Education Policy and Politics in the Age of DeVos and AOC

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Abstract
In the lead-up to the 2020 election, where does the public stand on major education policy issues? How do these opinions align (or not) with the major political parties? What are the major political fault lines on education, and how have they evolved? This micro-seminar discusses major issues in state and federal education policy and evidence on a) public opinion about and b) the effectiveness of various reform strategies. On the first day, we will lay out the issues, focusing on school choice (charters and vouchers), teacher policies (teacher evaluation and pay), standards and accountability, school funding, and desegregation. There is no pre-reading for the first day. On the second day, we will use poll data to understand where American voters stand on these issues and investigate the policy proposals of elected officials and candidates for President. To prepare for the second day, students should examine the education proposals of three candidates for U.S. President and come prepared to discuss the similarities and differences in those proposals. Students should also examine the three sets of poll results provided on the website and come prepared to discuss three trends/patterns they noticed in the data.

Faculty Biography
Morgan Polikoff is an Associate Professor of K-12 Education Policy at the Rossier School of Education. He teaches courses in education policy and politics, educational inequality, and statistical research methods. His research investigates the design, implementation, and effects of major education policies such as standards, assessment, curriculum, and accountability policies. He also co-leads an annual poll of California voters about education policy issues, and he has published research using public opinion data. He can be found on Twitter @mpolikoff.