

The Florida Political Science Association supports academic freedom.

As defined by the American Association of University Professors:

*Academic freedom is the freedom of a teacher or researcher in higher education to investigate and discuss the issues in his or her academic field, and to teach or publish findings without interference from political figures, boards of trustees, donors, or other entities. Academic freedom also protects the right of a faculty member to speak freely when participating in institutional governance, as well as to speak freely as a citizen.*

Academic freedom includes the right of faculty members acting as private citizens to serve as objective expert witnesses in cases where their scholarly expertise helps the legal system reach an informed decision.

As such, the Florida Political Science Association supports the right of University of Florida political scientists Daniel Smith, Michael McDonald, and Sharon Wright Austin to serve as expert witnesses in a Florida voting-rights lawsuit.

*The Florida Political Science Association is a nonpartisan scholarly organization of faculty, students and community members committed to promoting political science research, education, and service throughout the state of Florida.*