The Representation & Elections Research Program of the Institute of Governmental Affairs is headed by Walt Stone (department of Political Science).

The purpose of this program is to support research on political representation primarily, but not exclusively, within the context of American national politics. Current participants include Professors James Adams, Erik Engstrom, and Walt Stone, and a number of Ph.D. students in political science.

The program is partially supported by two active NSF grants, one devoted to the study of political representation in the 2010 midterm elections, and one on ballot reform issues in 19th Century American politics.

An example of current research being conducted by program members is on the meaning and implications of “moderation” in spatial models of elections. It appears from preliminary results that a sizeable portion of the electorate that identifies ideologically as “moderate” on a liberal-conservative scale (“moderate” is the modal position) do not vote on the basis of their ideological preferences. That is, unlike voters who identify as some form of “liberal” or “conservative,” moderates do not tend to support congressional candidates who are closer to their ideological and issue preferences. This means that there is less pressure on candidates to moderate their position than would otherwise be true, and is a contributing factor to the ideological and partisan polarization characterizing contemporary U.S. politics.

In addition to the research activities of the group, the program has sponsored several outside speakers and seminars to address problems related to the study of representation.

Current external funding includes two NSF grants on “Collaborative Research on the Causes and Consequences of The American Ballot,” PI: Erik Engstrom (UCD award $95,072) and co-PI is Jason Roberts, UNC) and “Political Context and Citizen Response in the 2010 Elections,” PI: Walter J. Stone (award $266,821; includes REU supplemental award).

Selected recent publications:

IGA Event Calendar
2012

June

June 7th
12:00pm – 1:30pm, Cordula Dick-Muehlke, UC Irvine MIND, *Averting the Crisis of Alzheimer’s Disease: The Role of Public Policy*, UCCS, 1130 K St., Suite LL22, Sacramento. For more information on this event, please go to the UCCS website. To register for this event, click [here](#). Registration must be completed by June 4th.

June 28th
12:00pm – 1:30pm, Richard Howitt, UC Davis, *Pricing Solutions to California’s Water Impasse*, UCCS, 1130 K St., Suite LL22, Sacramento. For more information on this event, please go to the UCCS website. To register for this event, click [here](#). Registration must be completed by June 25th.

July

July 12th
12:00pm – 1:30pm, Edward Arens, UC Berkeley Center for the Built Environment, UCCS, 1130 K St., Suite LL22, Sacramento.

July 19th
12:00pm – 1:30pm, Greg Duncan, UC Irvine Department of Education, UCCS, 1130 K St., Suite LL22, Sacramento.

August

August 9th
12:00pm – 1:30pm, Merwin Brown, California Institute for Energy and Environment, UCCS, 1130 K St., Suite LL22, Sacramento.