

Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs

SPECIAL ISSUE ON “CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY”

As the United States stands on the threshold of its 250th year of independence, the “balance sheet” shows that the country has made tremendous progress in various frontier areas such as the end of slavery, the end of legally-sanctioned discrimination, suffrage for women, Blacks and other racial groups, phenomenal technological advances, and the resulting growth and expansion of the economy, and innovations in communication. However, like any human enterprise, no matter the successes achieved, there are always ongoing challenges—the development of human society is dynamic and continuous and remains “work in progress.” Against this background, it is imperative that all stakeholders in the American society, including academics and practitioners, continue the quest of producing knowledge that will aid in the formulation and implementation of public policies that would address these societal challenges. Accordingly, the *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs* invites submissions for its special issue on “Critical Issues in American Society.” Papers addressing the following topics listed below are highly welcome:

TOPICS

The American state
Democracy in the United States
Gerrymandering and the Drawing and Redrawing of Congressional Districts
Environmental Issues—Climate Change, among others
Public Institutions—Congress, Executive, Judiciary, Bureaucracy
Immigration
Income and Wealth inequality
Costs of living
Criminal justice issues
Housing crisis
Gentrification
Healthcare
Higher education
LGBT issues
Federal civil service
DOGE and the retrenchment of the federal workforce
Remaking the federal bureaucracy

Affordability
Food security
Political corruption
Political violence

About the Journal

The *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs* (RBJPA) is an online, peer-reviewed scholarly journal that publishes articles from political science, public administration, and public policy. It cultivates scholarship, encourages diverse dialogue, and fosters critical scholarly viewpoints on social, political, and public issues.

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Call for Proposals

We invite interested authors to submit abstracts of no more than 250 words double-spaced for this special issue by March 2, 2026. The abstracts should have the names and affiliations of the contributors, as well as the title of the paper, and the research questions or problems that their papers seek to explore. All abstracts and full papers (completed according to the *American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style*, 7th edition) should be submitted to George Kieh, Jr., PhD, at George.kieh@tsu.edu. The deadline for submissions of completed papers is June 1, 2026. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed and accepted papers will be published in the *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*, Volume 8, Numbers 1 and 2, 2026. To expedite action on the review process, authors or corresponding author will be expected to create a profile and submit their completed manuscripts via the journal online portal at <https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/rbjpa/>.