

To: Professor John Kincaid, Center for the Study of Federalism
From: Janine A. Parry, University Professor of Political Science and Arkansas Poll Director
Date: January 4, 2024
Re: CSF Final Report for *State Party Monopolies Since the New Deal*

I am pleased to provide this closing report on the major activities, spending status, and anticipated completion of *This Part Isn't New: State Party Monopolies Since the New Deal*.

As I reported at the midpoint, in the summer of 2022 I revised chapters 1 and 2 thoroughly, in addition to completing a complete book proposal. After I shared all three with Christopher Witko, an author I very much admire whose work *The New Economic Populism* (with William W. Franko) I took to heart his suggestions that I a) add a new iteration of the State Party Control Index to our analysis... one that takes into account how long a state has been in a trifecta situation; and b) put greater emphasis in the opening chapters on the policy consequences of long-term party monopolies, i.e., on the “why it matters” question. In the summer of 2023, I revised both chapters thoroughly with his comments in mind. I also added several graphics and added references to the most contemporary literature and political developments.

In the late spring and early summer of 2023, I was finally able to hire two exceptionally qualified and eager student research assistants, Miles Epperson for a few months and then the incomparable Olive (Olivia) Kuester. Miles updated the 2007 work of Berry and Howell to determine what portion of articles in the top political science journals examined state politics for the period 2000-2022 (it decreased from five to four percent of the total). Miles then handed off to Olive the task of updating the full dataset to include 2022, and – I am excited to report – the use of our Tableau subscription which finally came to fruition in February of 2023.

Those data are now incorporated into the tables and graphs of Chapter 2, as well as a completed Chapter 3. Chapter 3 is the heart of this work – building directly off of the 2022 overview of state party monopolies in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. I have attached the completed draft; in case you are curious! Chapter 4 is in a state of what my coauthor calls “advanced drafted,” and also benefits from Olive’s command of Tableau ... probing more deeply the patterns and exceptions to party monopoly, looking especially at those rogue governors (i.e., out-party governors elected in otherwise monopoly states) as well as several measures of just how extreme the monopolies have become in this decade.

Overall, I spent all of the labor portion of the grant (the central expense) on the labor of these students. It is especially gratifying then that Olive is now an applicant to the graduate programs at which so many wonderful state politics specialists work: Iowa, Kansas, and several others. So, the CSF funds were an investment in this state parties project, *and* in the future of the field. Our estimates for the fringe benefits and the materials (i.e., Tableau subscriptions) ran a bit high. The grant administrators here tell me it is likely they will be able to transfer the remaining \$1306 in the account to my department RIF so I can a) continue to pay Olive as I finish out the book manuscript (see below), and b) renew our 1-year Tableau subscription when it comes due next month.

In terms of the completion of the full project, I am pleased to report that Chapter 5 – the consequences of long-term party monopoly – is my central focus now. I anticipate a completed draft by the end of February. The concluding chapter (which is already in detailed outline form) will then become the central task of spring, with a completed manuscript to go out for review by June 1st.

Many, many thanks for this support! It made a world of difference!