

COMMONWEALTH Matters

J. WESLEY LECKRONE

Editor-in-Chief

This issue marks the beginning of a new format for *COMMONWEALTH*. The journal was founded in 1987 as a general-purpose political science journal open to all fields of the discipline. Over the years it gradually attracted more scholarship on Pennsylvania. The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association noted this transition and decided that the journal would have a solid future if it were rebranded to focus exclusively on Pennsylvania politics. Temple University Press agreed, and together we have partnered to publish the newly reconstituted *COMMONWEALTH: A Journal of Pennsylvania Politics and Policy*.

Temple University Press will publish three online issues of *COMMONWEALTH* annually. The first will be a special issue published in January to coincide with the beginning of the state's legislative session. The special issue will be devoted to a single area of public policy that is of importance to Pennsylvania. The remaining two issues of the journal will be published in the late spring and early fall. These two general-topic issues will be composed of traditional research-based articles, expert political analysis of current policy dilemmas in the state, essays, and book reviews.

COMMONWEALTH and Temple University Press have also partnered to offer an annual "Year in Review." This hard-copy volume will be a compendium of the best *COMMONWEALTH* articles of the year. The articles will be

augmented by an introductory chapter outlining Pennsylvania's major policy events and appendices with statistical data on the budget, state demographics, and election returns. The first edition of the "Year in Review" will be published in time for classroom use in Fall 2018.

I would like to thank Christopher Borick (Muhlenberg College), Paula Holoviak (Kutztown University), Joseph McLaughlin (Temple University), and Michelle Atherton (Temple University) for all their hard work in actualizing the new mission of *COMMONWEALTH*. I would also like to thank Mary Rose Muccie and Aaron Javscas of Temple University Press for helping us reconceptualize the journal and for guiding us through the process of transitioning to a new online format.

Special thanks go to Joseph McLaughlin and Michelle Atherton, who are serving as the Special Editors of this issue on education policy in Pennsylvania. They took a chance in organizing the first issue of the new journal. Through their diligent work they have created a template that can be successfully implemented in the future.

More information on the new format of *COMMONWEALTH* and guidelines for submitting manuscripts is available on the Temple University Press website at <https://tupjournals.temple.edu/index.php/commonwealth/index>. Issues of *COMMONWEALTH* published before 2016 are available at <http://www.papolisci.org/journal-commonwealth>.