

Alex E. Combs

Assistant Professor

University of Georgia · Athens, GA 30602

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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia	2020-Present
Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia	2019-2020
Post-Doctoral Researcher & Instructor Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky	2018-2019

Education

Ph.D. University of Kentucky (Public Policy & Administration)	2018
M.A. University of Kentucky (Public Administration)	2014
B.A. Eastern Kentucky University (Political Science)	2009

Research

Peer Reviewed Publications

- [4] Afonso, W., Combs, A., Buerger, C. (2024). Plugging the Tax Leak: An Analysis of North Carolina's Local Sales Tax Redistribution Policy. *State and Local Government Review*, 56(1), 76-90. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0160323X231215057>
- [3] Combs, A. (2023). High School Student Achievement and College Enrollment in the Absence of School Improvement Interventions: Evidence from Kentucky. *Public Finance and Management*, 22(1). <https://doi.org/37.808/pfm.22.1.4>
- [2] Combs, A., & Foster, J. (2021). The Effects of Homestead Exemptions for Seniors and Disabled People on School Districts. *AERA Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2F2332858420988712>
- [1] Combs, A., Foster, J., & Toma E.F. (2018). Local Response to School Finance Equalization: Wealth or Place? *Public Finance and Management*, 18(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/152397211801800301>

Works In Preparation

- [8] Troland, E., Combs, A., & Foster, J. The Role of Property Assessment Oversight in School Finance Inequality.
Revise & Resubmit at National Tax Journal
- [7] Combs, A., & Afonso, W. Dollars, Desks, and Development: The Impact of Local Sales Tax Revenue Redistribution on Recipient Programs in North Carolina.
Revise & Resubmit at National Tax Journal

- [6] Combs, A., & Kim, S. Constraints and Contributions: The Effects of Tax Limits on Education-Supporting Nonprofit Revenue.
Under Review
- [5] Combs, A. State Subsidy Mix and Postsecondary Institution Spending: Driving a Divergence in Education Quality and Amenities.
Under Review
- [4] Combs, A. The Effect of Distance on Persistence and Degree Completion for Students Attending In-State Public Institutions.
Under Review
- [3] Combs, A. Fiscal Illusion Under the Cover of Property Tax Limits: School District Revenue Responses to a Reordering of Tax Levy Options.
- [2] Afonso, W., & Combs, A. "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means": Equity in Local Option Tax Policy.
- [1] Combs, A. Does Money Source Matter? The Impact of Sales Tax Revenue Redistribution on School Spending and Student Achievement.

Awards & Fellowships

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| [5] UGA Student Career Success Influence Award | 2024 |
| [4] Busbee Endowment Seed Grant (\$13,200) | 2021 |
| [3] Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship, University of Kentucky (\$16,000) | 2016 |
| [2] Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship, University of Kentucky (\$16,000) | 2015 |
| [1] Daniel Reedy Award for Outstanding MPA Thesis, University of Kentucky (\$1,000) | 2014 |

Conference Presentations

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| [17] The impact of school district tax and expenditure limits on education-supporting nonprofit revenues.
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management | 2023 |
| [16] The impact of school district tax and expenditure limits on education-supporting nonprofit revenues.
Association for Budgeting and Financial Management | 2023 |
| [15] The impact of school district tax and expenditure limits on education-supporting nonprofit revenues.
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration | 2023 |
| [14] School district TEL stringency and education-supporting nonprofit revenues: Crowding out community support to supplement school revenues.
Korean Association of Public Administration | 2023 |
| [13] School district TEL stringency and the finances of education-supporting nonprofits: Crowding out community support to supplement school revenues.
Association of Education Finance and Policy | 2023 |

[12] Do nonprofits substitute educational resources in response to tax and expenditure limits on school districts? Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2022
[11] Property tax levies relative to predetermined options: Exploiting fiscal illusion? Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2022
[10] The effects of removing voter recall from school district property taxes. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2021
[9] The impact of state oversight on property assessments and school district revenues. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2019
[8] The effects of homestead exemptions for the disabled and the elderly on school districts. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2019
[7] High-tuition, high-aid policy and college expenditures. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2018
[6] Are state subsidies in higher education driving a divergence in institutional expenditures? Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2018
[5] The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2017
[4] Local response to school finance equalization: The important of place. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2017
[3] Local response to school finance equalization. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2017
[2] The effect of distance on degree completion. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2016
[1] Trends and determinants of state government privatization activity. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2015

Research Assistance

Visiting Research Assistant, Kentucky Center for Statistics	2018-2019
Research Fellow, Council of State Governments	2013-2014

Teaching

University of Georgia

Data Applications in Public Administration	Fall 2019-Present
Education Finance and Policy	Fall 2022
Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	Fall 2020

Introduction to Public Policy Analysis	Spring 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
Public Financial Management	Fall 2019, 2021, 2023
Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research I	Summer 2022

University of Kentucky

Public Program Evaluation	Spring 2019
Strategic Planning & Organizational Change	Fall 2018
Economic and Business Statistics	Spring 2017
Education: Economics and Policy (TA)	Fall 2015

Service

Students

Youkyoung Jeong, Public Administration (Ph.D.), University of Georgia, Dissertation Committee Member	2023
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Conferences

Panel Chair, Southeastern Conference for Public Administration.	2023
Panel Discussant, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management.	2022

Department, School, & University

Faculty Executive Committee, Department of Public Administration & Policy	2024
College Curriculum Committee, School of Public and International Affairs	2024; 2023; 2020

Reviewer for Journals and Presses

State and Local Government Review, AERA Open, Educational Researcher, Routledge

Media Commentary

- Kiernan, J.S. (2023, Feb. 21) Property Taxes by State. [WalletHub](#).
 Kiernan, J.S. (2021, March 17) Most & Least Federally Dependent States. *WalletHub*.

Non-Academic Employment

Associate Director of Leadership Development, Sigma Nu Fraternity Inc.	2010-2013
Leadership Consultant, Sigma Nu Fraternity Inc.	2009-2010