

What Happened and Why? AU Experts Analyze the 2016 Election Thursday, November 10th

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Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He received his Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at Simon Fraser University, New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton and the New School. From 1991 to 2005 he served as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. Hershberg is Past-President of the Latin American Studies Association (2007-2009). Hershberg has published widely on issues of political economy, development and democracy throughout Latin America. He has written or edited more than ten books, most recently *A New Chapter in U.S.-Cuba Relations: Social, Economic and Political Implications*, (co-edited with William M. LeoGrande, Palgrave-MacMillan, 2016). Hershberg is also co-author, with Dennis Stinchcomb, of "Unaccompanied Migrant Children from Central America: Causes, Consequences and Responses," *CLALS Working Paper No. 7*, Nov. 2014), and is currently co-directing a study of Central American immigrant youth incorporation into educational systems in the Washington DC metropolitan area. He is a frequent commentator on the politics of immigration in the United States and Latino public opinion and voting behavior.

Jennifer L. Lawless is professor of government at American University, where she is also the Director of the Women & Politics Institute. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University in 2003 and her B.A. from Union College in 1997. Professor Lawless' research, which has been supported by the National Science Foundation, focuses on representation, political ambition, and gender in the electoral process. She is the author of *Becoming a Candidate: Political Ambition and the Decision to Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and the co-author of *Women on the Run: Gender, Media, and Campaigns in a Polarized Era* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), *Running from Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and *It Still Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). Her work has appeared in academic journals including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *Politics & Gender* (of which she served as editor from 2010 – 2013). She is also a nationally recognized speaker on electoral politics. Her scholarly analysis and political commentary have been quoted in numerous newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio shows, including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The New Republic*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Associated Press Newswire*, *Reuters*, *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*, *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer*, the *CBS Evening News*, *ABC World News Tonight*, CNN.com, and MSNBC.com. In 2006, she sought the Democratic nomination to the U.S. House of Representatives in Rhode Island's second congressional district.

Jan E. Leighley is Professor of Government at American University. With research and teaching interests in voter turnout, political participation and the political behavior of African-Americans and Latinos in the U.S., she has published in a variety of journals, including *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and the *Journal of Politics*. Her most recent book, *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality, and Turnout in the United States*, is coauthored with Jonathan

Nagler, New York University, and published by Princeton University Press. *Who Votes Now?* examines voter turnout in presidential elections from 1972 to 2008, highlighting the continuing class bias of the voting population relative to the citizen population; the importance of election laws to voter turnout; and the consistent bias of voters having more conservative policy preferences than non-voters.

Betsy Fischer Martin is an Emmy-winning journalist and TV news executive. She is an Executive in Residence at American University's School of Public Affairs, the co-host of Bloomberg Politics' *Masters in Politics* Podcast and the founder of her own consulting business, Fischer Martin Media, where she specializes in providing media training to corporate executives. She was also the Washington contributing editor to MORE Magazine for two years until it recently ceased publication. During her earlier career in television news, she was the Senior Executive Producer and Managing Editor of NBC News Political Programming, where she was responsible for the development and execution of political coverage. From 2002-2013 she was at the helm of the top-rated Sunday morning public affairs program and the longest running television program in the world, *Meet the Press*. During this time, she oversaw all editorial content, guest-selection, strategic planning, production, marketing, special online programming, and financial decision-making for the program. In her long tenure as Executive Producer, she produced in-depth interviews with top newsmakers, including U.S. presidents, cabinet officials, heads of state and presidential candidates. Additionally, she served as Tom Brokaw's producer for NBC News' coverage of the 2008 Presidential Election, including party conventions, debates, and election night. In this capacity she also was Brokaw's producer when he moderated one of the three general election debates between Obama and McCain. Fischer Martin worked closely for 17 years with the late Tim Russert, producing his headline making interviews for *Meet the Press* and also serving as his producer for NBC's coverage of special events and four presidential elections, including the historic 2000 presidential election night and subsequent recount. Fischer Martin has been honored with several awards for her work with NBC, including three News and Documentary Emmys, the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Political Journalism, and a Gracie Award from American Women in Radio and Television. She has been featured in several publications including profiles in *Television Week*, *The New Orleans Times Picayune*, *Marie Claire* Magazine, *Washington Business Journal*, *Washingtonian's* 50 Best & Most Influential Journalists, *Washington Life's* Power 100, and *GQ's* Powerful People in Washington. She serves on the Board of Directors of Washington's *International Women's Forum* and the *National Press Club's Journalism Institute*. She is a life member of the *Council on Foreign Relations* and a member of the Young Global Leaders of the *World Economic Forum*.

Candice J. Nelson is Interim Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, Professor in the Department of Government and the Academic Director of the Campaign Management Institute at American University. She is an expert on presidential and congressional elections, and also studies voting behavior, campaign finance, and campaign finance reform. Her most recent book is *Grant Park: The Democratization of Presidential Elections: 1968-2008* (Brookings Institution Press, 2011).

Molly O'Rourke is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication where she also serves as director of the MA program in Political Communication. She has more than 15 years' experience in the field of public opinion research, most recently as a partner at Peter Hart Research in Washington, DC. She has directed multiphase qualitative and quantitative research for a variety of issue advocacy and nonprofit organizations, trade associations, political candidates and parties, and media outlets. Earlier in her career, Molly worked on Capitol Hill, for EMILY's List, the women's political action committee, and as an analyst at the Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute. For several years, she co-wrote a monthly column about trends in public opinion and political behavior titled "Behind the Numbers" for The Hill, a Capitol Hill newspaper. Molly currently serves on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) which oversees human subject research.