

Dr. Daniel Palazzolo
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Dr. Palazzolo's current research is on the role of leaders in the policy making process. He has published two books on budget policy, one dealing with the role of the Speaker of the House and another detailing the formation of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. More recently, he has published work on election reform in the wake of the 2000 presidential election.

He is available to work with students with interested in doing research in one of three possible projects: 1. Leader Goals, 2. Leadership and Entitlement Reform, and 3. Leadership and Election Reform.

Leader Goals: In "The Gingrich Effect," Randall Strahan and I make the observation that formally appointed legislative leaders, like the Speaker of the House, may seek to achieve multiple goals. In addition to retaining their positions and responding to the expectations and preferences of the members, leaders may also have independent policy or institutional goals. This project seeks to identify the goals of speakers of the House of Representatives. Our main source of data will be speeches on the House floor. The project has great potential for publication.

Leadership and Entitlement Reform: Perhaps the greatest challenge of leadership in domestic policy in the next decade or more is in the area of entitlements, particularly Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, as the baby boom generation enters and lives in retirement. This projects focuses on how and to what effect leaders have sought to reform entitlements and what is the best way to lead the public and other elected officials in order to reform these vital programs.

Leadership and Election Reform: Since the 2000 election debacle in Florida, political scientists and policy experts have published research on numerous aspects of election administration and reform. The focus of this project is on the role of leaders in the reform process.