

2026 APSA Annual Meeting Attendee Guide

Welcome to the American Political Science Association's 2026 Annual Meeting & Exhibition! Please use this guide for a brief introduction to the conference. If you have any questions, please email meeting@apsanet.org.

PROGRAM PREPARATION

Submissions

All proposals were due to APSA through the [submission system](#) by January 14, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.

- The [conference theme](#) is "Democracy under Threat: How to Understand, Protect, and Rebuild."
- All participants must have a [complimentary APSA account](#) to be added to a submission. They do not need to be a member, but they will need an account.
- There is a limit of five (5) papers per panel to have proper discussion within the allotted 90 minutes.
- [Read more about the participation rules](#), as well as our [session types](#).
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent in mid-March.

Paper Uploads

All conference papers must be uploaded to the [submission system](#) by August 19, 2026. Instructions on uploading will be available on the [meeting website](#).



Preliminary Program

The preliminary online program will be available in late May, and the final program will be available in late summer 2026. Program content refreshes every 24 hours. Panel locations will be announced in early August and can be viewed by logging into the [online program](#) once available.

iPosters

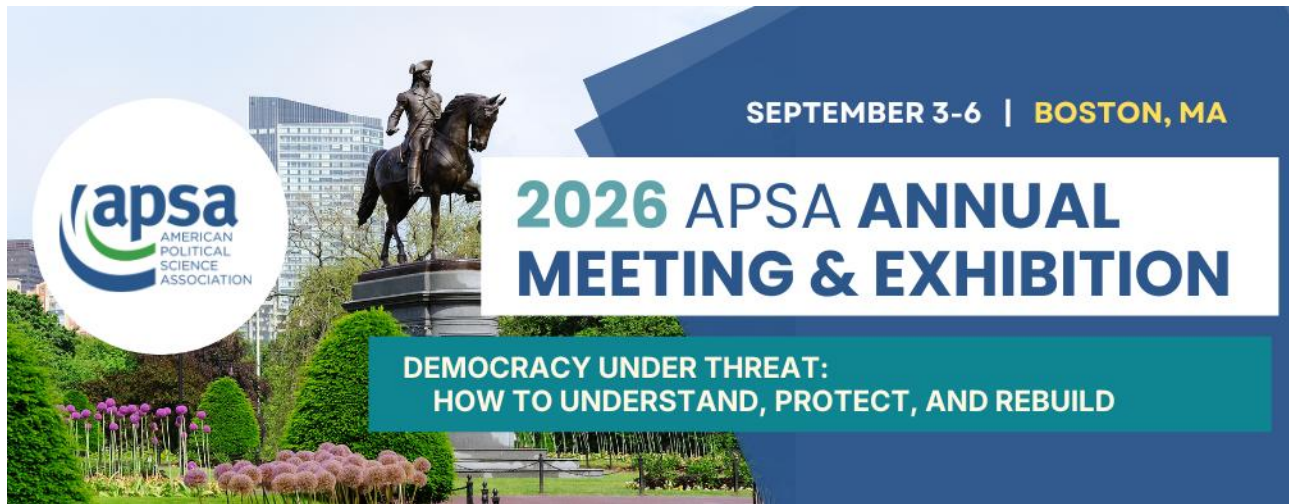
[iPosters](#) are APSA's electronic poster format. Presenters create interactive digital posters that are presented onsite and accessible in an online gallery before and after the conference.



ATTENDANCE LOGISTICS

Registration

[Registration](#) will open in Spring 2026. All conference program participants must register by June 8, 2026. The discounted early bird rate will end on July 1, 2026.



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Short Course Registration

All [pre-conference short courses](#) will be held on Wednesday, September 2. They provide diverse opportunities for professional development and offer attendees the chance to connect with scholars from a range of backgrounds. Pre-registration is required, and each short course has a \$25 fee unless otherwise noted. The short course(s) can be added to your general meeting registration in the online registration system.

Hotel

[Hotel room blocks](#) will open in Spring 2026. Discounted rooms will be available at the Sheraton Boston Hotel (HQ), Boston Marriott Copley Place (HQ), Westin Copley Place (HQ), Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Courtyard Boston Downtown, Hilton Boston Back Bay, and Revere Hotel Boston Common.

Travel Grants

APSA offers limited travel grants. Applications will open in Spring 2026.

Interview Services

Attendees can connect with prospective employers for on-site interviews in our Interview Services room. More information will be available in Summer 2026.

ON-SITE LOGISTICS

On-Site Registration & Badge Printing

The tentative schedule, subject to change, is:

- Wednesday, 9/2: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
- Thursday, 9/3: 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
- Friday, 9/4: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET
- Saturday, 9/5: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET



Sessions

All sessions will be held beginning Thursday, September 3, at 8:00 a.m. ET, and end on Sunday, September 6, at 11:30 a.m. ET. Sessions will be held at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston Marriott Copley Place, and Westin Copley Place.

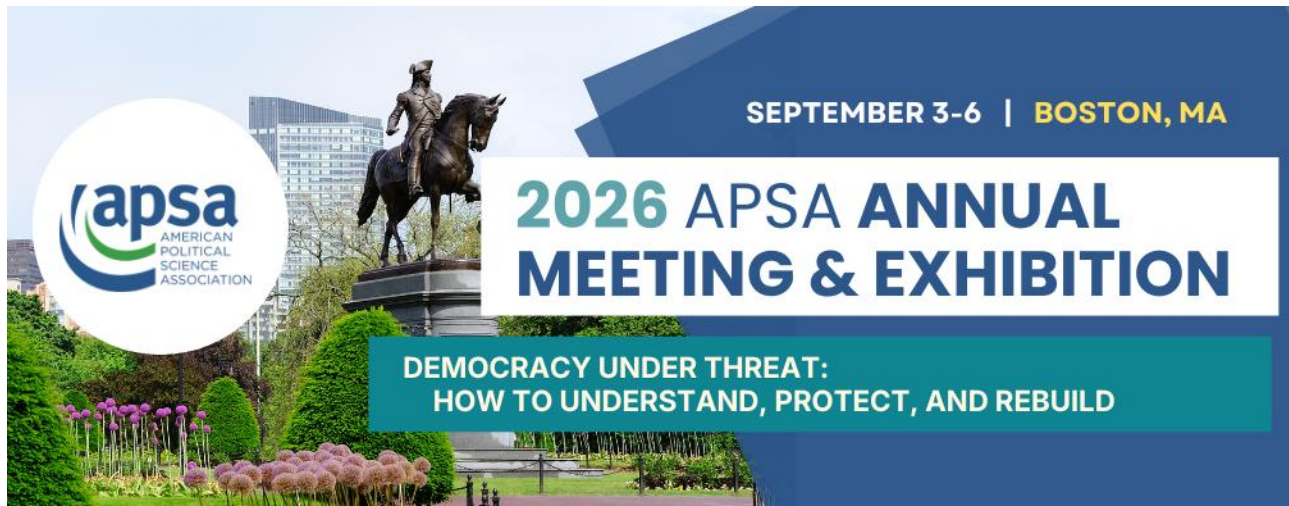
Panel Room Technology

Each panel room will feature a projector, screen, and HDMI cord. Any participant who wishes to use a laptop should plan to bring it and an HDMI adapter if needed.

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS

Plenary Addresses & Theme Panels

Plenaries are high-level panels relating to the conference theme. Theme panels are selected by the conference program chairs.



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APSA Exhibit Hall

Visit the APSA Exhibit Hall in the Hynes Convention Center! The Exhibit Hall features numerous vendor and publisher companies, the APSA Lounge, sponsored receptions – and iPosters! Exhibit Hall hours, subject to change, are:

- Thursday, 9/3: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
- Friday, 9/4: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
- Saturday, 9/5: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET



APSA Career Open House

Connect with departments, institutions, and organizations for informal conversations about careers in political science and related fields at Thursday's APSA Career Open House.

APSA All-Member Meeting

All APSA members are encouraged to attend our official business meeting on Thursday at 12:00 p.m. ET.

International Attendees Reception

APSA invites all international attendees to this special reception to welcome them to Boston on Thursday night.

Emerging Scholars Symposium

Join us on Saturday for the [Emerging Scholars Symposium Lightning Rounds](#). These are dynamic, PechaKucha-style sessions where scholars present their research in five-minute talks followed by feedback and Q&A. Enjoy coffee while engaging with innovative work and supporting undergraduate and graduate scholars as they sharpen their research communication skills in this fast-paced, interactive format.

Graduate Student Happy Hour

Graduate students are invited to join APSA for a networking happy hour on Saturday night.

