

Ryan Mundy

PhD Candidate

Email: rmundy@uci.edu

Website: sites.google.com/uci.edu/ryanmundy

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine

PhD Political Science, expected May 2027

- Major Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics
- Dissertation: “Investing in Influence: The Political Power and Legacy of America’s Super-Rich”
- Dissertation Committee: Danielle Thomsen (chair), Michael Tesler, Graeme Boushey

M.A. Political Science, 2024

California Lutheran University

B.A. Political Science, 2019 (Summa Cum Laude)

B.S. Environmental Science, 2019 (Summa Cum Laude)

PUBLICATIONS

Mundy, Ryan, and Danielle M. Thomsen. 2026. “Candidate Wealth and Early Money in Congressional Elections.” Accepted at the *American Journal of Political Science*.

Mundy, Ryan. 2025. “A Bigger Tent? Nonwhite Republican Candidates and Their Uphill Paths to Office.” *Political Research Quarterly* 78(2): 738–752.

OTHER WRITING

Sutherland, Jacob, Alisson Rowland, Ryan Mundy, and Elane Westfaul. 2026. “Grads Teach Grads: Student-Led Workshops to Complement Department Graduate Methods Offerings.” *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Mundy, Ryan. 2019. “Julian Castro,” In *Latinos in the American Political System*, 1st ed. (Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Inherited Influence: The Political Giving of Billionaire Heirs.” Under Review.

“Give A Lot and Give Often: Habitual Max-Out Donors in U.S. Senate Races.” Working Paper.

“How are Primary Nominees Decided? The Role of Large-Dollar Donors.” With Danielle Thomsen. Working Paper.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern California Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference, 2026

Consortium of American Political Economy Summer Workshop, UC Berkeley, 2025

Representation, Democracy, and the Economic Backgrounds of Politicians Conference, Vanderbilt University, 2025

American Political Science Association, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Midwest Political Science Association, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Political Networks Conference, 2017

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, Coastline College, Fall 2026

- Introduction to American Government

Teaching Assistant, University of California-Irvine, 2021–

- Introduction to American Government
- Political Theory
- Public Policy
- Introduction to Law
- Voting Theory & Political Manipulation
- Gender & American Politics

Fellow, California State University Pre-Professor Program (PREPP), 2026

BLOOM Faculty Intern, South Orange County Community College District, 2026

Writing Pedagogy Certificate, UC Irvine Campus Writing and Communication, 2024

Justice-Impacted Ally, UC Irvine Student Success Initiatives, 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Danielle Thomsen, 2022–26

Supervisor to Graduate and Undergraduate Research Assistants, 2024–25

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Pi Sigma Alpha Graduate Student Travel Scholarship, 2026

Center for the Study of Democracy Seed Research Grant, 2024, 2025, 2026

UCI Political Science Department Conference Funding Award, 2025, 2026

UCI Political Science Department Harry Eckstein Scholar Award, 2025

Selected to attend the Consortium of American Political Economy Summer Workshop at UC Berkeley, 2025

UCI DECADE Professional Development Award, 2024, 2025

UCI Associated Graduate Students Conference Stipend, 2024, 2025

New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance Award, American University (with Danielle Thomsen and Savannah Plaskon), 2024

Center for the Study of Democracy Research Grant, 2022–23, 2023–24

American Political Science Association Travel Grant, 2023

Academic Achievement Award: highest undergraduate GPA, 2017, 2018, 2019

Sarah W. Heath Center for Equality and Justice Research Fellow, 2018

Culver Research Fellow, 2017

INVITED TALKS

California State University, East Bay, “The Campaign Finance Landscape”, 2026

California Lutheran University, “The Political Giving of Billionaire Heirs”, 2026

Saddleback College, “Theoretical Foundations of the Declaration of Independence”, 2026

Saddleback College, “Freedom & Equality in Early U.S. Democracy”, 2026

MiraCosta College, “Nonwhite Republicans’ Uphill Path to Office”, 2025

University of California, Irvine, “How to Get Students Reading,” 2025

University of California, Irvine, “Econometrics and Causal Inference Basics,” 2024

California Lutheran University, “Navigating Graduate School,” 2023

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer: *Politics, Groups, and Identities*

Discussant, Representation, Democracy, and the Economic Backgrounds of Politicians Conference, Vanderbilt University, 2025

Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association, 2025

Leader of UCI Quantitative Methods Summer Bootcamp, 2024, 2026
Graduate Student Representative, UCI Political Science Department, 2023–24

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
UC Irvine Center for the Study of Democracy
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society

**OTHER WORK
EXPERIENCE**

Field Representative, California State Assembly, 2019–21

- Consulted with key stakeholders in the 44th Assembly District to evaluate policy proposals and develop legislative and district initiatives related to transportation, housing, the environment, social justice, the District Office internship program, and the Young Legislators Program