

Alex E. Combs

Assistant Professor

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Research and Teaching Interests

Substantive: Public Budgeting and Finance, K-12 and Post-Secondary Finance, State and Local Taxes

Methods: Causal Inference

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

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy 2020-Present
Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia

Visiting Assistant Professor 2019-2020
Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia

Post-Doctoral Researcher & Instructor 2018-2019
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky

Research

Peer Reviewed Publications

[3] **Combs, A.E.** (Forthcoming). High school student achievement and college enrollment in the absence of school improvement interventions: Evidence from Kentucky. *Public Finance and Management*.

[2] **Combs, A.E., & Foster, J.** (2021). The effects of homestead exemptions for seniors and disabled people on school districts. *Rural Education Finance and Policy*, special issue of *AERA Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F2332858420988712>

[1] **Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Toma E.F.** (2018). Local response to school finance equalization: Wealth or place? *Public Finance and Management*, 18(3).

Under Review & In Preparation

[8] Combs, A.E. State Sales Tax Revenue Generated by Daily K-12 School Operations: Insights From COVID School Closures

[7] Combs, A.E. The Impact of School Board Governance and Membership on the Distribution of District Funds to Schools

- [6] Buerger, C., Combs, A.E., Afonso, W. Plugging the Tax Leak: An Analysis of North Carolina's Local Sales Tax Redistribution Policy
- [5] Combs, A.E., & Kim, Saerim. School District TEL Severity and the Finances of Education-Supporting Nonprofits: Crowding-out Community Support to Supplement School Revenues
- [4] Combs, A.E. Fiscal Illusion Under the Cover of Property Tax Limits: School District Revenue Response to a Reordering of Tax Levy Options
- [3] Combs, A.E. The Expenditure Response of Higher Education Institutions to Changes in State Subsidies and Simulated Impacts on Graduation Rates
- [2] Combs, A.E. The Impact of Distance for Students Seeking an Associate or Bachelor's Degree at In-State Public Institutions
- [1] Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Troland E. Can State Oversight Improve Local Property Assessments? Evidence from Education Finance Reform in Kentucky

Other Publications

- [2] Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Troland, E. The Role of Property Assessment Oversight in School Finance Inequality. Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute System Working Papers. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.
- [1] Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Troland, E. The Role of Property Assessment Oversight in School Finance Inequality. Finance and Economics Discussion Series. *Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System*. <https://doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2023.024>

Awards & Fellowships

- [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 Paper, University of Kentucky. \$1,000 2014

Conference Presentations

- [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 and University of Kentucky	2018-2019
Research Fellow, Council of State Governments	2013-2014

Teaching

University of Georgia

Education Finance and Policy	Fall 2022
Data Applications in Public Administration	Fall 2019-Present
Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	Fall 2020
Introduction to Public Policy Analysis	Spring 2020, 2022, 2023
Public Financial Management	Fall 2019, 2021, 2023

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

Conferences

Panel Discussant, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management.	2022
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University

College Curriculum Committee, School of Public and International Affairs	2020-2021
MPA Capstone Reviewer, School of Public and International Affairs	2020-Present

Students

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

Reviewer for Journals

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

Reviewer for Presses

Routledge

Media Commentary

Kiernan, J.S. 2023's Property Taxes by State. *WalletHub*. <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-property-taxes/11585>

Kiernan, J.S., 2023's Most & Least Federally Dependent States. *WalletHub*. <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-most-least-dependent-on-the-federal-government/2700>

Non-Academic Employment

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