



Fall 2024 Newsletter

Happy Holidays from the William J. Hughes Public Policy Center! The Hughes Public Policy Center has been busy over the last six months. In case you missed any of our programming and polls, here's a roundup of our initiatives for the last six months. Our [Polling Institute](#) continued to track the trends on issues you care about, [headlining speakers](#) addressed our community and we recorded episodes of our [new podcast](#), worked with students on a variety of initiatives, and encouraged students to be more [civically engaged](#). We also welcomed Regina Kinney back to our office.



Please contact us to learn more about how you can get involved with the Hughes Center, and be sure to follow us on social media. We hope to see you at our next event in the spring! Stay tuned for announcements and save-the-dates.

- Dr. Tina Zappile, Director of the Hughes Center for Public Policy and Associate Professor of Political Science



Visit our Website



Polling Institute

The Stockton Polling Institute at the Hughes Center is run by Research Director, **Alyssa Maurice**. We released five statewide poll reports on various timely topics, including the economy, immigration, abortion, offshore wind, trust in elections and other institutions, as well as candidate favorability ratings for major races in New Jersey.

[View Stockton Polling Institute reports & results](#)

In the News

Since June, the Stockton Polling Institute and Hughes Center appeared in the news in print, television, and radio approximately 600 times. Both Research Director **Alyssa Maurice** and Hughes Center Director **Dr. Tina Zappile** shared polling results, insights on current events, and their expertise in national news outlets such as the Associated Press, ABC World News, Politico, NBC, regional media throughout the U.S., including in Philadelphia - 6ABC, CBS3, and WHYY, Baltimore, Boston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Miami, Maine, North Dakota, and more locally in the New Jersey Globe, Star-Ledger and NJ.com, Atlantic City Press, WKXW (NJ 101.5 FM), and more. Globally, we appeared in the news in Australia, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Listen to our New Podcast!

This fall, the Hughes Center for Public Policy launched its official podcast series, Hughes Center Conversations. Hosted by **Alyssa Maurice**, the podcast provides a platform for exploring pressing issues shaping New Jersey and beyond. Four episodes were released, with special guest speakers offering expert analysis and real-world perspectives. Stockton University's **Dr. Ramya Vijaya**, Professor of **Economics**, is featured on an episode discussing the impact of immigrant labor on the state's economy, highlighting the challenges and contributions of immigrant workers. Professor of **Sustainability** **Dr. Patrick Hossay** explores the principles of offshore wind energy, such as turbine mechanics, potential economic benefits, and New Jersey's legislative obstacles. Peter Baker's episode shares insights into his career and experiences as the White House correspondent for The New York Times, highlighting the importance of truth in reporting, the difficulties of covering



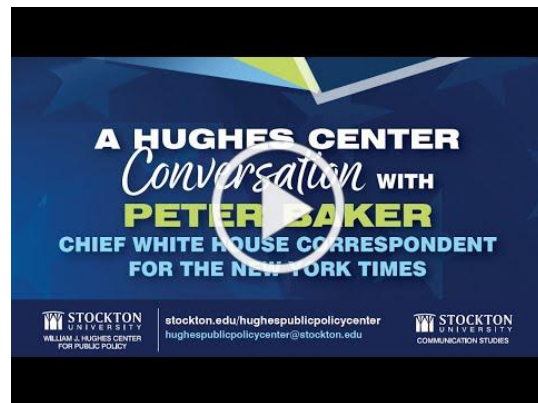
presidential administrations, and the evolution of political media. The most recent episode features Atlantic County Clerk **Joe Giraldo** and Board of Elections Commissioner **Creed Pogue** to discuss growing skepticism around election results and solutions to rebuild the public's confidence in the electoral process.

Listen on [our website](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker Events

A Conversation with N.Y. Times Journalist Peter Baker

In September, the Hughes Center hosted **Peter Baker**, the chief White House correspondent since 2008. Pictured below, **Toby Rosenthal**, Faculty in [Communications Studies](#), spoke with Baker about the 2024 election, ethics in journalism, and the impact of the 24-hour news cycle on political news. Baker was introduced by a long-time friend and member of our New Jersey community, **Mark Grossman**.



Constitution Day 2024

Richard L. Hasen, the Gary T. Schwartz Endowed Chair in Law, Professor of Political Science, and Director of the Safeguarding Democracy Project at UCLA School of Law, spoke at Stockton's annual Constitution Day event in September. Hasen, the author of a new book titled "A Real Right to Vote," shared how the right to vote is absent from our Constitution and how this can be changed to enshrine our voting rights. **Dr. Claire Abernathy** and **Dr. Lauren Balasco** co-chair the Constitution Day Committee.



More information about Constitution Day can be found [here](#).



Dr. Terricita Sass, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, and **President Joe Bertolino** are pictured with Richard Hasen showcasing his new book, available through Stockton's bookstore.



With Richard Hasen in front of Stockton's Declaration of Independence are **Ariana Sorto**, a sophomore majoring in Political Science with Minors in Economics and Philosophy and Religion, and **Vlad Vasylyk**, Vice President of Student Senate and a sophomore Political Science major with a concentration in International Affairs.

Election Debates & Candidate Forums

The Hughes Center and the Press of Atlantic City co-hosted the U.S. Congressional District 2 Debate for New Jersey. **Congressman Jeff Van Drew**, the Republican candidate and eventual winner, went head to head with Democratic challenger **Joe Salerno**, an entrepreneur. The debate covered topics important to voters in the district, including energy costs and offshore wind, climate change, abortion rights, the economy, healthcare, immigration, higher education costs, senior programs, and more.

A promotional graphic for a debate. It features a dark blue background with a world map. At the top, it reads "DEBATE FOR THE 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RACE IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" in white. Below that, "OCTOBER 24, 2024 | 6 PM" is written in yellow. In the center, there is a circular graphic with a white arrow pointing right and the letters "VS" inside. On the left side of the graphic is a portrait of Jeff Van Drew (R) in a dark suit and pink tie. On the right side is a portrait of Joe Salerno (D) in a dark suit and blue tie. At the bottom, it says "JEFF VAN DREW (R)" and "JOE SALERNO (D)" in white. Below that, "LIVE BROADCAST ON HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY YOUTUBE CHANNEL" is written in yellow. At the very bottom, it says "WILLIAM J. HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY STOCKTON UNIVERSITY" in white.

U.S. Senate Candidate Forums

The Hughes Center also partnered with the Stockton chapters of College Democrats and College Republicans to host candidate forums for the major party candidates in the United States Senate race for New Jersey. Club members were able to develop questions they wanted to ask of their respective candidates and the forums were open to all Stockton students.



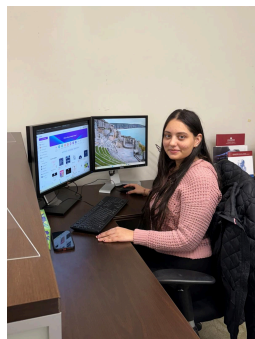
The forum with now **Senator-elect Andy Kim**, was moderated by the president of Stockton College Democrats, **Ryan Kilpatrick**. Kilpatrick, a senior majoring in political science, said “as a future social studies educator, being able to discuss the Congressman’s plans and ideas for New Jersey K-12 public schools was the highlight of the event for me.” Kim encouraged students in the audience to get engaged. “The opposite of democracy is apathy,” he said.



During the forum with **Curtis Bashaw**, a Cape May entrepreneur and the Republican candidate, questions were posed by the chairman of Stockton College Republicans, **Matthew Moore**, a junior majoring in Business Analytics. “The acrimony in our politics has been unsettling,” said Bashaw. Asked why he joined the race, he said “We need to have a practical approach with people that want to work with everybody, around division, to get things done.”

Subscribe to our YouTube channel for election debates & forums

Intern Spotlight



Social Media and Communications Assistant **Mrugakshi Brahmhatt**, a junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and a Minor in Digital Studies, managed the center's social media presence, strategizing and creating content to raise the center's profile among online audiences. She spearheaded the creation of our new [Instagram account](#), which now regularly features stories, reels and static posts about our work.

Production Assistant **Katelyn Herterich**, a Stockton junior majoring in Digital Studies and a Minor in Business Administration, worked on producing audio clips and teasers to feature on social media to highlight the work of the center. She also conducted background research necessary to produce the center's podcast series, assisted with various events on campus, and created promotional materials.



Scholarship for a Washington D.C. Intern

The Hughes Center continues to financially support Stockton students enrolled and living in Washington D.C. for the [Washington Internship Program \(WIP\)](#) which provides work experience through government, business, and nonprofit internships for participants in the nation's capital. This semester's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship for expenses other than tuition and fees is **Keidy Romero**, a senior majoring in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, and a Minor in Victimology and Victim Services. Keidy is working at Jubilee Housing and studying the First Amendment this semester.



[Find more information about our support for internships here.](#)

Campus Events & Student Engagement

The Hughes Public Policy Center is committed to a vibrant culture of civic and political engagement on campus and in the community! The Hughes Center was an exhibitor at Stockton's [Coast Day](#) where high school students from the region get an opportunity to learn about coastal change, conservation, and resiliency. Hughes

Center staffer **Darya Hrybava** worked with students on art projects using shells she hand-collected and promoted the center's work around energy policy and offshore wind.



This semester also featured a post-election panel discussion with **Political Science** faculty **Dr. Claire Abernathy**, **Dr. James (Mac) Avery**, **Dr. Lauren Balasco**, **Dr. Michael Rodriguez**, and **Dr. Tina Zappile**.

They spoke about how most election models generated by political scientists accurately predicted the outcome based on tried-and-true variables like the economy, the constraints on any U.S. president such as institutional rules or partisan dynamics in Congress and bureaucratic inertia, and how our election fits within global trends of waning support for representative democracy and the rise of populism.

The Hughes Public Policy Center hosted and moderated an event in Stockton's new *Peaceful Pathways Forward Series* on "An Interfaith Perspective: Bridging Divides and Building Community in the Face of Conflict" in November. We asked spiritual leaders from our community to share their thoughts on sensitive issues like extremism within their own faith, security for their places of worship, and more.

Rear Admiral Kevin M. Sweeney, member of the Hughes Center Advisory Board, mentored a small group of Stockton students who participated in the one-day **WMGIC x NATO Countering Disinformation Challenge**. Both teams received high marks for their action plans for how NATO governments can better work with private social media companies to slow down the rapid spread of misinformation that may threaten national security.



Darya Hrybava gave a lecture "The State of Affairs in Belarus Since the 2020 Unrest" for the **Global Studies Minor's** Global Affairs lecture series. The talk was a follow-up to a panel discussion about state-sponsored violence in Belarus the center organized back in 2020.

Dr. Tina Zappile and **Dr. Lauren Balasco** hosted students at biweekly webinars with experts sponsored by **Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Education**, where they learned about international trade, climate change negotiations, human rights law, and more. Surprise guests included Paul Wolfowitz, former President of the World Bank, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia.

Fall 2024 Global Affairs Expert Webinar Series

Announcing Pizza and Politics Hour! Join the Hughes Center for Public Policy, American Democracy Project (ADP), Global Studies Minor, and Political Science for this CFR webinar series featuring fellows and leading experts to discuss pressing foreign issues.

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International Cooperation on Migration
 Wednesday, September 11, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
[Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan](#), Migration Policy Institute
- 

U.S. China Strategy
 Wednesday, September 18, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
[Rana Mitter](#), Harvard University
- 

Election 2024
 Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
[Kat Duffy](#), Council on Foreign Relations
[Elaine C. Kumarek](#), Brookings Institution
- 

U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
 Wednesday, October 16, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
[Steven A. Cook](#), Council on Foreign Relations
- 

The War in Ukraine and U.S.-Russia Relations
 Wednesday, October 30, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
[Stephen Sestanovich](#), Council on Foreign Relations
- 

Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament
 Wednesday, November 13, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EST)
[Nicole Grajewski](#), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- 

Global Trade Policy
 Wednesday, November 20, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (EST)
[Ira Manual](#), Council on Foreign Relations

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Finally, the **American Democracy Project (ADP)** sponsored and ran a voter registration drive, encouraging students to register and exercise their fundamental right to vote. Run by **Dr. Claire Abernathy**, this initiative focuses on enhancing civic engagement on campuses across the U.S., with voting one of many opportunities for students to participate in our democracy.



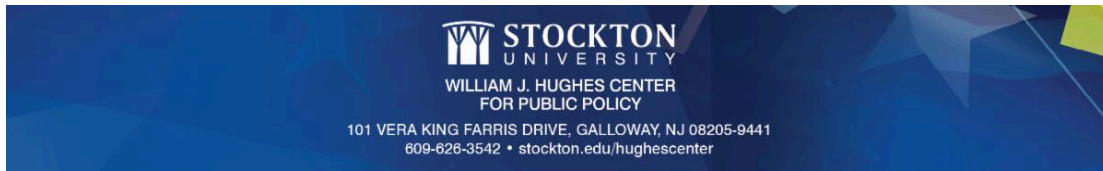
About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University serves as a catalyst for research, analysis, and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The

center is named for the late William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama, and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton.



Visit our Website



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