

Editors' Note

For many years now *The Journal of Politics* has been viewed by many as one of the top three general journals in the discipline – albeit frequently third. In recent years, we believe, the gap between *The JOP* and the other 'big three' has closed and that something close to parity now exists. We believe that this issue solidifies that reputation by virtue of the theoretical advances, methodological sophistication and political relevance of the articles included – articles that speak across the traditional subfields of political science and beyond.

It is important to note that most of these articles began the review process at *The JOP* under the editorship of John Geer at Vanderbilt University. John shepherded many outstanding articles to publication during his four year editorship. After a year on the job as new editors, we appreciate all the more

the intellectual leadership and high professional standards that marked John's tenure, one which only enhanced the role of *The JOP* in the profession.

We seek to live up to the standards John has established over the remaining three years that we are privileged to serve as co-editors. With submissions increasing and page budgets remaining largely the same, we face even greater challenges in making final publication decisions. We would not take on this daunting task without the continuing contributions of our editorial board members and reviewers, on whom we depend so much, and without as well the many authors who give us the opportunity to review their best work.

Jan Leighley and Bill Mishler
Editors