



Elections Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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2018 Election Symposium

The Elections Research Center to host a symposium about the 2018 election

The Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will host a symposium about the 2018 election where experts will discuss and analyze races and results from around the country and in Wisconsin on Friday, Dec. 7.

The day-long event will take place on campus at the [Wisconsin Discovery Building](#) in the H.F. DeLuca Forum from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The symposium is free and open to the public, but attendees are asked to [pre-register](#).

"When the dust has settled on this year's elections, the symposium provides access to leading analysts to unpack the results in a systematic way," said [Barry Burden](#), director of the Elections Research Center.

The symposium includes five expert panels on important topics like the impact of social media and the increase in women running for office. The experts include election scholars and journalists.

"The event brings together a variety of perspectives to make sense of what happened," Burden said. "The presentations are an excellent way for the community to put the 2018 election in a broader context."

[Karen Tumulty](#), national political correspondent for the Washington Post, will break down the politics of 2018. She will discuss a mix of races and the important national trends.

Two scholars will talk about Wisconsin. [Professor Michael Wagner](#) will explore the communication ecology in Wisconsin during the election. [His current research project](#) examines how a diverse mix of talk radio, local news, political advertising and social media contributed to the ideological and partisan political divides in the state.

[Professor Charles Franklin](#), director of the Marquette Law School Poll, will compare the 2018 election in Wisconsin to past years. He will highlight both changes and similarities.

Two other scholars will talk about digital and social media. [Professor Young Mie Kim](#) will investigate undisclosed political actors on social media that conduct microtargeted ad campaigns. Another professor, [Brendan Nyhan](#), will highlight the importance of digital literacy in combatting the spread of fake news on various digital media platforms.

Another panel will address the rise of women candidates in 2018. [Professor Kelly Dittmar's](#) research systematically measures the success of women in the election and investigates the effects of the increase in women running for office.

The symposium will also include discussions about the impact of social and economic change since 1965 from [Professor Katherine Cramer](#) and about how worldviews structure politics from [Professor Marc Hetherington](#).

The host of the event, the Elections Research Center, is part of the Department of Political Science at UW-Madison. The goals of the center are to foster cutting-edge research on national and state elections and to further scholarly understanding of voting and elections.

For more information, visit their website at elections.wisc.edu.

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