



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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A Word from COSSA

Dear Friends:

This is the last COSSA Washington Update of 2024, but it certainly is not the end of our work for the year. As I write, our team is busily preparing for what everyone expects will be a challenging year ahead for policymaking. We are headed into uncertain terrain with the return of the Trump Administration come January 20 and a new Congress with margins tighter than we have seen in a long time.

Last week, COSSA [hosted a webinar](#) for our members previewing some of the expected actions of the next Congress and Administration and outlining many of the unknowns that remain. You can watch the recording [here](#).

With federal research funding likely on the chopping block next year, it will be absolutely essential that our community shows up. To that end, I am pleased to announce that early bird registration has opened for COSSA's [2025 Social Science Advocacy Day](#) on March 24-25, 2025. I hope you will consider joining us in Washington this spring as we work to convince policymakers of the value of our sciences. More details are below.

Finally, as we close out the year, I want to thank all our members for their support. COSSA's remit is to advocate on behalf of the entire social and behavioral science community. The generosity of our member organizations, through their participation in COSSA's efforts and annual dues, is what makes this possible. If you do not see your organization on COSSA's [membership list](#) but would like to know more about membership and how you can engage more in 2025, please [be in touch](#).

The challenges that lie ahead will require the participation of our entire community. I hope you will join us.

With warmest wishes this holiday season,

Wendy Naus
COSSA Executive Director

New from COSSA

Social Science Advocacy Day 2025 Registration is Open!



Early bird registration for COSSA's annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) is officially OPEN! The event will be taking place March 24-25, 2025 in Washington, DC. Take advantage of early bird pricing and register [here](#).

The stakes for research funding have never been higher as we enter a particularly challenging political and budgetary environment. Social Science Advocacy Day is a must for all stakeholders who care about the fate of federal funding for social and behavioral science research and who believe this research should be used to inform sound public policy.

Advocacy Day is open to anyone affiliated with a [COSSA member organization](#) or university. Not a member? Learn how to join [here](#).

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor for Social Science Advocacy Day, find all of our sponsorship opportunities available [here](#).

Visit the [COSSA website](#) for the latest information on Social Science Advocacy Day.

REGISTER NOW: Headlines Webinars continue December 17



It's the final Headlines of the year! Last Spring, the White House released a seminal report detailing the important contributions the social and behavioral sciences make to addressing some of the nation's most pressing challenges and promoting better use of social and behavioral science research in evidence-based

policymaking across the federal government. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released the [Blueprint for the Use of Social and Behavioral Science to Advance Evidence-Based Policymaking](#) in May following two years of work by social and behavioral science experts from across federal agencies and departments.

Join COSSA on December 17 for a discussion with Kei Koizumi, OSTP Principal Deputy Director for Science, Society, and Policy, to discuss the report and ways the social and behavioral science research community can further promote the work with lawmakers. [RSVP here](#).

Headlines is a webinar series available to COSSA [member organizations](#). Watch for additional webinar announcements, and previous webinar recordings, on the COSSA [website](#).

Meet COSSA's Fall Policy Intern: Paige Kirkham!

Paige Kirkham started as COSSA's fall policy intern in September. Before heading back to class later this month, she provided some reflections from her time at COSSA.

How did you learn about COSSA and the opportunity to serve as a policy intern for the fall?

I am a student at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was given the opportunity to come to Washington, DC through a program called "Wisconsin in Washington" in which the university brings a group of about twenty student-interns to DC for a semester. The coordinators of this program provide us with a list of opportunities to apply for when searching for internships, one of them being COSSA, which stood out to me as an opportunity and ultimately led me to apply.



How did the internship fit into your academic or career planning?

I am a current senior at UW-Madison studying psychology, criminal justice, and political science, and have been exploring the possibility of careers in politics or the potential to go to law school. Coming to DC in a cohort of predominately political science students, it can be hard to find a niche where I can utilize my psychology major, which is something I am passionate about. COSSA was the perfect opportunity to combine my psychology background and passion with my career goals of working in policy to make changes in this area I am so passionate about. Doing this the semester before graduation has been very illuminating and has influenced me to apply to law schools this cycle.

What stood out to you most about your internship?

I learned so much during my time at COSSA, but one stand out was the deep knowledge I gained of the legislative process and the importance of federal agencies' role in social science. I enjoyed going to hearings on the NIH, gathering news on these topics that are so important to COSSA, and being given the opportunity to write up articles for the newsletter. Another important part of my time at COSSA was the 2024 election cycle. I was responsible for tracking congressional elections and writing a post-election analysis. I thoroughly enjoyed these tasks as it was a way to keep me closely engaged with those congressional races that matter not only to me personally, but to COSSA as well. Lastly, I enjoyed all the team meetings with Wendy, Kenzie, and Elyse. COSSA is a team of smart, driven women that I had the honor of learning from this semester which is an opportunity I am so grateful for.

What would you tell future policy interns about the opportunity and/or about interning in-person in Washington, DC?

I would tell any policy interns considering the opportunity of interning in DC to absolutely do it. While my time in DC was relatively short, this is the single semester of my collegiate career I consider myself to have learned the most academically and grown the most personally. DC is an amazing city, full of people that are passionate change-makers, and it is unlike any city anywhere else in the world. If given this opportunity, it will certainly teach you much about government, grow your professional network, and enrich your educational experience in a way that could not be done elsewhere. This experience has put me on a professional trajectory that I feel confident in and am excited to explore.

What's next for you?

This Spring, I begin my final semester at UW-Madison and will be graduating in May. I am currently in the midst of applying for law school and am hoping to attend next Fall where I will focus on law and the government, and hopefully continue to build my knowledge of how I can advance the social sciences through the legal field.

Congressional News

House Oversight Hosts Census Bureau Director Rob Santos

On December 5, the House Oversight Committee held a hearing on the [Oversight of the U.S. Census Bureau](#) with Director Rob Santos as the witness. During his opening remarks, House Oversight Chair James Comer (R-KY) raised concerns over the 2020 Census and the overcount and undercount of different states, suggesting that undercounting was found in predominately Republican states while overcounting was found in predominately Democratic states. In his response, Santos indicated that the unexpected impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated overcounts and undercounts. Further, he clarified that the Census Bureau and subsequent surveys are non-partisan. Ranking Member Jamie Raskin (R-MD) pointed to a mistrust in government processes in some states as another potential exacerbation of undercounting during the 2020 Census and emphasized the need to have trusted community leaders working alongside the Census Bureau to ensure an accurate count. To this end, Representative Summer Lee (D-PA) spoke to the importance of the Decennial Census, underscoring the vitality of the bureau's engagement with underserved communities.

Further, Chairman Comer requested clarification on the decision not to include the question of U.S. citizenship in the Decennial Census ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). Attention turned to the American Census Survey (ACS), which does include a question of U.S. citizenship, among other questions that were once included in the Census ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). As indicated by Santos, implementing a citizenship question in the Decennial Census was found to reduce response rates while inclusion of the same question in the ACS did not. While some Republican members, including Representative Jim Jordan (R-OH), argued that the data collected by the ACS was not relevant to the government, Santos indicated the importance of both surveys to foster a broader understanding of the U.S. population.

With modernization at the forefront of the conversation, Santos discussed the ways the Census is expanding online-participation with the Decennial Census as well as implementing a community network to be the "trusted messengers" of the Census Bureau to individual communities to encourage participation. Some House Republicans, including Representative William Timmons (R-SC), indicated that it would become a priority for the following session to conduct oversight on the Census Bureau and draft legislation to include a citizenship question on the Decennial Census.

A full recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

Executive Branch News

President-Elect Trump Nominates Dr. Jay Bhattacharya to Lead NIH

President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of health policy at Stanford University, as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Notably, Bhattacharya was a critic of the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and was the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case, [Murthy v. Missouri](#), where he argued that he was "unfairly censored" on social media by the government for his views on the issue. While the case gained national attention, it was ultimately unsuccessful in a 6-3 ruling.

About the nomination, Trump said, "Dr. Bhattacharya will work in cooperation with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to direct the Nation's Medical Research, and to make important discoveries that will improve Health, and save lives."

If confirmed by the Senate, Bhattacharya would inherit the position from Dr. Monica

Bertagnolli who was appointed by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate in November 2023 ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)).

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the confirmation process.

Trump Names David Sacks as AI Czar/PCAST Head

On December 4, President-elect Trump announced his plan to appoint tech venture capitalist and PayPal cofounder [David Sacks](#) to a new “AI czar” position and advisor on cryptocurrency in the next Administration. The announcement also states that Sacks will lead the [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#) (PCAST).

While little more detail is known about Trump's plan for PCAST, the naming of Sacks as chair signals that the council will be maintained in Trump's second term. This is notable particularly because during Trump's first term, PCAST was not reconstituted until almost [three years into his term](#).

This is a developing story.

OSTP's CoSTEM Releases Five-Year Federal Strategic Plan Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP) National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (CoSTEM) has [released](#) the *Federal Strategic Plan Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent*. The five-year plan is intended to promote STEM education and careers, particularly in coordination with multi-sector collaborators throughout the STEM ecosystem and has identified three principles to achieve this goal, including expanding opportunity, developing partnerships and the ecosystem, and fostering transparency and accountability. Within these principles, OSTP has identified five pillars including STEM engagement; STEM teaching and learning; STEM workforce; STEM research and innovation capacity; and STEM environments.

The report was released following community listening sessions held by OSTP in March 2023 ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)) and is the second iteration of the report, which was [first published in May 2013](#) under the Obama Administration and [continued under the Trump Administration](#) ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The Strategic Plan is a five-year plan that seeks to improve STEM education and the workforce and is required by the [America COMPETES Re-authorization Act of 2010](#). The full report can be found [here](#).

NSF Releases NAIRR Dear Colleague Letter for AI Research and Education

On November 15, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Pilot released a Dear Colleague letter seeking datasets to “enable a broader set of researchers and educators” in artificial intelligence (AI) and foster the development of AI skills in educational environments ([see previous COSSA coverage here](#)). The deadline to submit datasets is February 7 and can be submitted [here](#).

Full details about the submission criteria and evaluation can be found [here](#).

Science Community News

Currently Reading: CPI's Census Accuracy Guides

The Center for Poverty and Inequality (CPI) at Georgetown Law released a [series of guides](#) designed for civil rights organizations, advocates, and policymakers. The Census

Accuracy series includes:

- **Key Concepts Explained**, covers essential concepts, such as net and gross accuracy and differential undercounts.
- **Key Methods Explained**, describes the Bureau's main evaluation methods: Demographic Analysis and the Post-Enumeration Survey.
- **Five Key Results & Trends Explained**, summarizes accuracy trends from the 2020 Census and previous counts.

This series is intended to help stakeholders and organizations advocate for necessary research and reforms to ensure every community is accurately counted, promote robust funding for the census by emphasizing the need for accurate data to help ensure fair political representation and equitable resource distribution, and implement measures to mitigate the impact of census inaccuracies.

[Read the guides here.](#)

Social Science Advocacy Day 2025 News

COSSA's annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will be taking place March 24-25, 2025 in Washington, DC! This signature, members-only event brings together social and behavioral science researchers, faculty, students, association professionals, and other advocates from across the country to meet with their elected officials in Congress to discuss the value of our sciences and the importance of federal funding.

Early bird registration is officially OPEN! [Register now](#) and take advantage of our early bird rates (these won't last long).

Visit the [COSSA website](#) for the latest information on Social Science Advocacy Day and share with your colleagues.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Update Returning on January 7

This is our final issue of the COSSA Washington Update for 2024. Late-breaking news and analysis will be shared with members subscribed to our [members-only emails](#). We will resume our ongoing coverage of policy developments affecting the social and behavioral sciences on January 7.

The COSSA team wishes all our readers a happy and healthy holiday season.



Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 11/22/2024: [Friends of IES Letter Urging Congress on FY 2025 Funding for the Institute of Education Sciences](#)
- 11/18/2024: [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Letter to Congress on Finalizing FY 2025 Appropriations for NIH](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [Advisory Panel Call for New Members](#) (Ongoing)
- SSRC: [Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize](#) (Closes: February 4, 2025)

Funding Opportunities

- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NSF: [Comment Request: NSF Research Experience and Mentoring Survey](#) (Closes: December 13, 2024)
- NSF: [Request for Information on the Chips and Science Act Research Ethics](#) (Closes: December 13, 2024)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Comment on planned Public Engagement with Science Initiative](#) (Closes: December 31, 2024)
- FAS: [Day One Project Open Call for Ideas](#) (Ongoing)
- NIH: [Feedback on NIH public access compliance monitoring process for institutions](#) (Ongoing)
- University of Houston & Rice University Survey: [NSF's Research Security Training Modules](#) (Ongoing)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** OSTP: [Federal Strategic Plan for Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent](#)
- NASEM: [AI and the Future of Work](#)
- NASEM: [A Plan to Promote Defense Research at Minority-Serving Institutions](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- STPI: [2025 Science Policy Fellowship](#) (Closes: January 6, 2025)
- SRCDC: [Policy Fellowships](#) (Closes: January 6, 2025)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Science of Science Scholars Program](#) (Closes: January 31, 2025)
- **NEW:** NIH: [All of Us Research Program Chief Engagement Officer](#) (Closes: January 31, 2025)
- **NEW:** OBSSR: [2025 NIH Summer Institute on Behavioral Clinical Trials](#) (Closes: January 31, 2025)
- AERA: [Executive Director](#) (Open until Filled)
- NSF: [Science Advisor for Public Access](#) (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Social Psychology Program](#) within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\) Program](#) in the BCS Division within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)

Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** AAAS: [Tools for the Equitable Use of AI in the Public Sector Webinar](#), December 11, Virtual
- **NEW:** NSF: [Fall 2024 SBE Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting](#), December 12-13, 2024, Virtual
- COSSA Headlines Webinar: [The Future of Social and Behavioral Science in Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), December 17, 2024, Virtual
- **NEW:** [COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day 2025: Informational Webinar #1](#), December 20, 2024, Virtual
- **NEW:** [2025 Allied Social Science Associations Annual Meeting](#), January 3-5, 2025,

San Francisco, CA

- **NEW:** [COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day 2025: Informational Webinar #2](#), January 16, 2025, Virtual

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to ebailey@cossa.org.

COSSA Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Political Science Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children
Economic History Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

Colleges and Universities

Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CSUSB College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Duke University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
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University of Maryland
University of Michigan
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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Child Trends

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

About COSSA

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

Our Team

Executive Director

Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs

Elyse Bailey

Government Relations Associate

Kenzie Shelstad

COSSA Summer Intern

Paige Kirkham

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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS | www.cossa.org

Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1430 K Street, NW Suite 550 | Washington, DC
20005 US

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