



Talking Points on Funding

The critical role of political science research is recognized by funding for the discipline through key science and humanities funding agencies and programs:

- The National Science Foundation Political Science Program funds an array of political science research, including in American government and politics, comparative government and politics, international relations, political behavior, political economy, and political institutions, contributing critical insights to issues of national and international concern.
- A range of research, education, and preservation programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities supports political science projects exploring fundamental issues in areas such as freedom, justice, and democracy.
- Funding through Fulbright-Hays/Title VI supports development of national capacity for international understanding and foreign language education, contributing to national security, global understanding, and economic competitiveness.

Restricting political science research by limiting – or eliminating – funding poses a serious threat to American democracy by:

- undermining core democratic values such as transparency and accountability by obstructing evaluation of political institutions and processes;
- censoring public debate by limiting knowledge that informs discussion of critical issues facing the nation; and,
- jeopardizing the nation's responses to domestic and international crises.

Singling out specific fields for limitation of funding – or elimination – poses a serious threat to the integrity and independence of the federal funding process by:

- thwarting funding agencies' renowned professional peer review processes;
- subjecting different fields to the slippery slope of political pressure; and,
- chilling inquiry, innovation, and creativity within and among all fields of study.