

Thomas Luke Spreen

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APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, 2024-present
Assistant Professor, 2018-2024

AFFILIATIONS

Senior Fellow, Institute for Public Leadership, University of Maryland, 2024-present
Affiliate, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University of Maryland, 2023-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Affairs, Indiana University, 2017
Fields: Public Finance and Policy Analysis; minor in Statistical Science
M.A., Applied Economics, Johns Hopkins University, 2012
B.A. *summa cum laude*, Economics and History, University of Florida, 2009

PUBLICATIONS

- Spreen, T. L.**, Wang, Z., & Yang, L. K. (2025). Industrial automation and local public goods. *Journal of Public Economics*, 247, 105394.
- Midgette, G. M., **Spreen, T. L.**, Porter, L. C., Reuter, P., Hitchens, B. K. (2024). A model to assess the feasibility of 911 call diversion programs. *Justice Quarterly*, 41(5), 619-646.
- Gupta, A. & **Spreen, T. L.** (2024). Do tax credits benefit charities? Evidence from two states. *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 42(1), 94-109.
- Spreen, T. L.** & Keddington, C. (2023). Temporary property tax relief and residential home sales. *National Tax Journal*, 76(3), 593-620.
- Singla, A., **Spreen, T. L.**, & Shumberger, J. (2023). Decree or democracy? State takeovers and local government financial outcomes. *Public Administration Review*, 83(4), 911-929.
- Spreen, T. L.** & Martínez Guzmán, J. P. (2022). Information sharing and state revenue forecasting performance. *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 42(4), 54-73.
- Sun, Q. & **Spreen, T. L.** (2022). State regulation and hospital community benefit spending in Medicaid expansion states. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 47(4), 473-496.
- Wang, Z., **Spreen, T. L.**, & Yang, L. K. (2022). A replication of “Trade shocks and the provision of local public goods” (American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 2017). *Public Finance Review*, 50(3), 336-376.
- Spreen, T. L.** & Gerrish, E. (2022). Taxes and tax-exempt bonds: A literature review. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 36(4), 767-808

- Homonoff, T., **Spreen, T. L.**, & St.Clair, T. (2020). Balance sheet insolvency and contribution revenue in public charities. *Journal of Public Economics*, 186, 104177.
- Spreen, T. L.**, Afonso, W. B., & Gerrish, E. (2020). Can employee training influence local fiscal outcomes? *American Review of Public Administration*, 50(4-5), 401-414.
- Spreen, T. L.**, House, L. A., & Gao, Z. (2020). The impact of varying financial incentives on data quality in web panel surveys. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 8(5), 832-850.
- Spreen, T. L.** (2018). The effect of flat tax rates on taxable income: Evidence from the Illinois rate increase. *National Tax Journal*, 71(2), 231-262.
- Gerrish, E. & **Spreen, T. L.** (2017). Does benchmarking encourage improvement or convergence? Evaluating North Carolina's fiscal benchmarking tool. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 27(4), 596-614.
- Spreen, T. L.** & Cheek, C. M. (2016). Does monitoring local government fiscal conditions affect outcomes? Evidence from Michigan. *Public Finance Review*, 44(6), 722-745.
- Spreen, T. L.** (2013). Recent college graduates in the U.S. labor force: Data from the Current Population Survey. *Monthly Labor Review*, 136(2), 3-13.

WORKING PAPERS

- "Cost of Living Adjustments and Public Workforce Turnover" with John Stavick and Denvil Duncan.
- "Determinants of State Research Spending: Theory and Evidence" with Aichiro Suryo Prabowo. Revise and resubmit.
- "Does Centralization Matter? The Equity and Cost Implications of State Property Tax Assessment" with Geoffrey Prophet. Submitted.
- "Income Taxation and Occupational Choice" with Brad Heim.
- "The Flypaper Effect: A Meta-Analysis" with Ed Gerrish, Luis Navarro, and Hao Sun.

REPORTS AND REVIEWS

- Midgette, G. M., **Spreen, T. L.**, Reuter, P. (2024). *Improving Baltimore police relations with the city's black community: Alternate response to non-criminal emergency calls for service*. Abell Foundation.
- Singla, A., **Spreen, T. L.**, & Shumberger, J. (2023). State-appointed managers are no better than local officials at resolving local government financial crises. *American Politics and Policy Blog*. Phelan United States Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science.
- Spreen, T. L.**, Palmer, J. L., & Johnson, C. L. (2015). *The opportunities and challenges of benchmarking Indiana's local governments*. Indiana University Public Policy Institute.
- Spreen, T. L.** (2011). A commentary on socioeconomic data. Review of *Interpreting Economic and Social Data: A Foundation of Descriptive Statistics*, by O. W. Winkler. *Monthly Labor Review*, 134(8), 36-37.
- Spreen, T. L.** (2010). Ranks of those unemployed for a year or longer up sharply. *Issues in Labor Statistics*, October 2010. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Research Excellence Award, University of Maryland School of Public Policy, 2023

Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Maryland School of Public Policy, 2022

Lincoln Institute Scholar, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2021

Michael Curro Award, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, 2017

University Scholar, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida, 2008

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Midgette, G. (PI) & **Spreen, T. L.** (Co-PI), “Do Community Rec Centers Deter Crime? Evidence from Baltimore.” Arnold Ventures. January 2025 - March 2026, \$133,353.

Spreen, T. L. (PI), “Economic Analysis of Budget Planning Options.” Maryland Department of Budget and Management. October 2024 – April 2025, \$71,000.

Spreen, T. L. (PI), Duncan, D., & Stavick, J., “Wage Discrimination in Public Sector Workforces: Evidence from U.S. States.” Institute for Public Leadership, University of Maryland. June 2024 - August 2025, \$13,430.

Finio, N. (PI), **Spreen, T. L.** (Co-PI), “Kent County, MD Tax Set Off Study.” Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities. January 2024 - March 2024, \$8,198.

Finio, N. (PI), **Spreen, T. L.** (Co-PI), & Bierbaum, A., “Local Fiscal Capacity Analysis.” State of Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction. May 2023 - September 2023, \$46,000.

Reuter, P. (PI), Hitchens, B. K., Midgette, G., Porter, L. C., & **Spreen, T. L.** (Co-PI), “Improving Baltimore Policing and Police Community Relationships.” Abell Foundation (\$15,000), Arnold Ventures (\$369,832) and University of Maryland (\$15,000). October 2021 - January 2024. Total awards: \$399,832.

Spreen, T. L. (PI), Race and Social Justice Research Seed Grant. University of Maryland School of Public Policy. June-August 2021, \$2,000.

Spreen, T. L. (PI) & Martínez Guzmán, J. P., Teaching Innovation Grant. University of Maryland Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost. June - August 2020, \$12,000.

Spreen, T. L. (PI) & Martínez Guzmán, J. P., Research and Scholarship Award. University of Maryland Graduate School. June - August 2019, \$9,000.

PRESENTATIONS

2025 Spring Public Finance Conference, Syracuse-Chicago Webinar Series on Property Tax Administration and Design

2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management

2023 National Tax Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Indiana University

2022 Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Maryland Municipal League, Public Management Research Association, Indiana University, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

- 2021 National Tax Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Spring Public Finance Conference, University of Florida
- 2020 University of Maryland, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- 2019 National Tax Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- 2018 National Tax Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- 2017 University of Maryland, University of Kentucky, National Tax Association, Naval Postgraduate School, University of Georgia, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Congressional Budget Office, Public Management Research Association, U.S. Department of the Treasury
- 2016 National Tax Association (poster), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- 2015 Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Central Indiana Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants
- 2014 Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of Maryland: Fiscal Resilience for Municipal Leaders (executive, 2 sections)
- Microeconomic and Policy Analysis (graduate, 2 sections)
- Public Economics (undergraduate, 2 sections)
- Public Finance & Budgeting (graduate, 12 sections)
- State, Local, & Non-Profit Financial Management (graduate, 3 sections)
- Indiana University: Financial Management (undergraduate, 4 sections)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Service

Editorial Board, *Public Budgeting & Finance* (2024-present)

Manuscript Review

Applied Economics (1), *Field Methods* (1), *International Journal of Public Administration* (1), *International Review of Administrative Sciences* (1), *International Tax and Public Finance* (1), *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* (1), *Journal of Housing Research* (1), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (2), *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (2), *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management* (1), *Journal of Public Policy* (1), *Local Government Studies* (6), *Monthly Labor Review* (2), *National Tax Journal* (1), *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (1), *PLOS One* (2), *Public Administration Review* (4), *Public Budgeting & Finance* (7), *Public Finance & Management* (1), *Public Finance Review* (2), *Public Management Review* (1), *Public Opinion Quarterly* (1), *Public Performance & Management Review* (1), *Public Personnel Management* (1), *Research Handbook on Public Financial Management* (1), *Social Science Computer Review* (1)

Dissertation Committees

- Dylan Baker, Policy Studies, University of Maryland (2024)
- Qingqing Sun, Policy Studies, University of Maryland (2024)

Aichiro Suryo Prabowo, Policy Studies, University of Maryland (2023)

William Greenwalt, Policy Studies, University of Maryland (2021)

External Activities

National Tax Association Spring Symposium Program Chair (2025)

DC-Area Public Finance and Budgeting Working Group Organizer (2018-2020, 2023-2024)

Public Management Research Association Conference Review Committee (2019)

Conference Discussant

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2018, 2022, 2024)

National Tax Association (2017)

Spring Public Finance Conference (2023)

Internal Activities

Maryland AIM Seed Award Review Committee (2025)

School of Public Policy APT Committee (2024-present)

School of Public Policy MPP/MPM Admissions Committee

Member (2019-2021, 2024-present)

Chair (2022-2024)

School of Public Policy Scholarship Committee (2021-present)

School of Public Policy Ph.D. Committee (2020-present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Associate, Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida, 2017-2018

Indiana University

Associate Instructor, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, 2015-2017

Economic Research Associate, Indiana Business Research Center, 2015

Research Assistant, Indiana University Public Policy Institute, 2012-2015

Economist, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009-2012