

MAPOR NEWS

Research Excellence | Leadership | Student-Friendly

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Key Highlights:

- Voting for MAPOR offices runs through the 31st of October
- MAPOR's Fall webinar kicks off October 10th
- Register soon for MAPOR's 50th anniversary conference, in November 2025.
- Student and Colleague Support Grants are available – Apply through October 31st.



A Message from the President:

Patrick Hsieh, MAPOR President

Dear MAPORites!

As fall settles in, we hope you are finding moments of steadiness and reflection amid the season's transitions. On behalf of the MAPOR council, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. We recognize that many of us are navigating complex challenges—whether it is adapting to shifting professional landscapes, responding to economic pressures, or simply striving for balance in uncertain times. As we embrace the twists and turns in our careers and personal lives, it is important to remember that we are not alone. MAPOR is a welcoming intellectual community where we can lean on one another and find strength in our collective resilience. We hope our members continue to find connection, inspiration, and support through MAPOR's programs—and through each other.

Before diving into updates on our Fall Webinar Series, annual conference planning, and MAPOR's upcoming 50th anniversary, we would first like to encourage your participation in the executive council election for the 2025–26 term. This year, we have three open positions: Vice President/President-Elect, Associate Conference Chair, and Associate Secretary-Treasurer. Following a month of open nominations beginning in mid-August, we're excited to have a slate of outstanding candidates. Their bios are attached and available on MAPOR's website under the "[Candidates for Office: 2025–2026](#)" page. Voting

links were sent on September 22, and the election will remain open through 11:59 PM on October 31, 2025. Your vote helps shape MAPOR's leadership and supports the dedicated volunteers who keep our organization thriving.

Candidates for MAPOR Office: 2025-2026

It's time to elect the next MAPOR council members to begin roles in November 2025. We currently have three positions open for election: Vice-President/President-Elect, Associate Conference Chair, and Associate Secretary-Treasurer. For your convenience, candidates and bios are printed below, -and also available at <https://www.mapor.org/candidates-for-office-2025-2026/>

Vice-President/President Elect



Paul DiPerna | EdChoice

Paul DiPerna is Vice President of Research and Innovation at EdChoice, where he has led the research program since 2010. Paul's work centers on surveys and polling about American K-12 education and schooling. He directs the monthly EdChoice Public Opinion Tracker and oversees the annual Schooling in America Survey. Previously, Paul worked for six years at the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution. He received his MA in Political Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his BA in Political Science at the University of Dayton.

Paul currently serves as an at-large member on MAPOR's Executive Council and for the last three years he has contributed to the Awards, Grants, and Support Committee. During this time he has also co-led MAPOR's Student Fellowship program and travel grant efforts. Paul has been a member of MAPOR since 2014 and AAPOR since 2009.

Associate Conference Chair



Erik Nisbet, Ph.D. | Northwestern University

Erik Nisbet is the Owen L. Coon Professor of Policy Analysis & Communication at Northwestern University and Director of the Center for Communication & Public Policy. His research examines public opinion and political behavior in the United States and abroad, employing survey, experimental, and computational methods. He received his Ph.D. in Communication from Cornell University, after working for seven years in market research and six years at the Cornell Survey Research Center.

Erik's involvement with MAPOR began as a first-year master's student at Cornell in 2002, with his co-authored paper participating in the MAPOR Fellows Student Paper Competition. Since then, he has remained an active participant in the conference as both a graduate student and faculty member. Over the past year, he has served on the MAPOR Executive Council contributing to the Online Learning Committee and currently mentors a MAPOR Student Fellow.

In addition to MAPOR, Erik is active in the World Association of Public Opinion Research, recently editing a special issue of the International Journal of Public Opinion Research and delivered the keynote lecture at the 2025 WAPOR Annual meeting in St. Louis. He looks forward to continuing his service to MAPOR as Associate Conference Chair.

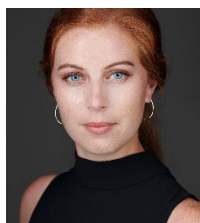


Miranda Kaye, Ph.D. | University of Chicago

Miranda Kaye is the Director of the Survey Lab at the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the Survey Lab, she served as the Director of the Survey Research Center at the Pennsylvania State University where she began her AAPOR and PANJPOR memberships. She has served as the chair of a number of academic committees as well as of the State College Friends School Board of Trustees. Since coming to Chicago, she is an active member of MAPOR.

Miranda completed her B.S. in Human Development at Cornell University, her M.S. in Exercise Science at Arizona State University, and her Ph.D. in Kinesiology at the Pennsylvania State University. She has over 15 years of experience in all phases of survey research, including teaching undergraduate and graduate research methods and statistics classes, specializing in projects involving large-scale, multi-modal, longitudinal, field, mixed-methods, and RDD data collection, and providing leadership to academic research centers. In her own research, she applies multivariate methods to the study of human development, health, and well-being with a focus on scale development, measurement, and program evaluation. She loves examining metadata and considering ways to improve methodology as well as supporting the varied projects and methodical needs of researchers.

Associate Secretary-Treasurer



Caroline Smith | Morning Consult

Caroline Smith is the Director of Content Research at Morning Consult. She works on a wide variety of polling, including politics, economics, and market research for financial services, travel, and retail industries. Prior to Morning Consult, she worked at N.O.R.C. in the Public Affairs and media research department. Caroline received her B.A. in Political Science and International Relations and her Master's degree in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago, and she began attending the MAPOR conference in 2018. Caroline is currently a member-at-large on the Executive Council and she looks forward to continuing her service to MAPOR as Associate Secretary-Treasurer.



Nadia Assad | University of Wisconsin Survey Center

Nadia Assad is a Senior Project Director at the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC), where she has been a key member of the project directing staff since 2014. She brings extensive experience in survey research administration and methodology. Nadia began her career in survey research as a telephone interviewer and quickly advanced through roles including shift leader and project director. Her experience with multiple areas of survey operations at the UWSC has made her a key member of the Center's team. In addition to overseeing complex web, mail, and mixed-mode survey projects, she also provides extensive methodological guidance to clients and colleagues on questionnaire design and layout.

Nadia currently serves as the study director for a state-level panel at UWSC, further demonstrating her expertise in managing large-scale, longitudinal research initiatives. Through her work as a survey methodologist, Nadia has contributed to scholarly publications in journals including *Public Opinion Quarterly* and *Field Methods*. Nadia holds a Master's degree in Sociology from UW-Madison and has taught Sociology courses at both UW-Madison and Madison College. Prior to her work in the U.S., she contributed to internationally funded research projects by organizations such as the World Bank and United Nations Development Program.

Since 2023, Nadia has been an enthusiastic participant in MAPOR's annual conference, presenting papers at both events. She deeply values the organization's commitment to methodological rigor and innovation, and its welcoming, intellectually vibrant community that supports professionals at every stage of their careers. Her engagement with the conference has been both professionally enriching and personally inspiring.

As a nominee for Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Nadia brings a strong foundation in research leadership, a commitment to methodological excellence, and a collaborative spirit. She is excited about the opportunity to support MAPOR's mission and contribute to its continued success.



Fall Webinar Series

By: Erin Heiden, Online Learning Committee, University of Northern Iowa

MAPOR's fall Webinar Series, **Transitions, Tools & Techniques: Navigating Career Change and Elevating Practice in Survey Research**, will begin on October 10th.

This three-part webinar series explores the evolving landscape of survey research through the lens of career transitions, emerging methodological tools, and advanced skill-building. The first session (October 10) features a panel of researchers from across the professional spectrum sharing their experiences navigating a challenging job market, with a focus on resilience and upskilling. The second session (October 24) introduces Quarto, an open-source tool for creating reproducible research workflows and reports. The final webinar (November 7) offers strategies to enhance questionnaire design for improved data quality and respondent engagement. Whether you're a student or working in government, academia, or applied research, this series offers timely insights and actionable techniques to support your professional growth.

As always, this webinar series is free for MAPOR members and all students. To register, please fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/8A8ZG27YFfmGAH6Y7>

Additional information is available at <https://www.mapor.org/webinars/>



Fall Conference Update

By: Beth Fisher, Conference Chair, NORC at the University of Chicago

Preparations for the 50th Annual MAPOR conference are underway! Held on November 21st and 22nd at Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown, we're excited to come together to celebrate this milestone. With the conference theme in mind, *Fifty Years of Measuring Change*, we are welcoming the Honorable Robert L. Santos, former Director of the U.S. Census Bureau for the keynote on Friday. For our pedagogy hour, we'll be hosting a distinguished panel of MAPOR fellows and past presidents as they engage with a retrospective and prospective look at public opinion, survey research, and MAPOR. Our short course, Categorical Analysis of Complex Survey Data in R: A Hands-On Course, will give attendees the opportunity to engage in hands on analysis of an existing public use data set. We've been impressed by the quality of the abstracts submitted this year and wanted to thank MAPOR fellows that have gone the extra mile to put together special MAPOR-focused panels and presentations to celebrate this year's anniversary. We can't wait to share this year's conference with you and look forward to seeing you there! Keep an eye out for an email about conference registration, opening soon.



Support Grants for the 2025 MAPOR Conference

By: Paul DiPerna, MAPOR Awards Committee, EdChoice

The MAPOR Executive Council is offering two types of support grants to reduce financial barriers for attending the 2025 annual conference:

(1) The [MAPOR Student Support Grant](#) is intended to help students offset their expenses to attend the MAPOR Annual Conference. The Council may award grants up to \$500, depending on a student applicant's needs while considering others' applications for travel grants and the awards budget.

Student applicants do not need to be a current MAPOR member. However, they are expected to join at the time of the Conference in November.

An applicant must:

- Be a currently enrolled student
- Be willing to attend the Keynote Address, Pedagogy Hour, and additional networking events that may be held during the Conference

Priority will be given to:

- 2025 MAPOR Student Fellows
- Students who will not be able to attend the Conference without MAPOR support
- Students participating in the Conference by presenting a paper or poster, co-authoring a paper, or moderating a session

Supporting materials:

The student must provide: a cover letter that briefly details participation at the upcoming MAPOR Conference; their estimated expenses for attendance; and how much (if any) their university will contribute to the student's Conference expenses.

In addition, a complete application requires a letter of support (300 words maximum) from a faculty or staff member explaining why the applicant merits an award and how Conference attendance will enhance the applicant's career in survey research or public opinion research.

Application Process:

To be considered for a Student Support Grant, the application and letter of support should be emailed to Patrick Hsieh (president@mapor.org) no later than October 31, 2025.

(2) The [MAPOR Colleague Support Grant](#) is intended to help people – working in any sector of survey research or public opinion research – offset their expenses to attend the MAPOR Annual Conference. This award is intended for those who would not be able to attend the Conference without supplemental funding from MAPOR. The Council may award grants up to \$500, depending on an applicant's needs while considering others' applications for travel grants and the awards budget.

Applicants do not need to be a current MAPOR member. However, they are expected to join at the time of the Conference in November.

An applicant must:

- Currently work for pay (full-time or part-time) and have primary work responsibilities related to survey research or public opinion research
- Be willing to attend the Keynote Address, Pedagogy Hour, and additional networking events that may be held during the Conference

Priority will be given to:

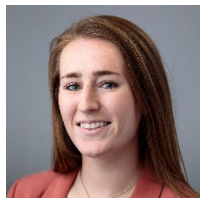
- Applicants who will not be able to attend the Conference without MAPOR support
- Applicants participating in the Conference by presenting a paper or poster, co-authoring a paper, or moderating a session

Supporting materials:

The applicant must provide a cover letter that briefly details participation at the upcoming MAPOR Conference; their estimated expenses for attendance; and how much (if any) their employer will contribute to the applicant's Conference expenses. The cover letter should also explain how attendance at the Conference will enhance the applicant's career in survey research or public opinion research.

Application Process:

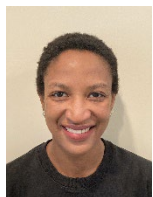
To be considered for a Colleague Support Grant, the application should be emailed to Patrick Hsieh (president@mapor.org) no later than October 31, 2025.



Secretary Treasurer's Update

Semilla Stripp, Secretary-Treasurer, NORC at the University of Chicago

MAPOR continues in great financial health. The bank accounts total to approximately \$76,000, having grown substantially with membership changes and conference sponsorship. Recognizing the challenges faced by our industry and colleagues, we are actively exploring ways to use these funds to make conference attendance more accessible, for our 50th anniversary celebration. Membership is also strong. We currently have 428 current members, including 353 general members and 75 students. Conferences and webinars continue to drive our membership to new heights.



Individual Sponsorship of MAPOR

Leah Dean, Sponsorship Coordinator, RTI International

MAPOR members, along with many others in our field, are facing very real challenges. Contracts have been stalled or ended, programs have been discontinued, and some of us have experienced layoffs.

In response to these continuously changing times, MAPOR will be adding in a new aspect to our sponsorship for this year's conference – **individual giving**. While we're committed to maintaining the quality of the conference experience and offering as many travel grants as possible, it's not feasible for MAPOR to absorb the full cost. Your tax-deductible donations will directly fund attendance. Donors will receive a variety of benefits as outlined below. Use this link for your donation: <https://cvent.me/PwN7lO>.

MAPOR Iron Sponsor

- For contributions \$1 to \$49
- Recognition in the conference program

MAPOR Copper Sponsor

- For contributions \$50 to \$99
- Recognition in the conference program

MAPOR Bronze Sponsor

- For contributions \$100 to \$249
- Free lunch ticket
- Recognition in the conference program

MAPOR Silver Sponsor

- For contributions \$250 to \$349
- Free conference registration
- Free lunch ticket
- Recognition in the conference program

MAPOR Gold Sponsor

- For contributions \$350 to \$499
- Free short course
- Free conference registration
- Free lunch ticket
- Recognition in the conference program

MAPOR Sustaining Sponsor

- For contributions of \$500 and above
- Free short course
- Free conference registration
- Free lunch ticket
- Recognition in the conference program

Thank you for your continued support of MAPOR. Please reach out if you have any questions.

MAPOR Vision

MAPOR is a leading voice in public opinion, survey, and social science scholarship, methods, and practice among regional professional associations. We are an inclusive and supportive community that enables our diverse members to achieve their educational, professional development, and networking goals.

MAPOR Mission

We provide high-quality educational and conference programs to encourage scholarly exchanges across disciplines and geographies, broaden member access to mentors and resources, and bolster opportunities for leadership and innovations. We join forces with AAPOR, academic institutions, and government and industry employers to develop a thriving community that supports all MAPOR members, including students, scholars, and professionals in every stage of their career.

2024-2025 MAPOR Executive Council

President

Patrick Hsieh

yulihsieh2012@u.northwestern.edu
president@mapor.org

VP/President-Elect

David Sterrett
 NORC at the University of Chicago



Past-President

Leah Dean
 RTI international

Secretary-Treasurer

Semilla Stripp
 NORC at the University of Chicago

Conference Chair

Beth Fisher
 NORC at the University of Chicago

Associate Conference Chair

Lindsey Witt-Swanson
 NORC at the University of Chicago

Communications Coordinator & Webmaster

Benjamin Schapiro
 NORC at the University of Chicago

Student Liaison

Curtiss Engstrom
 University of Michigan

Member-at-Large

Rebecca Powell
 RTI International

Member-at-Large

Erin Heiden
 University of Northern Iowa

Member-at-Large

Jerry Timbrook
 RTI International

Member-at-Large

Paul DiPerna
 EdChoice

Member-at-Large

Bryan Wells
 NORC at the University of Chicago

Member-at-Large

Erik Nisbet
 Northwestern University

Member-at-Large

Alexandros Gkotiakos
 Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Member-at-Large

Caroline Smith
 Morning Consult

MAPOR Sponsors

MAPOR acknowledges and thanks the following organizations for sponsoring MAPOR this year.

Gold and Sustaining Sponsors

(Contributions \$2,000+)

EdChoice

NPC

NORC at the University of Chicago

Silver Sponsors

(Contributions above \$1,000-\$1,999)

University of Wisconsin Survey Center

Dynata

RA2, Inc.

University of Michigan--Survey Research Center

RTI International

PressAmerica

University of Michigan—Michigan Program in Survey and Data Science

Bronze Sponsors

(Contributions up to \$1,000)

Indiana University

ReconMR

University of Northern Iowa

Research Support Services

University of Chicago Survey Lab

Consider Supporting MAPOR!

Consider Supporting MAPOR! Support from organizations like yours helps keep costs down for students and young researchers and keeps MAPOR conference attendance high. In return, your sponsorship increases the visibility of your organization, both to future customers and to future hires of survey professionals.

Benefits of Sponsorship							
	Ad in the program	Conference registration	Link on the MAPOR Website	Acknowledgement in the newsletters	Opportunity to connect directly with conference attendees	Logo displayed during conference	Prominent sponsorship of pedagogy hour or keynote address
Gold Sponsorship (Contributions of \$2,000 or more)	✓ full page	✓ (two)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Silver Sponsorship (Contributions of \$1,000-\$1,999)	✓ full page	✓ (one)	✓	✓	✓	✓ (at major conference event)	
Bronze Sponsorship (Contributions up to \$1,000)	✓ half page		✓			✓	

Support MAPOR Today!

<http://www.mapor.org/sponsorship/>