

John Dinan

Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University

Winston-Salem, NC, US

Dinan studies federal and state policy-making and constitutional developments.

Description

John Dinan closely follows U.S. and North Carolina political races and can comment on North Carolina's status as a battleground state in the presidential election, the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and gubernatorial and congressional races. He is also prepared to comment on federal and state policies in areas ranging from the Affordable Care Act to legislative redistricting to voter-registration rules. Among the questions that Dinan can address are the following: What impact will moving the N.C. primaries to March have on state and federal campaigns? What factors traditionally determine the outcome of presidential nominations? He teaches courses on campaigns and elections, state politics and congress and policymaking. Dinan frequently provides commentary for news outlets across the country and his research was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* (2015). He is the author of *The American State Constitutional Tradition* and an annual review of state constitutional developments in the 50 states, as well as numerous articles on state and federal politics.

Topics

American Politics, State Constitutionalism, American Federalism, American Political Development, Congress and Legislative Studies, Policymaking, State Politics, American Elections

Affiliations

American Political Science Association Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations Section: Former Chair,
Publius The Journal of Federalism: Editor

Education

University of Virginia

1996

Ph.D. Political Science

University of Virginia

1994

M.A. Political Science

University of Virginia

1990

B.A. Political Science

Media Appearances

Trump puts Sen. Richard Burr in difficult position with N.C. voters

NPR: All Things Considered

2016-10-19

Donald Trump's controversies have made life difficult for other Republicans running for lower office this year. That includes Sen. Richard Burr, who is in a tight reelection race in North Carolina.

"Richard Burr's facing some of the same quandaries that a lot of Republican officeholders are facing," said John Dinan, professor of politics. "Presidential voting will still drive much of the voting turnout, will bring people to the polls. And to the extent that he disavows Trump, that kind of perhaps runs the risk of reducing Republican turnout, which in turn has a chance of hurting Richard Burr's chances of it at the polls."

Professor: 2016 race in North Carolina remains 'razor thin'

Fox News

2016-09-27

WFU Professor of Politics John Dinan offers Election 2016 insights: North Carolina as a battleground state.

NC's Swing State Status Continues to Take the National Spotlight

Time Warner Cable News

2016-09-15

North Carolina's swing state status is having an effect on races for president, governor and Senate now more than ever.

Wake Forest University political professor John Dinan says there's no doubt, the Tar Heel State is crucial in this year's presidential election.

"North Carolina's one of only two states that shifted parties between 2008 and 2012--the only other was Indiana--so North Carolina has that history of being close and also being capable of going Republican or Democratic," Dinan said.

NC's HB2 law inspires others to copy it despite tough federal stand

McClatchy/Charlotte Observer

2016-05-13

Because HB2 is subject to several legal challenges and the Supreme Court has not previously heard a transgender bathroom-use case, activists on both sides are operating with "competing interpretations" of federal laws, said John Dinan, a political scientist at Wake Forest University. "This is a fluid area of law," Dinan said, adding that the continued push in some localities for HB2-like laws isn't necessarily surprising.

With Trump as GOP's choice, DEMS eye North Carolina comeback

The Associated Press

2016-05-10

Four years ago, North Carolina was the one that got away for Democrats - the only battleground state President Barack Obama didn't carry in his resounding re-election triumph. Now, with Donald Trump at the top of the Republican ticket and state GOP officials embroiled in a contentious fight over transgender rights, Democrats see a ripe opportunity for likely nominee Hillary Clinton to grab North Carolina back in November, as well as boost her party's prospects in competitive races for Senate and governor. "Trump just opens up possibilities, opportunities for Democrats to say, look, this is at least a possible winnable race in North Carolina," said John Dinan, a politics professor.

What's next in battle between NC and federal government over HB2

Raleigh News & Observer

2016-05-05

Even before House Speaker Tim Moore made it clear Thursday that a political showdown could be ahead between the state and federal governments over the future of House Bill 2, questions swirled about what might happen if neither side blinks. As often is the case with legal questions, there is no simple answer. John Dinan, professor of politics and international affairs at Wake Forest, answered this question: Is there precedent for withholding the funds? "It's almost unprecedented for federal funds to be cut off," he said. Typically, Dinan said, such a letter stands as the start for negotiations between the federal government and the accused offender, and a settlement is worked out that thwarts the withholding of funds.

Southern Republicans: Going rogue

The Economist

2016-04-16

Judging by the rhetoric of the Republican presidential contest, the country is going to the dogs; in parts of the South, the infrastructure is indeed crumbling. Yet the region's politicians are concentrating on problems that, to put it mildly, are often less than pressing. Florida passed a law stopping clergy from being dragooned into conducting same-sex marriages, a threat already neutralised by America's constitution. Predatory men infiltrating women's toilets, the spectre raised in North Carolina and elsewhere, is a similarly apocryphal fear. ... John Dinan of Wake Forest University observes that while stand-offs between the federal and state governments capture more attention, battles between states and municipalities have become as frequent and fierce.

Representative Howard Coble dies at 84

The Warner Cable News

2015-11-04

"It would be difficult to find too many places where Representative Coble was departing from the conservative tradition, or was leaving the Republican Party on these issues," said John Dinan, Wake Forest University Professor of Politics and International Affairs...

Bid to restore historic preservation tax credits set to begin

Winston-Salem Journal

2015-03-23

John Dinan, a political science professor at Wake Forest University, said the challenge to passing the bill is convincing legislators who have touted the corporate tax-rate cut to change their minds...

Minimum wage, marijuana seen as paths to democratic votes in 2016

Bloomberg Politics

2014-11-06

Ballot measures will probably have less effect on voter turnout in a presidential election than at mid-terms, which typically draw less participation, said John Dinan, a political science professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina...

Meet Sean Haugh, the Libertarian pizza guy who may deliver a Senate seat in N.C.

The Washington Post

2014-07-06

Wake Forest University political scientist John Dinan agreed: "We have seen time and time again that if a pollster includes a third-party candidate in a list of candidates in a survey taken several months out from the election, that this will often generate a support level of around 10 percentage points. But the closer we come to Election Day, this support almost inevitably fades to a minimal level."

Articles

State Constitutional Developments in 2014

The Book of the States

Although constitutional amendment activity was lower in 2014 than in recent even-numbered years, several of the 72 approved amendments attracted significant attention. These include amendments relaxing legislative term limits in Arkansas, creating a bipartisan redistricting commission in New York, eliminating a judicial merit selection commission in Tennessee, strengthening the right to bear arms in Alabama and Missouri, guaranteeing a right to farm in Missouri, and barring state and local officials from enforcing unconstitutional federal directives in Arizona.

Implementing Health Reform: Intergovernmental Bargaining and the Affordable Care Act

Publius: The Journal of Federalism

Implementation of the insurance-exchange and Medicaid-expansion provisions of the Affordable Care Act offers an opportunity to analyze the sources and extent of state and federal government leverage in bargaining over the rollout of a major federal program.

State Constitutional Amendments and Individual Rights in the Twenty-First Century

Albany Law Review

...the flexibility of state constitutions affords ample opportunity for state constitutional amendment processes, alongside judicial processes, to serve as forums for deliberating about rights.

The Political Dynamics of Mandatory State Constitutional Convention Referendums: Lessons from the 2000s Regarding Obstacles and Pathways to their Passage

Montana Law Review

...the mandatory convention referendum device...is of interest because it currently offers perhaps the most viable avenue for undertaking a comprehensive reexamination of a state constitution...

The state of American federalism 2007-2008: Resurgent state influence in the national policy process and continued state policy innovation

Publius: The Journal of Federalism

States played a prominent role in policy-making in 2007-2008 in several respects. States were more successful in securing relief from federal directives regarding the National Guard, homeland security, education, and welfare than in any prior year in the Bush presidency.

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