

DOUGLAS R. HESS, PHD

dougrhess@gmail.com ♦ www.linkedin.com/in/douglasrhess ♦ 202-277-6400

Summary

Policy analyst, strategy consultant, manager, and writer experienced in planning & executing innovative state and national advocacy campaigns, evaluating program impact, and mentoring & supervising diverse staff. Led or advised initiatives resulting in millions of voter registration applications, expanded child nutrition programs, groundbreaking civil rights litigation, increased support from major donors, new policy coalitions, and stronger ties between advocates and state & federal officials. Accomplished communicator for diverse audiences and author of reports covered by the *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, and NPR.

Education

- ♦ **Ph.D. in Public Policy**, George Washington University. Social & urban policy; American Politics.
- ♦ **M.A. in Policy Studies**, Johns Hopkins University. Nonprofit management; Program evaluation.
- ♦ **B.A. in Psychology**, Grinnell College.

Employment & Consulting

Institute for Responsive Governing

Freelance research and policy consultant

Remote

February 2023 – current

- ♦ Authoring report on innovations in voter registration policy to reach citizens with low incomes.

Confidential Client

Freelance research and policy consultant

Remote

February 2023 – current

- ♦ Providing donor-advisor firm with advice on electoral and policy opportunities.

Democracy Fund

Freelance research and policy consultant

Remote

November 2021 – March 2022

- ♦ Evaluated the effects of automatic voter registration and efforts to improve state “motor voter” programs using a time-series cross-sectional analysis of survey, administrative, and original data.

Grinnell College

Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies

Grinnell, IA

August 2013 – July 2021

- ♦ Taught popular courses in policy studies, political science, and statistics. Elected or appointed to college committees on educational assessment, faculty organization, and student leadership & innovation.
- ♦ Designed and co-led workshops for faculty on student engagement and team teaching.
- ♦ Request *CV* for teaching achievements, scholarly presentations & publications, and roles as an adjunct professor for Smith College, Georgetown University, and George Washington University.

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Research Project

Principal Investigator

Remote

August 2013 – August 2019

- ♦ Raised \$110,000 to fund the collection and study of time-series data to assess state NVRA compliance, evaluate the impact of efforts to enforce the law, and assist advocates with research needs.
- ♦ Presented research to funders, civil rights attorneys, and the Justice Department, leading to greater understanding of the impact of these interventions on the voting rights of citizens with low incomes.
- ♦ Co-authored report with two national policy organizations to assess state social services agencies’ compliance with the Act. The report drew the interest of grantmakers and led to new funding.
- ♦ Conducted a two-day workshop for three national policy groups on the collection and analysis of program monitoring data. Advised the think tank Dēmos on a review of their NVRA initiatives.

- ◆ Co-authored and published an article in a top academic journal on field experiments we conducted in government agencies in two states testing interventions to improve agency legal compliance.
- ◆ Co-led successful effort to bring Iowa social services agencies into better compliance with the NVRA.
- ◆ Hired and supervised research assistants.

ACT for Alexandria Foundation

Freelance research and policy consultant

Alexandria, VA

August 2012 – August 2013

- ◆ Principal investigator of a mixed-methods assessment of food security in Alexandria, Virginia, for a local coalition of health advocates, funders, and officials. Hired and supervised co-investigator.
- ◆ Recommendation to the coalition led to the founding of Hunger Free Alexandria to coordinate advocacy, service, and education work in the city.

Food Research & Action Center

Freelance research and policy consultant

Washington, DC

May 2012 – August 2013

- ◆ Wrote or edited sections of a white paper on food deserts in low-income communities based on extant research and interviews with community food advocates and academics.

Rockefeller Family Fund

Freelance research and policy consultant

Washington, DC

August 2012 – December 2012

- ◆ Assisted Fund president with exploratory advocacy campaign on innovative uses of billion-dollar settlements stemming from the mortgage crisis.

Wellspring Advisors

Freelance research and policy consultant

Washington, DC

June 2011 – August 2011

- ◆ Authored internal memo on strategic opportunities for funders to enhance civic engagement.
- ◆ Forecasted demographic changes in state populations using Census data and statistical models.

Project Vote

Senior research and strategy consultant

Washington, DC

Summer 2004 & 2006 ; May 2007 – August 2010

- ◆ Reconvened, co-directed, and later advised a coalition of national civil rights groups to enforce fair implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), resulting in millions of additional voter registration applications disproportionately from traditionally marginalized populations.
- ◆ Initiated meetings with federal and state officials and provided research and campaign advice to coalition members over several years resulting in renewed federal action on NVRA enforcement, improved state implementation, and raised profile of organization as a leader on election policy.
- ◆ Designed monitoring systems to evaluate the impact of our work and ensure state compliance.
- ◆ Represented Project Vote on task forces or coalitions in the civil rights community.
- ◆ Hired and trained research consultant.
- ◆ Authored various public reports and internal documents on voting rights and electoral participation.
- ◆ Co-authored testimony for Congress and the National Research Council.

George Washington University

Selective Enhancement Fellowship and Doctoral Student

Washington, DC

September 2003 – May 2012

- ◆ Graduate studies in research methods, American politics and political behavior, social policy, urban policy and politics, and cost-benefit analysis. Dissertation on the impact of state policies on food security.

Food Research & Action Center

Senior Policy Analyst

Washington, DC

January 2000 – August 2003

- ◆ Surveyed state officials and collected data from federal and state sources on state legislation, case studies of best practices, and participation in food and nutrition programs.

- ◆ Authored or co-authored reports on nutrition programs that received positive coverage in state and national media, leading to changes in policy including federal expansion of the Summer Food Program.
- ◆ Served as reference sources for state advocates and Congressional offices and provided interviews for state and national media on food security and child nutrition programs.

Congress Watch

Research Director

Washington, DC

May 1999 – December 1999

- ◆ Conducted campaign finance and lobbying research for reports on asbestos corporations' dealings with Congress, leading to coverage by *New York Times*.
- ◆ Supervised research assistant.

Johns Hopkins University

Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, Research Assistant

Baltimore, MD

August 1997 – May 1999

- ◆ Assisted scholars with literature reviews and other research while studying for my MA in Policy Studies.

Human Rights Campaign

Southern Regional Organizer

Washington, DC

August 1996 – September 1997

- ◆ Organized GOTV and lobbying efforts with LGBT advocates in Miami and Atlanta for the Human Rights Campaigns' 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 programs.
- ◆ Wrote grassroots lobbying guide distributed to members.

Project Vote

Manager of National Voter Registration Act Project

Washington, DC

January 1994 – August 1996

- ◆ Initiated first-ever litigation victories to ensure fair implementation of the NVRA in recalcitrant states.
- ◆ Liaised with attorneys, community organizations, and the Department of Justice to secure registration opportunities for millions of citizens with low incomes.
- ◆ Designed monitoring systems used in legal settlements to confirm state compliance with the NVRA.
- ◆ Authored first-ever national report on NVRA implementation and performance.
- ◆ Represented Project Vote at national task force and coalition meetings.
- ◆ Hired and supervised three employees.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Research Assistant for Corporate Strategies

Washington, DC

April 1993 – December 1993

- ◆ Researched corporate finance and structure at the Security and Exchange Commission and co-authored a report on executive compensation and labor practices in the trucking industry during contract negotiations.
- ◆ Seconded to an organizing drive of textile workers in Miami.

Washington Office on Haiti

Assistant to Executive Director

Washington, DC

November 1992 – April 1993

- ◆ Founded a coalition of human rights observers that released a report and organized a press conference with Rev. Jesse Jackson that received national news coverage.
- ◆ Conceived and directed the first-ever congressional lobbying day by Haitian Americans and allies.
- ◆ Co-authored testimony for Congress and provided interviews to media.

Association of Community Org. for Reform Now

Field Organizer/ Political Organizer

Brooklyn, St. Louis, and Little Rock

August 1991 – November 1992

- ◆ Conducted community organizing drives in diverse communities leading to new chapters of ACORN or the New Party (now the Working Families Party).

Appointments and Volunteering

- ◆ Co-led effort to create the new Election Assistance and Policy Committee at the American Political Science Association (APSA); appointed to a three-year term on the committee (2022-2024).
- ◆ Participant at the inaugural Institute for Civically Engaged Research, APSA (2019).
- ◆ Appointed to Advisory Board of Wilson Center for Innovation and Leadership, Grinnell College.

Publications

- ◆ Available at www.douglashess.com are recent policy reports, academic articles, and opinion pieces for *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*, *The Hill*, *The Conversation*, *Des Moines Register*, *the London School of Economics United States Centre blog*, *PS: Political Science*, and *Public Administration Review*.