Dear Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Travel Funding Committee,

Please consider my travel funding application to help facilitate my travel to the 2020 Midwest Political Science Association’s (MPSA) annual conference. At the conference, my research faculty mentor, Dr. Jane Q. Citizen and I will be presenting a manuscript on economic voting in Australia. As the sole undergraduate student attendee and presenter at MPSA from my department, I will also have the unique opportunity to expand my professional network and demonstrate the academic footprint of UNLV.

Since entering the political science undergraduate program, my area of concentration has been the various ways in which the economy impacts one’s vote calculus. The research that we intend to present at MPSA involves the Australian electorate. This original scholarship evaluates the voting behavior of the Australian voter from a wealth index lens. The Australian electorate is considered to be relatively hyper-partisan in nature. Thus, basing one’s vote on the economy is said to be trivial. We contest this notion and demonstrate that not only do Australians rely on the economy to cast their votes; they do so within a wealth-based rationale. In other words, we propose that Australians who own higher risk assets (e.g. stocks, bonds, businesses) are more likely to vote for pro-market political parties than voters who own lower risk assets (e.g. real estate, saving accounts). This research relies on pooled waves of Australian Election Study (AES) data and makes contributions to voter behavior literature in several ways. First, it suggests that Australians are economic voters. Second, it differentiates between the types of economic voters that exist in Australia. Those with an abundance of high-risk assets behave differently than the larger population. Finally, it expands the notion of patrimonial economic voting, or wealth-based voting beyond the European context.

The facilitation of this research agenda will help UNLV and the political science department increase their academic footprint at MPSA. It will also help progress my academic agenda and deepen my professional contacts. Aside from presenting my research, I intend to attend various conferences on voting behavior and a roundtable on citizen forecasting models of the 2020 US Presidential election. I also have arranged two lunch meetings with scholars in my field to expand my professional network scope.

OUR’s financial support will help alleviate costs relating to airfare and lodging. In short, it will make the trip to Chicago possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

First Name Last Name
## Itemized Budget

**Conference Travel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from OUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>Airline fees and taxes (Spirit)(^1)</td>
<td>For 1 adult</td>
<td>$172</td>
<td>$172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>Hotel fees(^2)</td>
<td>$159 (excluding taxes)</td>
<td>$159</td>
<td>$159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel taxes</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>Registration fee for SPSA conference(^3)</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per diem (GSA rates)</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total requested from OUR: $359

Total amount paid by student (per diem + conference registration): $180

Total estimated cost: $539

---

\(^1\) Spirit Airlines was chosen because of their competitive rates

\(^2\) The conference room rate was quite expensive. The conference takes place at the Hilton Palmer House, located in Downtown Chicago. Although cheaper hotel options were available, they required transportation to and from the hotel. Thus, I picked Travelodge since it is relatively cheap and within walking distance of the conference hotel.

\(^3\) This is the early-bird discount.
**Supplemental Materials: Airline Tickets from Cheapoair.com**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carrier</th>
<th>Departure Date</th>
<th>Departure Time</th>
<th>Return Time</th>
<th>Price per Person (Inc. taxes &amp; fees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frontier Airlines</td>
<td>Fri Apr 17</td>
<td>12:04a LAS</td>
<td>06:37a ORD</td>
<td>$125.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier Airlines</td>
<td>Sun Apr 19</td>
<td>09:16p LAS</td>
<td>11:30p LAS</td>
<td>$169.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Airlines</td>
<td>Fri Apr 17</td>
<td>09:00a LAS</td>
<td>06:59p ORD</td>
<td>$171.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Airlines</td>
<td>Sat Apr 18</td>
<td>09:00a ORD</td>
<td>11:06p LAS</td>
<td>$171.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Airlines</td>
<td>Fri Apr 17</td>
<td>09:00a LAS</td>
<td>06:59p ORD</td>
<td>$169.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Airlines</td>
<td>Sat Apr 18</td>
<td>09:00p ORD</td>
<td>11:06p LAS</td>
<td>$171.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Save $14.00 by selecting this alternate date.*
Supplemental Materials: Lodging from Cheapoair.com

Eurostars Magnificent Mile
River North, Chicago - Show on map, 0.8 miles from center - Subway Access

Deluxe Double Room - 4 beds
1 bed (1 queen)

Awesome (1,080 reviews)
Location 9.5
1 night, 1 adult
$152
+$28 taxes and charges

Home2 Suites by Hilton Chicago River North
River North, Chicago - Show on map, 1 mile from center - Subway Access

Queen Studio Suite with Bath Tub - Accessible - 1 bed (1 queen)

Awesome (387 reviews)
Location 9.3
1 night, 1 adult
$154
+$27 taxes and charges

Breakfast Included

LondonHouse Chicago, Curio Collection by Hilton
Chicago Loop, Chicago - Show on map, - Subway Access

You missed it!
Your dates are popular - we've run out of rooms at this property! Check out more below.

Hampton by Hilton Chicago Downtown West Loop
West Loop, Chicago - Show on map, 1 mile from center - Subway Access

King Room - 4 beds
1 bed (1 king)

Awesome (572 reviews)
Location 9.0
1 night, 1 adult
$161
+$28 taxes and charges
Breakfast included

Travelodge by Wyndham Downtown Chicago
Chicago Loop, Chicago - Show on map, 2,950 feet from center
- Subway Access

Double Room - Non-Smoking - 4 beds
1 bed (1 full)

Good (1,612 reviews)
Location 7.5
1 night, 1 adult
$159
+$28 taxes and charges
FREE cancellation
No prepayment needed

Hotel Julian Chicago
Chicago Loop, Chicago - Show on map, 1,150 feet from center
- Subway Access

Standard King Room - 4 beds
1 bed (1 king)

Excellent (507 reviews)
Location 9.6
1 night, 1 adult
$163
+$45 taxes and charges

See availability
Supplemental Materials: Per Diem (gsa.gov)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Cook/Lake</td>
<td>$229</td>
<td>$229</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Meals & Incidentals (M&E) Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Destination</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>M&amp;E Total</th>
<th>Continental Breakfast/Breakfast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Dinner</th>
<th>Incidental Expenses</th>
<th>First &amp; Last Day of Travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Cook/Lake</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$57.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries