

Kevin McNellis

San Francisco, CA

kevinmcnellis.com

github.com/kevin-mcnellis

SUMMARY

Senior policy analyst with fifteen years of nonpartisan work on congressional procedure, politics, and fiscal policy across the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, and Co-Equal. Independent research at kevinmcnellis.com applies novel data methods to the federal appropriations and budget process. Recent analyses have reached dozens of congressional offices and earned coverage from national media, the New York Times, and President Obama.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Equal

Analyst & Researcher

Washington, DC

March 2022 – present

- Provide quantitative and procedural analysis to House and Senate offices.
- Authored four appropriations primers in 2026 covering annual appropriations and continuing resolutions, the FY25 [full-year CR's transfer of spending power to the executive](#), the [Trump administration's failure to provide information to congressional appropriators](#), and the [congressional appropriations and budget process more broadly](#).
- Helped build multiple [district-level estimates](#) showing the impacts of federal policy on household costs (housing, electricity, tariffs, bankruptcy), health insurance affordability (ACA enhanced tax credit expiration), and SNAP.
- Authored legislative retrospectives on the [Affordable Care Act](#) ([highlighted](#) by President Obama), [Social Security](#), [Medicare](#), [Dodd-Frank](#), and [supply-side tax cuts](#) ([highlighted](#) by the New York Times and its [editorial board](#)).

McNellis Consulting

Owner

San Francisco, CA

March 2022 – present

- Publish original research at kevinmcnellis.com on federal spending and the congressional budget and appropriations process. Recent posts track [ICE and CBP's spending](#) and how Congress has [appropriated trillions of dollars](#) outside the annual appropriations process over the past decade.
- Provide custom appropriations and budget-process analysis to mission-driven organizations whose policy priorities depend on how federal funds are appropriated, obligated, and spent.

Congressional Research Service

Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process

Washington, DC

August 2020 – March 2022

- Advised Members of Congress and their staff on House and Senate budget and appropriations procedure, including budget resolutions, reconciliation legislation, and appropriations measures.
- Authored [Changes in the House of Representatives' Initial Consideration of Regular Appropriations Measures, 113th–116th Congresses](#) (CRS R46841, July 2021), introducing a new methodology for analyzing evolving House and Senate procedural practices.
- Authored [Appropriations Report Language: Overview of Components and Development](#) (CRS R44124, September 2021).
- Provided confidential procedural guidance to 100+ congressional clients on budget, reconciliation, and appropriations.

Congressional Budget Office

Washington, DC

Principal Analyst, Low-Income Health Programs Cost Estimates Unit *January 2015 – August 2020*

- Produced nonpartisan cost estimates and baseline projections for healthcare legislation, including the ACA's advance premium tax credits and tax incentives for employer-sponsored insurance.
- Built and maintained projection and cost-estimate models for legislation affecting Medicare, Medicaid, the ACA, ERISA, and HIPAA.
- Received CBO Director's Award for Excellence (2018) for contributions to the agency's Health Insurance Simulation Model (HISIM2).
- Coordinated with analysts across CBO and the Joint Committee on Taxation on baseline projections, analytic reports, and cost estimates.

Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President

Washington, DC

Intern, Health Programs Resource Management Office *June 2014 – August 2014*

- Modeled proposed modifications to Medicare's Shared Savings Program and presented findings to senior OMB and White House staff; recommendations informed CMS Final Rule 1461.

United States Senate Committee on Finance

Washington, DC

Intern, Health Care Policy *June 2013 – December 2013*

- Drafted provisions for Chairman Baucus that were enacted in the Pathway to SGR Reform Act (P.L. 113-67) and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10).

National Institute on Money in State Politics

Helena, MT

Researcher *August 2010 – June 2012*

- Published nonpartisan research on the relationship between campaign spending and state policy across natural gas drilling, prison privatization, and the subprime mortgage industry, including the first comprehensive analysis of Citizens United's effects on state campaign-finance disclosure.
- Citizens United research cited in a Supreme Court amicus brief in *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*; coverage in the Washington Post, Rolling Stone, Time, Columbia Journalism Review, Bloomberg, MSNBC, and Center for Public Integrity.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- [How Have ICE and CBP Used Their \\$140 Billion from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act?](#) (April 2026).
 - [How Has Funding for Federal Agencies Changed Over the Last Decade?](#) (March 2026).
 - [The Army Clause: A Forgotten Constitutional Check on ICE, CBP and the Pentagon](#), Just Security (February 2026). With Scott Levy.
 - [ICE and CBP Spending under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#) (February 2026).
 - Four [Co-Equal appropriations primers](#) on annual appropriations and continuing resolutions, the FY25 full-year CR, and executive-branch information sharing with appropriators (January 2026).
 - [Short-Term Thinking, Long-Term Costs: Better Budgeting for Better Health Care Policy](#), Health Affairs Forefront (June 2025). With Scott Levy.
 - Co-Equal legislative retrospectives on the [Affordable Care Act](#) (March 2024), [Social Security](#) (October 2024), [Medicare](#), [supply-side tax cuts](#) (June 2025), and [Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms](#) (July 2025).
 - [Congressional Criminal Referral Precedents](#), Co-Equal (December 2022).
 - [Changes in the House of Representatives' Initial Consideration of Regular Appropriations Measures, 113th–116th Congresses](#), CRS R46841 (July 2021); [Appropriations Report Language: Overview of Components and Development](#), CRS R44124 (September 2021).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages and tools: Python and R for analysis and pipelines; Quarto for publication; Microsoft Excel.

Unique data assets: Novel spending datasets built from USAspending.gov and MAX.gov that trace legislative appropriations through to budget execution. Structured text corpora of appropriations acts, committee reports, and joint explanatory statements that enable historical analysis of how Congress writes legislative direction.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley — Goldman School of Public Policy Berkeley, CA
Master of Public Policy 2014

Coursework: Public Budgeting, Public Finance, Economics, Quantitative Methods, Legal Analysis, Administrative Law.

Whitman College Walla Walla, WA
Bachelor of Arts, Politics, Cum Laude with Honors in Course 2007