, as well as a guided tour of Monticello in the evening following the conference.

The academic camaraderie encouraged not only during the presentations but also through these social events creates and strengthens a community that can continue to shed light on important topics. The opportunity to allow academics to advance in their research regarding legislative effectiveness is an important aspect of the Center's work.

## 7

*academic speakers*

## 20

*universities, colleges & think tanks*

## 30+

*attendees*

## 30%

*growth from last year*



*last year's*

## COMMUNICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Based on requested feedback, the Center launched a brand refresh. This included developing a new logo, establishing consistency in graphics for presentations and the creation of other materials useful to spreading awareness of the work and mission of the Center.

The CEL continued to partner with other nonprofit centers, such as The Kluge Center and the Bipartisan Policy Center, as well as with many offices and experts at the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University to share our scores and research.



## Center for Effective Lawmaking

The second CEL intern class included six undergraduate students (5 female and 1 male) at the University of Virginia. We used our previous template for their activities, set expectations, and worked with them to meet particular deadlines to advance the work of the Center. They continue to be a valuable asset in helping the Center grow and move toward our goals.

Additionally, we formulated the structure and application materials for a summer internship program at the CEL location on Vanderbilt University's campus. We launched a pilot application process and screened finalists for the position. While, ultimately, this activity did not lead to a hire, we were glad to see the interest and look forward to finding the right candidate next academic year.

### 61.2%

*increase in website  
sessions\**

### 161.2%

*increase in session  
duration \**

*\*for January - May 2019*



# Events 2018-2019

We conducted a dozen formal (and numerous informal) presentations to various audiences throughout the 2018-19 time period. Highlights included:

September 2018: Co-Hosted the Virginia Fifth Congressional District Debate, with Professors Craig Volden and Gerry Warburg (CEL Faculty Affiliate) as moderators, with an audience of about 200 and a real-time broadcast.

March 2019: Presented at and participated in a Roundtable Discussion on “Evaluating the Legislative Branch,” hosted in Washington, D.C., by the Bipartisan Policy Center, featuring Rep. Derek Kilmer, Chair of the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

April 2019: Hosted a three-day “Congress to Campus” event at the University of Virginia with Congressmen Bob Goodlatte and David Skaggs (facilitated by the U.S. Former Members of Congress and the Stennis Center), including a public event, classroom visits, a university-wide reception, a Jefferson-style dinner, interviews, and student events.



April 2019: Hosted a two-day “Act of Congress” event at Vanderbilt University with Congressman Barney Frank and author Robert Kaiser, including a Chancellor’s Lecture, classroom visits, interviews, and student and faculty events.

November 2018: Hosted a public “Batten Hour” event following the 2018 elections, focused on opportunities for effective lawmaking in the 116th Congress.

July 2018: Hosted a Capitol Hill event, co-sponsored by the Lugar Center, with staff from the Tennessee and Virginia congressional delegations, facilitating a bipartisan discussion regarding health care policy, featuring Professors Melinda Buntin (Vanderbilt) and Carolyn Engelhard (University of Virginia).

October 2018: Arranged and moderated a Capitol Hill event with staff from the Tennessee and Virginia congressional delegations, facilitating a bipartisan discussion about effective lawmaking in Congress, featuring Professors Alan Wiseman and Craig Volden (co-sponsored by the Lugar Center).

October 2018: Held a public event around “Effective Lawmaking in Virginia” in Richmond, VA, and sponsored by Troutman Sanders Strategies, featuring members of the governor’s cabinet and of the Virginia General Assembly.

November 2018: Presented on “Analyzing Legislative Effectiveness in the Contemporary Congress: Lessons for Leadership” as part of the Effective Public Leadership Conference (a public event) at the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to releasing updated Legislative Effectiveness Scores, we completed our research work testing a series of hypotheses about how newly elected members of Congress could engage in particular practices to become effective lawmakers. We then translated that work into a New Member Checklist and a worksheet for members and their staffs to use in defining their legislative agendas, alongside the creation of new a report entitled “Becoming an Effective Lawmaker from Day 1” (still in progress). We made the checklist and worksheet available to the newly elected members of Congress early in 2019. We will continue to work with new members of Congress to review these materials in an attempt to make them even more valuable for the next iteration of elected officials in 2020.

Additionally, upon the release of our new Legislative Effectiveness Scores for the recently completed 115th Congress, we contacted the offices of each lawmaker identified in our “Highlights from the New 115th Congress Legislative Effectiveness Scores” document – including those on Top Ten lists for both Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate, those with the longest streaks of being in our “exceeds expectations” category, as well as the highly effective freshmen lawmakers.

We are currently working on plans to produce and publicize similar lists in each of 19 issue areas, allowing for further connections to top lawmakers. Additionally, we are frequently contacted by the offices of members of Congress for information about effective lawmaking and about their Legislative Effectiveness Scores.

**Center for Effective Lawmaking**

### How to Become an Effective Lawmaker in Congress

Based on research from the Center for Effective Lawmaking

- ☒ **Commit to being an effective lawmaker**
- ☒ **DEFINE your lawmaking agenda**
  - ☐ District interests are crucial
  - ☐ Expertise from prior experiences as starting point
  - ☐ Focus agenda to three main issue areas
  - ☐ Integrate committee assignment with agenda
  - ☐ Never give up
  - ☐ Excitement and passion help
- ☒ **ENGAGE your lawmaking partners**
  - ☐ Experienced legislative staff are essential
  - ☐ Negotiate with committee and floor leaders
  - ☐ Grow bipartisan cosponsorships
  - ☐ Articulate shared goals
  - ☐ Generate caucus partnerships
  - ☐ Expand coalition beyond own chamber

For more on effective lawmaking, visit [www.thelawmakers.org](http://www.thelawmakers.org).

**How to Define Your Lawmaking Agenda**

Place Following Issues on Diagram:

- Agriculture
- Civil Rights
- Commerce
- Defense
- Economics/Budget
- Environment
- Energy
- Government
- Health
- Immigration
- Justice
- Transportation
- Time

**Passion & Expertise**

**District Interests**

**Committee Jurisdiction**

**Aligned For Success!**

Seek Out Experts

Seek Committee Partner

Make Case to Constituents

**Center for Effective Lawmaking**

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Media coverage of the Center's work and activities has been substantial. The greatest coverage coincided with the 2018 elections and with the release of Legislative Effectiveness Scores and highly effective lawmaker lists; however, we continue to find our research utilized by various outlets.

Our work has been highlighted in the context of the coverage of elections and congressional activities across more than 15 states, as well as with multiple mentions in the *Washington Post*.

The Center's findings were mentioned explicitly by sources ranging from challengers for the House of Representatives to incumbent Senators to the President of the United States (campaigning against a sitting Senator who had a low Legislative Effectiveness Score).

We have also taken a role in providing research and/or writing for posts and reports aimed at various public audiences. Examples include: research we conducted jointly with the Lugar Center and the Madison Initiative of the Hewlett Foundation, as publicized in "How Effective Are Former Governors as Legislators in Congress?" written by Jean Parvin Bordewich in August 2018; and joint research and writing work with Dana Wittmer Wolfe, which we published in the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage as "How the Record Number of Female Lawmakers Will – and Won't – Change Congress" in January 2019.

**1,000+**  
*references to CEL  
online*



CEL appearance on *Fox & Friends*, May 2019

*last year's*

# RESOURCES

Thanks to generous financial support by the Madison Initiative of the Hewlett Foundation and The Democracy Fund, today the Center is strong. Additionally, the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy as well as Vanderbilt University continue to support the work of the Center.

During the 2018-2019 Academic Year, we were able to secure additional grants to support our flagship events.

As awareness of our work continues to grow, individuals have made private contributions and donations to the Center for Effective Lawmaking.

The CEL has continued to explore the possibility of corporate donations. Based on our research and discussion with similar organizations, we believe that the best path to achieving such support is through individuals in corporations with shared connections to our universities and/or with common interests in the mission of the Center. We have begun to explore such interests, and have been cultivating connections, which we will continue to build in the future.

Our most notable success on this front was the in-kind donation by Troutman Sanders Strategies of hosting and paying for the reception preceding our "Effective Lawmaking in Virginia" event in Richmond in October of 2018.

## \$3,000+

*in private small donations*

## \$6,500

*in conference funding*

## \$3,000

*in policy roundtable funding*

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Additionally, we have been exploring various state-level foundations that may have an interest in supporting the efforts of the Center to expand our scores for effective lawmaking within their particular state legislatures. We submitted some initial proposals and are now working to forge in-person contacts within various state-focused foundations, as a better way to explore whether the work of the Center aligns well with their missions.

# OUR FUTURE

The first few years of the Center's work have been productive, as we see through the growth and opportunities cultivated through the CEL this past academic year. We recognize there is a real appetite for the analysis we provide and the work we do. The topics we engage with are useful not only to today's Congress and legislative processes, but also to future generations and to the trajectory of our legislative bodies.

As we look to the future, and as we seek to grow the footprint and relevance of the work we do, we have identified our primary strategic objectives for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.



## Continuing Objectives

- Host informative and dynamic speakers, academics and former/current lawmakers
- Support our Faculty Affiliates
- Administer a second round of small grants
- Cultivate the next generation of scholars through our post-doctoral, research assistant and intern programs
- Host the 3rd Annual Research Conference in the Spring of 2020 at Vanderbilt
- Bring awareness, through media outlets, to the general public regarding Legislative Effectiveness Scores

## Growth Objectives

- Form an inaugural Board of Advisors
- Plan our strategic vision for 2020 - 2023
- Prepare a streamlined system to allow for private and corporate donations
- Identify new grant opportunities that facilitate the advancement of our work
- Publicly release issue-area legislative effectiveness scores for Congress
- Advance our research and preparation of state legislative effectiveness scores

*Please consider supporting the  
Center for Effective Lawmaking.*

*To learn more, contact Allison Carter, Operations Director, at  
thelawmakers@virginia.edu or (434) 924-7064.*





**Center for  
Effective  
Lawmaking**

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