

MAPOR NEWS

Research Excellence | Leadership | Student-Friendly

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Key Highlights:

- Registration opens soon for MAPOR's 51st annual conference.
- Conference has moved a week earlier this year, to November 13th and 14th.
- Nominate yourself or others for a MAPOR council position by 9/7!



A Message from the President:

David Sterrett, MAPOR President

Hi MAPORites!

We hope everyone has had a terrific summer! On behalf of the MAPOR Council, I'm excited to preview some exciting new updates in this newsletter.

We hope everyone will be able to attend the conference this year, which is being held a week earlier than usual, and Lindsey has all the details about travel grants in her message. We have exciting news about updates to the website that Benjamin highlights as well as Rebecca's recap of our successful summer webinar series.

With the start of fall, it is also time for us to nominate and elect new council members (luckily for you all, you won't need to hear from me much longer). This year, we have openings for Associate Conference Chair and Vice-President/President-elect. We are in the process of finding candidates for these offices, and we are hoping members can nominate people to run for these positions. **If you have suggestions of MAPOR members, including yourself, who would be a good fit to serve MAPOR and our members, please send an email to nominate yourself or anyone else to sterrett-david@norc.org by Monday September 7th.**

In addition to nominees for elected positions, you can email names of people who you think may be interested in joining the council in other non-elected capacities. Thanks again for all your support and help!



Conference Updates – Speakers and Grants

By: Lindsey Witt-Swanson, Conference Chair, NORC at the University of Chicago

Navigating Shifting Challenges and Emerging Opportunities in Public Opinion Research

November 13-14, 2026

Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown, 600 N. State Street

This year's conference explores how public opinion research is evolving in response to ongoing social, political, and methodological change. Presentations will highlight how researchers are adapting their approaches, developing innovative solutions to emerging challenges, and identifying new opportunities to strengthen the quality, relevance, and impact of our work.

We're especially excited about our lineup of experts, who will help us navigate these rapidly changing times through our short course, keynote address, and pedagogy hour. Building on the Online Learning Committee's summer AI series, Jerry Timbrook and Ashley Griggs will lead an interactive AI workshop as this year's short course. Trent Buskirk will share his perspective on the evolving landscape facing our industry during the keynote address. To round out the program, Michael Link will explore what it means to lead effectively in a world that continues to evolve alongside AI.

Unlike previous years, the 2026 conference will take place two weeks before Thanksgiving, rather than on the traditional weekend immediately preceding the holiday.

Conference Registration will open in September. As you plan for your conference attendance, MAPOR's Executive Council is pleased to offer two types of support grants this year:

- (1) MAPOR's Student Support Grant** is intended to help students offset their expenses to attend the annual MAPOR 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.
- (2) MAPOR's 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 annual MAPOR Conference. This award is meant 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.

For more information on both grants, please visit <https://www.mapor.org/support-grants/>, and reach out to Paul DiPerna (paul@edchoice.org), with any questions.



Conference Sponsorship

Patrick Hsieh, ReconMR

As our Conference Chair and planning committee prepare for the November conference, we are also actively engaging sponsors through this year's fundraising efforts. As the past president and current sponsorship coordinator, I'm pleased to share that the response from our partners has been overwhelmingly positive. To the organizations that have already committed to supporting the conference, we really appreciate your support—your generosity strengthens the entire MAPOR community.

Given the continued uncertainty in our professional landscape, we are continuing our individual member sponsorship campaign to support conference attendees who may not have access to institutional funding. Your tax-deductible contributions directly offset attendance costs and help ensure broad participation across the growing number of abstract submissions. To learn more about becoming an individual sponsor, please visit the Sponsorship page on MAPOR's website at <https://www.mapor.org/sponsorship/>



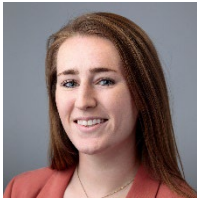
MAPOR's History, Arriving Soon

Benjamin Schapiro, NORC at the University of Chicago

MAPOR is pleased to highlight a couple of recent changes now available on our website. For the first time ever, our conference program is complete, courtesy of scans provided by Kimberly A. Neuendorf. You can now find a complete history of MAPOR's conference programs here: <https://www.mapor.org/conferences/past-conferences/>

We are also working to update the History section of the MAPOR website, fulfilling a promise that the executive council has been making since 2018. We have gathered the MAPOR history talks presented at the 50th anniversary conference, and will soon be able to share with all members a definitive history of MAPOR. If you're curious for the longer history pieces, you can find the source presentations for [a history of MAPOR's first 30 years](#), [a history of MAPOR's first 50 years](#), and [an analysis of the first 50 years of MAPOR presentations](#).

As a reminder, we have set up a new home for social media, on LinkedIn. Find us here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-association-for-public-opinion-research>.



Secretary Treasurer's Update

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

MAPOR continues in great financial health. The bank accounts continue to hover around \$65,000, as we prepare for our upcoming conference expenses. Like last year, we are focused on thoughtful spending that sets us up for success during these challenging times in our industry. We are happy to continue to be able to offer student and colleague support grants, which, when combined with our earlier conference time, should help our support go further. As we expected, our membership has grown throughout the year, with 391 members, including 319 general members and 72 students, thanks to strong participation in our summer webinar series. We expect this number to grow further as we approach our conference and new professionals and students join MAPOR as part of their conference attendance.

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.

2025-2026 MAPOR Executive Council

President

David Sterrett
NORC at the University of
Chicago
sterrett-david@norc.org
president@mapor.org

VP/President-Elect

Paul DiPerna
EdChoice



Past-President

Patrick Hsieh
ReconMR

Secretary-Treasurer

Semilla Stripp
NORC at the University
of Chicago

Associate Secretary- Treasurer

Nadia Assad
University of Wisconsin
Survey Center

Conference Chair

Lindsey Witt-Swanson
NORC at the University
of Chicago

Associate Conference Chair

Erik Nisbet
Northwestern University

Communications Coordinator & Webmaster

Benjamin Schapiro
NORC at the University
of Chicago

Student Liaison

Curtiss Engstrom
University of Michigan

Student Liaison

Betsy Broaddus
University of Washington

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

Beth Fisher
NORC at the University
of Chicago

Member-at-Large

Bryan Wells
NORC at the University of
Chicago

Member-at-Large

Miranda Kaye
SurveyLab at the
University of Chicago

Member-at-Large

Alexandros Gkotinakos
Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki

Member-at-Large

Caroline Smith
Morning Consult

Member-at-Large

Brittany Creel
Abt Global

Member-at-Large

Jaime Faus
University of Wisconsin
Survey Center

MAPOR Sponsors

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

Gold and Sustaining Sponsors

(Contributions \$2,000+)

EdChoice

NPC

Miravoice

Silver Sponsors

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

NORC at the University of Chicago

Marketing Systems Group

University of Michigan—Michigan Program in
Survey and Data Science

PressAmerica

Gallup

SSRS

University of Wisconsin Survey Center

Dynata

Bronze Sponsors

(Contributions up to \$1,000)

Indiana University

ReconMR

University of Northern Iowa - Center for Social and
Behavioral Research

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/>