

Twenty-five years' experience in public affairs, managing and advising multi-faceted policy research and advocacy campaigns for prominent nonprofit organizations. Expertise in **voting rights, food insecurity, anti-poverty programs, evidenced-based policy analysis, and policy advocacy**. Additional interests in **disability policy, LGBT rights, and higher education**. Background in mobilizing public support for policy reform, providing **technical assistance to federal and state agencies on policy implementation and monitoring**, and community/labor organizing. Written dozens of reports for diverse audiences and authored columns for national and state news media.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- PhD in Public Policy, with graduate studies and experience in social policy, urban policy, advanced statistics, research methods, impact evaluation, American politics, and management.
- Served as director, senior analyst, or senior strategist for policy campaigns that spurred changes at the USDA on summer food programs for low-income families and at the Justice Department's Voting Section on enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act.
- Recognized expert in voter registration policy. Trained attorneys and conducted research for successful, ground-breaking litigation enforcing the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Established best practices for NVRA implementation that were voluntarily adopted by several states and that serve as the basis for legal settlements in a dozen other states.
- Increased voter registration applications by several millions from women, minorities, new citizens, and low-income citizens by providing technical assistance, advising litigation, and designing compliance monitoring plans.
- Authored policy reports recognized for quality, accuracy, and value by federal agencies, national media, policy advocates, and academics. Reports or projects covered by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, and others. Co-authored testimony on election policy for Congress and the National Research Council. Sample publications available at <http://www.douglashess.com>.
- Sparked creation of a new city-wide organization to address hunger in Alexandria, VA via a report and recommendations on food security and access written for local health advocates and officials.
- Built or participated in national policy coalitions.

EMPLOYMENT

- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Political Science, Grinnell College. 2013 – present.
- **Policy Research and Strategy Consultant**, freelance, 2004 – 2012. Clients and topics included: Rockefeller Family Fund (mortgage crisis), ACT for Alexandria (food security and food access), Food Research and Action Center (food deserts and access), Wellspring Advisors (civic engagement and demographic projections), Project Vote (voting rights).
- **Senior Policy Analyst**, Food Research and Action Center. 2000 –2003.
- **Research Director**, Congress Watch. 1999.
- **Southern Regional Organizer**, Human Rights Campaign. 1996 –1997.
- **Director of NVRA Implementation Project**, Project Vote. 1994 –1996.

EDUCATION

PhD, Public Policy, George Washington University.
MA, Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University.
BA, Psychology, Grinnell College.