



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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**Top Public Administration Book Prize awarded to
Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones's *The Politics of Information*
*The Academy Honors Authors Today at Annual Fall Meeting***

WASHINGTON, DC -- The National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) today awarded the 2016 Louis Brownlow Book Award to **Frank R. Baumgartner** and **Bryan D. Jones' *The Politics of Information*** (The University of Chicago Press) at the Academy's annual Fall Meeting. The Brownlow Award is the top book prize in the field of public administration.

“The Brownlow Committee honored the Baumgartner and Jones book, *The Politics of Information*, for deepening our understanding of the dynamics of American policymaking and offering keen insights in how organizations operate,” said Dr. Norman J. Johnson, Chairman of the 2016 Brownlow Book Award Committee and Academy Fellow. Other members of the Committee include Academy Fellows Joel D. Aberbach, Edward T. Jennings, Jr., James Svara and Katherine G. Willoughby.

In *The Politics of Information*, Baumgartner and Jones, also authors of *The Politics of Attention*, focus on government's problem-detection process, showing how the growth or contraction of government is closely related to how it searches for information and how, as an organization, it analyzes its findings. Better search processes that incorporate more diverse viewpoints lead to more intensive policymaking activity. Similarly, limiting search processes leads to declines in policymaking. At the same time, the authors find little evidence that the factors usually thought to be responsible for government expansion—partisan control, changes in presidential leadership, and shifts in public opinion—can be systematically related to the patterns they observe.

Frank R. Baumgartner is the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bryan D. Jones is the J. J. “Jake” Pickle Regent's Chair in Congressional Studies in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin.

About the National Academy for Public Administration:

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

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