

# Gary A. Wagner

---

Moody College of Business  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
214 Hebrard Boulevard  
Lafayette, LA 70503

[gary.wagner@louisiana.edu](mailto:gary.wagner@louisiana.edu)  
Phone (337) 482-5381  
Office 347 Moody Hall  
[www.gawagner.com](http://www.gawagner.com)

---

## Current Position

- Acadiana Business Economist/BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Economics
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2018-

## Editorial Positions

- Editor-in-Chief, *Public Finance Review*, 2021 - present.
- Co-Editor, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2020 - 2025.
- Guest Editor, "Symposium on Local Taxation." *Public Finance and Management*, 2012.

## Past Positions

- Vice-President & Senior Regional Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2016-2018
- Regional Economic Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2015-2016
- Professor of Economics, Old Dominion University, 2011-2015
- Professor of Economics, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 2008-2011
- Associate Professor of Economics, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 2006-2008
- Associate Professor of Government, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 2005-2006
- Assistant Professor of Economics, Duquesne University, 2001-2005
- Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 2000-2001

## Other Relevant Experience

- Visiting Professor of Economics, Macquarie University (Australia), November 2024.
- Visiting Professor of Economics, Aarhus University (Denmark), August 2024.
- Research Fellow, Center for Financial Research, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 2024-
- Survey of Professional Forecasters, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2013-2015, 2018-
- Associate Director, Economic Forecasting Project, Old Dominion University, 2011-2015.
- Co-Editor, State of the Region Report, Old Dominion University, 2013-2015.
- Governor's Council of Economic Advisors (Arkansas), 2008 - 2011.
- Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, July 2003.

## Education

- Ph.D., Economics, West Virginia University, 1999
- M.A., Economics, West Virginia University, 1998
- B.A., Economics and Political Science, Youngstown State University, 1995

## Honors/Awards

- 2015, Highly Commended Paper, *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy*.
- 2009, Balsley-Whitmore Research Grant, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- 2005, Outstanding Paper Award for best paper published in *Public Finance Review*.
- 2005, Apple Polishing Teaching Award, Duquesne University.
- 2004, Runner-up for Musgrave Prize for best paper published in the *National Tax Journal*.

- 2003, Presidential Scholarship Award, Duquesne University.
- 2003, School of Business Distinguished Research Award, Duquesne University.
- 2002, Faculty Research Grant, School of Business, Duquesne University.
- 2000, A.J. Dadisman Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research, West Virginia University.
- 1999, Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, Department of Economics, WVU.

## Refereed Journal Articles

Callais, Justin T., Vincent Geloso, Alicia Plemmons, and Gary A. Wagner (2025). “Baumol’s Mi-grants: Productive and Unproductive Entrepreneurship and Between-MSA Migration.” Forthcoming *European Journal of Political Economy*.

Anastasi, Sebastian, Alex Marsella, Vitor Melo, E. Frank Stephenson, and Gary A. Wagner (2025). “Short-term Rental Bans and the Hotel Industry: Evidence from New York City.” Forthcoming *Euro-pean Journal of Political Economy*.

Schur, Ronit Levine and Gary A. Wagner (2025). “Evaluation of Kelo’s Economic and Political Impact: Theory and Evidence.” Forthcoming *Yale Journal on Regulation*.

Miller, Stephen, Gary A. Wagner, and Alicia Plemmons (2025). “Employment Effects of Minimum Wage Indexing: Establishment Evidence from Oregon Restaurants.” Forthcoming in *Economic In-quiry*.

Mitchell, David T., Todd Nesbitt, and Gary A. Wagner (2024). “Relationship Lobbying Through Re-peated Contributions: A Humanomics Approach.” *Public Choice*. [Link](#)

Bennett, Daniel L., Gary A. Wagner, and Michael Araki (2024). “Labor Market Reform as an External Enabler of High-Growth Entrepreneurship: An Institutional Contingency Perspective.” *Journal of Business Venturing*. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Javier Portillo (2024). “Cashing in on Cultural: Local Employment Effects of State Cultural District Designation.” *Journal of Cultural Economics*. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Hyun Ji Lee (2024). “Does broadband affect local economic outcomes less than we thought? Micro evidence from Louisiana.” *Contemporary Economic Policy*. [Link](#)

Araki, Michael, Daniel L. Bennett, and Gary A. Wagner (2023). “Regional Innovation Networks & High Growth Entrepreneurship.” *Research Policy*. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Jonathan C. Rork (2023). “Does State Tax Reciprocity Affect Interstate Com-muting? Evidence from a Natural Experiment.” *Regional Science & Urban Economics*. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Timothy M. Komarek (2022). “How Does Municipal Governance Structure Affect Innovation and Knowledge Diffusion? Evidence from U.S. Metro Areas.” *Economics of Governance*. [Link](#)

Humphreys, Brad and Gary A. Wagner and John C. Whitehead and Pamela Wicker (2022). “Willing-ness to Pay for Policies to Reduce Health Risks from COVID-19: Evidence from U.S. Professional Sports.” *Health Economics*. [Link](#)

Komarek, Timothy M. and Kyle Butts and Gary A. Wagner (2022). “Government Contracting, Labor Intensity, and the Local Effects of Fiscal Consolidation: Evidence from the Budget Control Act of 2011.” *Journal of Urban Economics*. [Link](#)

Sobel, Russell S. and Gary A. Wagner and Peter T. Calcagno (2022). “The Political Economy of State Economic Development Incentives: A Case of Rent Extraction.” *Economics & Politics*. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Douglas E. Walker (2021). "Did Video Gaming Expansion Boost Municipal Revenues in Illinois?" *Southern Economic Journal*, 88, 649-679. [Link](#)

Portillo, Javier E. and Gary A. Wagner (2021). "Do Cultural Districts Spur Urban Revitalization: Evidence from Louisiana." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 188, 651-673. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Erick M. Elder (2021). "Campaigning For Retirement: State Teacher Union Campaign Contributions and Pension Generosity." *European Journal of Political Economy*, 68, 101991. [Link](#)

Komarek, Timothy and Gary A. Wagner (2021). "Local Fiscal Adjustments from Depopulation: Evidence from the Post-Cold War Defense Contraction." *National Tax Journal* 74(1), 9-43. [Link](#)

Komarek, Timothy and Gary A. Wagner (2020). "The Distributional Effects of Job Loss From Fiscal Consolidation: Evidence from The Budget Control Act of 2011." *Economics Letters* 106, 109515. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Jamie Bolgona Pavlik (2020). "Patent Intensity and Concentration: The Effect of Institutional Quality on MSA Patent Activity." *Papers in Regional Science*, 99(4), 857-898. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Erick M. Elder (2020). "A Simple Measure of Pension Generosity." *Applied Economics Letters* 27(19), 1581-1586. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Timothy Komarek and Julia Martin (2017). "Is the Light Rail 'Tide' Lifting All Property Values? Evidence from Hampton Roads, VA." *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 65, 25-37. [Link](#)

Elder, Erick M. and Gary A. Wagner (2016). "Can Public Pensions Fulfill Their Promises? An Examination of Pennsylvania's Two Largest Public Pensions." *Municipal Finance Journal* (3), 1-22. [Link](#)

Elder, Erick M. and Gary A. Wagner (2015). "Political Effects on Pension Underfunding." *Economics & Politics* 27(1), 1-27. [Link](#)

Bruce, Don and Jon Rork and Gary A. Wagner (2014). "State Income Tax Reciprocity Agreements and Small Businesses." *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy* 3(1), 118-140. [Link](#)

Elder, Erick M. and Gary A. Wagner (2013). "Revenue Cycles and Risk-Sharing in Local Governments: An Analysis of State Rainy Day Funds." *National Tax Journal* 66(4), 939-960. [Link](#)

Erick, Elder M. and Gary A. Wagner (2012). "A Simple Approach to Balancing Government Budgets Over the Business Cycle." *Applied Economics Letters* 19(7), 677-681. [Link](#)

Rork, Jon and Gary A. Wagner (2012). "Is There a Connection Between Reciprocity and Tax Competition?" *Public Finance Review* 40(1), 86-115. [Link](#)

Pan, Jie and Gary A. Wagner (2011). "The Effects of State Tax Preferences on the Living Arrangements and Welfare of the Elderly." *Internal Advances in Economic Research* 17(2), 193-210. [Link](#)

Garrett, Thomas A. and Gary A. Wagner (2009). "Red Ink the Rearview Mirror: Local Fiscal Conditions and the Issuance of Traffic Tickets." *Journal of Law & Economics* 52(1), 71-90. [Link](#)

Rork, Jon and Gary A. Wagner (2008). "Do Regions Matter in Interjurisdictional Competition? Evidence from State Taxation." *Economics Letters* 101(2), 116-118. [Link](#)

Jordan, Meagan M. and Gary A. Wagner (2008). "Revenue Diversification in Arkansas Cities: The Budgetary and Tax Effort Impacts." *Public Budgeting & Finance* 28(3), 68-82. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Erick M. Elder (2007). "Revenue Cycles and the Distribution of Shortfalls in U.S. States: Implications for An 'Optimal' Rainy Day Fund." *National Tax Journal* 60(4), 727-742. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Erick M. Elder (2007). "How Well Are Eight District States Prepared for the Next Recession?." *FRB St. Louis Regional Economic Development* 3(2), 75-87. [Link](#)

Garrett, Thomas A. and Gary A. Wagner and David C. Wheelock (2007). "Regional Disparities in the Spatial Correlation of State Income Growth." *The Annals of Regional Science* 41(3), 610-618. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Russell S. Sobel (2006). "State Budget Stabilization Fund Adoption: Preparing for the Next Recession or Circumventing Fiscal Constraints." *Public Choice* 126(1-2), 177-199. [Link](#)

Garrett, Thomas A. and Gary A. Wagner and David C. Wheelock (2005). "A Spatial Probit Analysis of State Banking Regulation." *Papers in Regional Science* 84(4), 575-595. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Erick M. Elder (2005). "The Role of Budget Stabilization Funds in Smoothing Government Expenditures Over the Business Cycle." *Public Finance Review* 33(4), 439-465. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary (2004). "The Bond Market and Fiscal Institutions: Have Budget Stabilization Funds Reduced State Borrowing Costs?." *National Tax Journal* 57(4), 785-804. [Link](#)

Garrett, Thomas A. and Gary A. Wagner (2004). "State Government Finances: World War II to the Current Crisis." *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review*, 9-25. [Link](#)

Sobel, Russell S. and Gary A. Wagner (2004). "Expressive Voting and Government Redistribution: Testing Tullock's Charity of the Uncharitable." *Public Choice* 119(1-2), 143-159. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary (2003). "Are State Budget Stabilization Funds Only the Illusion of Savings? Evidence from Stationary Panel Data." *Quarterly Review of Economics & Finance* 43(2), 213-238. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary (2001). "Political Control and Public Sector Savings: Evidence from the States." *Public Choice* 109(1-2), 149-173. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Tod S. Porter (2000). "Location Effects in the Determination of Beginning Teacher Salaries: Evidence from Ohio." *Education Economics* 8(2), 109-127. [Link](#)

Wagner, Gary A. and Russell S. Sobel (2000). "New Empirical Evidence of the Role of Interest Groups in Influencing the Size and Growth of Government." *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* 28(2-3), 83-100. [Link](#)

Sobel, Russell S. and Gary A. Wagner (1998). "On the Determinants of Congressional Bill Sponsorship and Voting Behavior with an Application to Government Growth Theories." *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* 17(2-3), 89-115. [Link](#)

## **Other Publications, Comments, and Research Reports**

Callais, Justin and Javier Portillo and Gary A. Wagner (2023). "Brewing Value? On the Impact of Local Breweries on Nearby Rentals." In *The Geography of Beer: Policies, Perceptions, and Place*. Edited by Mark Patterson and Nancy Hoalst-Pullen. Springer.

Elder, Erick M. and Gary A. Wagner (2023). "Rainy Day Funds." In *New Perspectives on State Government Fiscal Challenges*. Edited by John Merrifield and Barry Poulson. Rowman & Littlefield.

Wagner, Gary A. and Stephen Barnes (2022). "The Economy of Louisiana." In *The Party is Over: The New Louisiana Politics*. Edited by Pearson Cross and Christie Maloyed. Louisiana State University Press.

Wagner, Gary (2018). "Rust and Renewal: A Cincinnati Retrospective." *Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland*

Wagner, Gary A. and C. Luke Watson (2014). "Economics of Early Childhood Development Programs." In *The State of Early Childhood in Virginia*. Edited by Angela Eckhoff and Pete Baker. Virginia Early Childhood Policy Center, Old Dominion University.

Agarwal, Vinod B. and Gary A. Wagner (2013). "It Could Have Been (Much) Worse." In *State of the Region*. Edited by James Koch. Regional Studies Institute at Old Dominion University., 4-35.

Agarwal, Vinod B. and Gary A. Wagner (2013). "Our Housing Market Turns the Corner." In *State of the Region*. Edited by James Koch. Regional Studies Institute at Old Dominion University., 38-55.

Wagner, Gary A. and Vinod B. Agarwal (2013). "Coal: A Very Important Economic Engine in Hampton Roads." In *State of the Region*. Edited by James Koch. Regional Studies Institute at Old Dominion University., 58-73.

Agarwal, Vinod B. and Gary A. Wagner (2012). "Gathering Steam: The Regional Economy Recovers (Slowly)." In *State of the Region*. Edited by James Koch. Regional Studies Institute at Old Dominion University., 4-43.

Wagner, Gary (2012). "How Much is Too Much? Comparing Inequality and the Cost of Living in Hampton Roads to New York City." In *State of the Region*. Edited by James Koch. Regional Studies Institute at Old Dominion University., 46-67.

Wagner, Gary (2010). "Commentary on Can State and Local Governments Rely on Alternative Tax Sources?." *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Regional Economic Development* 6(1), 102-107.

Denning, Shea Riggsbee and Gary A. Wagner (2007). "The Property Tax." In *County and Municipal Government in North Carolina*. Edited by David Lawrence. University of North Carolina., 46-67.

Wagner, Gary (2006). "Financing Government: Revenue Variability and the Role of Rainy Day Funds." *Popular Government* 71(3), 24-30.

Sobel, Russell S. and Gary A. Wagner (2005). "Expressive Voting and Redistribution." In *Encyclopedia of Public Choice*. Edited by C.K. Rowley and F. Schneider. Kluwer Academic Publishers., 569-571.

Sobel, Russell S. and Gary A. Wagner (2003). "Cyclical Variability in State Government Revenue: Can Tax Reform Reduce It?." *State Tax Notes* 29(3), 569-576.

## **Funded Research**

- \$9,300, Acadiana Home Builders Association, 2023.
- \$9,400, Acadiana Planning Commission, 2021.
- \$520,132, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 2018-2020.

## **Academic Conference and Seminar Presentations**

- European Public Choice Society (2024)
- Eastern Economic Association (2021)
- International Atlantic Economic Society (2023, 2020, 2014, 2010, 2009, 2007)

- Midwest Economics Association (2001)
- National Tax Association (2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2001)
- Public Choice Society (2024, 2022, 2020, 2014, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2001)
- Southern Economic Association (2023, 2020, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999)
- Western Economic Association (2020, 2015, 2012)
- College of Charleston (2023, 2019, 2016)
- Colorado State University (2023)
- North Dakota State University (2023)
- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2010)
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (2010, 2007)
- Oklahoma University (2001)
- Texas Tech University (2020)
- Troy University (2019)
- University of Central Arkansas (2006, 2001)
- University of North Carolina-Charlotte (2006)
- University of Missouri at St. Louis (2003)
- Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (2003)
- Vassar College (2005)
- West Virginia University (2014, 2011, 2005, 2002)
- Wichita State University (2011)

## **Public Presentations**

I have delivered more than 400 public (non-academic) presentations to various business and governmental organizations.

## **Professional Service**

Ad hoc reviewer for:

*Annals of Regional Science, Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, B.E. Journals in Economic Analysis & Policy, Canadian Public Policy, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Development Quarterly, Economics of Governance, Eastern Economic Journal, Economic Inquiry, Economic Modelling, Economics Letters, European Journal of Political Economy, Growth and Change, International Regional Science Review, Journal of Business Venturing, Journal of Cultural Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Insurance Regulation, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Municipal Finance Journal, National Tax Journal, Papers in Regional Science, Pew Charitable Trusts, Public Budgeting and Finance, Public Choice, Public Finance Review, Public Finance and Management, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Research Policy, Review of Regional Studies, Social Science Quarterly, Southern Economic Journal, Southern Journal of Entrepreneurship, State and Local Government Review*

- Testified on pension finance to Pennsylvania House Government Committee (2015)
- Co-Chair, State and Local Program, National Tax Association Spring Symposium (2013)
- Program Committee, National Tax Association Fall Conference, Providence, RI (2012)
- Editorial Board, Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, 2010-2015
- Member, Commission to Modernize State Government Finance (North Carolina, 2005)

## **Selected University Service**

- Chair, Tenure & Promotion Committee, Moody College of Business, 2020-

- Member, Blanco Public Policy Director Search Committee, UL, 2018
- Chair, Economics Department Promotion & Tenure Committee, ODU, 2014-2015
- Chair, Faculty Recruiting Committee, Department of Economics, ODU, 2013-2014
- Chair, Committee on Tenure (University-level), UALR, 2011
- Chair, Faculty Peer Review Committee, Department of Economics & Finance, UALR, 2009-2011
- Chair, Research Committee, School of Business, Duquesne University, 2002-2004
- Promotion and Tenure Committee (College-level), College of Business, ODU, 2013-2015
- Planning and Budgeting Committee (University-level), UALR, 2010-2011
- Committee on Tenure (University-level), UALR, 2010-2011
- Grant Reviewer, Arkansas Department of Higher Education SURF Program, 2009-2011
- Research Committee (University-level), UALR, 2009-2011
- Promotion and Tenure Committee (College-level), College of Business, UALR, 2008-2011
- Faculty Governance Document Committee, College of Business, UALR, 2006-2007
- Search Committee, Institute for Economic Advancement Executive Director, UALR, 2007-2008
- Search Committee, IEA State Economic Forecaster, UALR, 2007-2008
- Local Finance Working Group, NC State's Institute For Emerging Issues, 2005-2006
- Research Committee, School of Business, Duquesne University, 2001-2005
- Presidential Scholarship Award Review Committee, Duquesne University, 2004-2005
- Seminar Series Coordinator, School of Business, Duquesne University, 2002-2004

## Teaching Experience

*Undergraduate:* Economic Measurement and Analytics, Basic Economics, Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Quantitative Methods, Economic Measurement and Analytics, Sports Economics, Public Finance, Government Tax Policy, Intermediate Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

*Graduate:* Econometrics I (MA Economics), Econometrics I (Ph.D. Finance), Applied Econometrics (MBA), Economic Principles (MBA, Executive MBA), Economics in Public Service (University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service)

*International Teaching Experience:* Institut Commercial de Nancy School of Management, University of Nancy (France), March 10-14, 2003. I taught a 12-hour course to undergraduate and graduate business students entitled "An Economic Interpretation of Law and the Role of Government."

## Media Coverage

I have participated in more than 400 interviews with organizations such as The Economist, Bloomberg News, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Fox Business, New York Times, Boston Globe, Philadelphia Inquirer, USAToday.com, MSN Money, Popular Science, and The Guardian. I have also participated in more than 80 live television and/or radio interviews.

## References

Available upon request.