

Twenty-five years of 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, policy research methods, and evidence-based policy analysis**. Additional interests in **disability policy, LGBT rights, and higher education policy**. 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 the Justice Department's Voting Section on enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act.
- Recognized national 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 some states and serve as the basis for legal settlements in more than a dozen other states.
- Increased voter registration applications by several millions from women, minorities, new citizens, and people with low incomes by providing technical assistance to state election officials, advising voting rights 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. Scholarly publications and co-editing on voting rights and civically engaged research. Sample publications available at <http://www.douglashess.com>.
- Sparked creation of a new city-wide organization to address hunger in Alexandria, VA via a food security assessment and policy recommendations for local health advocates and officials.
- Built or participated in national policy coalitions. Elected to or appointed to policy committees at Grinnell College. Co-designed and team-taught student seminars and faculty workshops.

## 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.