



Rice University Professor Mark Jones Provides Insight into 2016 Election at May 17 Politics Council

On May 17, the Politics Council welcomed Professor Mark P. Jones, Ph.D., fellow in political science at the Baker Institute at Rice University, the Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies and a professor in the Department of Political Science at Rice University. The Politics Council explores the most important political trends and how they impact the local community. Jones is highly regarded for his political science research, including study of the Texas Legislature. With Texas playing a large role in national politics, as well as at the state and local levels, Jones detailed major contests in this year's local, state and national elections and their implications for the next Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Professor Jones' presentation included discussion of voter turnout trends in the last several statewide elections; an examination of the relative ideology of Texas' Congressional delegation compared to other state delegations; similar placement of Texas legislators on an ideological spectrum; and the favorability ratings of the two likely major party presidential nominees. Jones also discussed local elections and the possible effects of the presidential race on down-ballot contests.