

# Matthew Thomas, Ph.D.

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## Education

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**University of Alabama** **2024**

*Ph.D., Political Science*

Fields: American Politics, Public Administration

### Dissertation

Title: "*The Impact of Disasters on Politics: How Resilience Influences Disaster Requests and Voting in Communities.*" The dissertation examines disasters in the contexts of gubernatorial decision making and retrospective voting. Dissertation Advisors: Joseph Smith, Department of Political Science, University of Alabama, and Richard Fording, Department of Political Science, University of Alabama

**University of Alabama** **2021**

*M.A., Political Science*

**Murray State University** **2016**

*M.S., Human Development and Leadership*

**Murray State University** **2014**

*M.P.A., Public Administration*

**Murray State University** **2012**

*B.S., Political Science*

## Teaching Experience

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***F=Fall S=Spring, Su=Summer***

### Assistant Professor: Northwest Missouri State University

- Intro to American Government & Politics (POLS 34102): F2025
- Public Management (POLS 34435): F2025

### Full-Time Instructor: University of Alabama

- Introduction to American Politics (PSC 101): F2023
- State & Local Politics (PSC 211): F2023
- State Governors (PSC 322): F2023, S2024
- American Public Policy (PSC 321): S2024, Su2024 (online), F2024, S2025
- Public Administration (PSC 206): F2024, S2025
- Program Evaluation (PSC 668): F2024
- Local Government Administration (PSC 665): S2025

## **Graduate Teaching Assistant: University of Alabama**

- Public Administration (PSC 206): F2018, S2019, Su2019, S2020, S2021, Su2023
- Introduction to American Politics (PSC 101): F2019, F2020 (online), F2021, Su2022
- State & Local Politics (PSC 211): S2022, F2022, S2023

## **Adjunct Instructor: University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

- American National Government (POLS 1310) (online): S2021, F2021, S2022, F2022

## **Research Experience**

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Research Assistant, Dr. Richard Fording, Summer 2020

## **Nonprofit Experience**

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District Executive, Lincoln Heritage Council BSA, 2012-2014

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

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State & Local Politics, Gubernatorial elections, Race & Politics, Public Policy

## **Research in Progress**

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“Retrospective Voting in Gubernatorial Elections: The Effect of Local Conditions on Voting Behavior”

Missouri Government and Politics Book Chapter on Local Government

## **Fellowships**

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*Graduate Teaching Assistant*, University of Alabama, 2017-2023

## **Public Engagement**

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- Featured on [WVUA article about Governor Kay Ivey's State of the State Speech](#), February 8th, 2024

## **Conferences & Workshops**      **(P)resenter, (C)hair,** **(D)iscussant**

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- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 3-8, 2025 (P)

## **Service**

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President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2019-2020  
MPA Committee Member, University of Alabama, 2024-2025

## **Skills**

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Stata, Microsoft Office, Panopto, Zoom