

J. WESLEY LECKRONE

Editor-in-Chief

This issue of *COMMONWEALTH* features three articles that examine the current state of politics and policy in Pennsylvania. Berwood Yost, Jackie Redman, and Scottie Thompson explore the 2016 presidential and senatorial elections in Pennsylvania. On the basis of pre- and post-election surveys, they find that Donald Trump succeeded in winning by capturing voters with lower education, a desire for change, and negative evaluations of President Barack Obama's tenure. Pat Toomey won reelection with a similar base, but his supporters included fewer Independents than Trump's and educational level played less of a role. A voting surge in working-class counties across central and western Pennsylvania—added to the relative stability in turnout in traditional Democratic strongholds—helped turn the Commonwealth red in 2016. Jennie Sweet-Cushman and Ashley Harden follow this article with an examination of child care in Pennsylvania. They find there is significant public concern over this issue, particularly since the costs of child care can rival the costs of college. Yet the federal government has done little to address childcare costs, leaving states to fill the void with programs of their own. Sweet-Cushman and Harden find that while Pennsylvania has a patchwork of policies, it has not kept pace with the innovations of other states. Finally, Nathan R. Shrader's article explores the mechanics of school board races in Pennsylvania. The results of the Pennsylvania School Board Survey

show that local parties and party officials are more likely to recruit and publicize candidates for school board membership than are other types of civic and community organizations. Shrader argues that this finding shows the vitality of local parties and their contribution to the health of the electoral process.

Looking ahead to 2018, we are proud to announce that Mark A. Nordenberg, chancellor emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh, will be editing our Special Issue on the Opioid Crisis in Pennsylvania. Moreover, in addition to our collaboration on *COMMONWEALTH*, the Pennsylvania Political Science Association (PPSA) and Temple University Press will be publishing a hard-copy volume entitled *State of the Commonwealth: Annual Review of Pennsylvania Politics and Policy*. This anthology of articles from past issues of *COMMONWEALTH* will feature a variety of policy issues, enhanced with new material making the *Annual Review* ideal for classes on state and local government or public policy. The first issue will be available for fall 2018 classroom adoption. More information will be included in the January 2018 issue of *COMMONWEALTH*.

Finally, we ask that all our readers encourage their libraries to subscribe to *COMMONWEALTH*. Subscriptions are included in the cost of PPSA membership. However, the financial health of the journal depends on our ability to broaden our base of subscribers. A Library Recommendation Form is provided at the back of the journal.