

Brendan Cirillo

cirillo.brendan@gmail.com, (773)-559-5169, brendancirillo.com



Education

PhD in Economics, University of Missouri, Columbia, December 2025

GPA: 3.9/4.0

Awarded the Maw Lin Lee Scholarship for Excellence in Graduate Study, 2023

MA in Economics, University of Missouri, Columbia, Independent of PhD Program, May 2020

BS in Economics and Psychology, Truman State University, 2017

Work Experience

Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC

February 2024 - Current

Pathways Economist

- Led the team that rewrote and modernized the federal individual income tax microsimulation model in Python and Stata, significantly improving efficiency and accuracy in scoring tax policy changes for the President's Budget.
- Modeled the revenue impact of closing international profit-shifting loopholes by estimating behavioral responses related to tax avoidance behavior to provide robust estimates to senior leadership.
- Co-authored an international trade and tariff analysis paper for the President of the United States.
- Forecasted job and GDP recovery potential under scenarios of reduced import penetration in autos by examining market size, capacity, and assessing the feasibility of producing substitutes for foreign vehicles.
- Conducted policy evaluation of Inflation Reduction Act investments, estimating the economic impact of \$4 billion in targeted community funding on local employment, wages, and business creation.
- Provided fact-checking and economic analysis for presidential speeches and internal memos; contributed free trade agreement analysis that informed cabinet-level discussions and external communications.
- Co-authored weekly memos for senior OMB leadership and Associate Directors, including economic insights into tariff revenue estimation versus actual revenue collection.

University of Missouri, Columbia, Columbia, Missouri

May 2021 - May 2025

Graduate Student Researcher

- Designed and implemented econometric methods to evaluate the policy impact of state and federal reforms in health, crime, and voting.
- Built forecasting tools for agricultural economics, improving projection accuracy in data-constrained environments.
- Taught classes of 50+ students in microeconomics and political economics.
- Presented economic research at 4 academic conferences.

Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC

May 2023 - August 2023

Analyst Intern

- Reviewed workflows for measuring credit disparities for a congressional report influencing policy decisions.
- Assessed the financial impact of a \$1.45 billion federal grant program in the Farm Credit System within a small interdisciplinary team.
- Delivered internal training on student loan statistics and potential policy implications.

Economic Consulting, Columbia, Missouri

May 2023 - December 2023

- Designed and implemented Monte Carlo simulations to quantify the financial impact of potential wrongdoing, directly informing litigation strategies.
- Translated economic risk analysis into courtroom-appropriate documentation.

T-Mobile (formerly Sprint), Overland Park, Kansas

September 2017 - September 2020

Pricing Analyst 2

- Built and maintained Excel-based pricing models for enterprise wireless and wireline contracts, incorporating cost structures, margin targets, and customer-specific terms.
 - Conducted customer-level financial analysis in Excel to estimate customer lifetime value.
 - Collaborated with sales teams to support large account negotiations using customized pricing solutions.
 - Developed and launched an internal website to centralize pricing tools and streamline communication across the pricing department.
-

Technical Skills

- **Tools:** *Expert:* R, *Intermediate:* Python, Stata, *Basic:* Alteryx, MATLAB, SQL
 - **Methodologies:** Causal inference: Difference-in-Differences (stacked, staggered, and honest-DiD), synthetic control, Monte Carlo simulations, large dataset analysis, time series forecasting, and machine learning.
-

Volunteering Experience

The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

September 2022 - Feb 2024

SNAP Volunteer

75-100 hours/year

Research Interests

- Applied Microeconomics, Policy Analysis, Health Economics, Public Economics, Political Economics
-

Research and Working Papers

Papers available on my website.

State Differences in Handgun Permit-to-Purchase Responses: Criminal Usage and Purchasing

Author, Submitted, Job Market Paper, 2025

Permit-to-purchase (PTP) is a state requirement to obtain a license prior to purchasing a gun. This paper uses synthetic control methods to estimate the effects of PTP laws in three states on gun purchasing behavior and usage for crime, as well as downstream effects on homicides and suicides. In Missouri, repealing PTP led to a 12.9% rise in background checks, a 22 percentage point increase in the self-sourced share of crime guns, and a 2.4-year drop in time-to-crime, alongside a 37.9% increase in firearm homicides and a delayed increase in suicide. Consistent with Missouri, Maryland's adoption of PTP reduced background checks by 23.4%, lowered the self-sourced ratio by 9.4 points, and increased time-to-crime by 3.3 years, though no short-run mortality effects were detected. Across Connecticut, Maryland, and Missouri, metropolitan areas respond immediately to PTP changes, while effects in rural areas emerge more gradually, if at all.

Shelby Done Right: The End of VRA Preclearance, Countermobilization, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Coauthor, Working Paper, 2025

I treat *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) as an intent-to-treat restoration of states' ability to change election rules and estimate a triple-difference on the black-white and the hispanic-white vote gap using Cooperative Election Study data (2008--2022). In addition to the previously identified states in the VRA, I also examine the impact within a subset of states identified by the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLA). Across models and samples, I find no widening of the black-white voting gap post-2013. The JLA targeting yields similar results. In examining the possibility of countermobilization effects, campaign contact rates during an election cycle were not significantly different than non-treated states or different across races.

The Effect of Drug Testing Laws on Access to Public Programs

Coauthor, In Progress, 2025

This paper studies the effect of drug testing policies rolled out through the 2000s targeting access to welfare benefits, specifically the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. We study the rollout of these state-level policies on TANF caseloads and spillovers to SNAP caseloads using a stacked difference-in-differences design with annual state-level data on enrollment information. We find a 30% decrease in the TANF caseload per capita, driven by both adults and children, despite the law not applying to children. Additionally, we find suggestive evidence of spillovers to SNAP as well, with a 10% decrease in the caseloads.

Presentations

- **SEA 93rd Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, LA 2023
- **Second Annual Applied Microeconomics Conference**, Manhattan, KS 2023
- **Department of Economics Alumni Leaders Board**, Columbia, MO 2023
- **Public Choice Society**, Seattle, WA 2023, 2024

Undergraduate and Online Presentations

- **Tobacco Online Policy Seminar**, Virtual 2024
- **Midwest Psychology Association**, Chicago, IL 2015-2017