Kyle Trojahn

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Summary

Texas researcher working across policy research, data analysis, and data infrastructure. More than three years of experience building the pipelines and governance that make state data trustworthy, analyzing it with statistical and geospatial methods, and translating results into briefings, testimony, regulatory comments, and tools for legislators, agencies, and the public. Currently at Texas 2036, a nonpartisan policy organization whose work has to hold up for lawmakers in both parties. Experience spans public education and workforce, affordability and consumer protection, water, energy, and transportation infrastructure, and regional economic development. NSF Graduate Research Fellow (2024).

Education

The University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX

M.A. in Government — *2022 – 2024*

- Subfields: American Politics & Quantitative Methodology. Coursework in econometrics, causal inference, time-series modeling, and experimental design
- Co-authored a regional economic-development plan for the Brownsville metro, analyzing workforce and human-capital investment using Census/ACS, BLS, and BEA data

Truman State University — Kirksville, MO

B.S. in Political Science & International Relations, Phi Beta Kappa — *2016 – 2020*

- Minors: Spanish, Philosophy/Religion, & International Studies

Professional Experience

Texas 2036 (Data & Research) — Austin, TX

Data and Systems Analyst — *Sep. 2026 – Present*

- Partner with researchers in education and workforce, health, infrastructure and natural resources, economic mobility, and government performance to find, shape, and explore the data behind nonpartisan policy work
- Built a vetted inventory of statewide indicators, each linked to a data release calendar, and fact-checked 50+ public-facing metrics with page-level citations
- Building self-service data tools (React, Python) for policy staff, with a review step so only verified data is published
- Helped develop the organization's data privacy practices and built a tested de-identification tool in R and Python for preparing sensitive files for public release

Texas Appleseed (Fair Financial Services Project) — Austin, TX

Policy Analyst — *Feb. 2026 – Sep. 2026*

- Designed and led a field study of data broker compliance with the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act and delivered invited written and oral testimony on its findings to the Texas House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency
- Authored a public comment to the Texas Finance Commission on rules implementing Chapter 398 of the Finance Code, proposing replacement rule language, convening a five-organization coalition with competing priorities to co-sign it, and presenting the process as a 2026 Small Business Finance Forum panelist
- Built an AI-assisted Python pipeline collecting 10,000+ precinct- and county-level civil court records (2019–2025), applying population-weighted areal interpolation to compare debt-collection filing rates across Texas
- Contributed the data and equity analysis for a local policy memo on toll-debt collection, and built and verified a catalog of 101 civil court fines and fees showing where costs fall on residents least able to pay

E3 Alliance (Education Equals Economics) — Austin, TX

Research Analyst (Manager) — *Oct. 2024 – Jan. 2026*

- Produced legislator briefs customized to each member's district, plus rapid-turnaround one-pagers and committee testimony on school funding, accountability, and readiness during the 2025 legislative session, so members of both parties could see outcomes for the students they represent
- Partnered with legislative staff, advocates, and state and federal policymakers, including congressional offices in Washington, D.C., to advance data-driven public education and workforce reforms

- Led analysis in R, Python, SAS, and SQL on administrative data covering every public-school student in Texas, and developed a methodology to quantify the return on investment of the Central Texas education and workforce pipeline to inform funding decisions

RAND Corporation (Department of Defense & Political Sciences) Santa Monica, CA (Remote)
Adjunct Researcher & Summer Associate *Jun. 2024 – Sep. 2024*

- Conducted critical-infrastructure research identifying regulatory vulnerabilities in California's water and wastewater utilities, producing research and scenarios that informed a national-security war game convening senior federal officials

Princeton University (Andlinger Center for Energy & the Environment) Princeton, NJ (Remote)
Graduate Research Assistant *Mar. 2023 – Sep. 2024*

- Built a 600,000+ observation Census block-level geospatial dataset and statistical models linking political participation, demographics, climate risk, and municipal incorporation status, including a population-scaled spatial buffer for Texas extraterritorial jurisdictions
- Conducted field interviews as part of a four-person research team with local officials, including utility, infrastructure, and emergency-management leaders, and residents in Brownsville and Harlingen for a study of the city of Galveston and Cameron County, and presented it solo at the 2024 MPSA Annual Conference

The University of Texas at Austin (Community & Regional Planning) Austin, TX
Graduate Research Assistant *Jul. 2023 – May 2024*

- Co-authored a National Cooperative Highway Research Program technical memorandum on equitable transportation decision-making, building its equity-evaluation framework and analyzing 32 state and regional transportation agencies on finance, procurement, and Title VI compliance

Code.org Seattle, WA (Remote)
State & Local Policy Fellow *Jan. 2023 – Jul. 2023*

- Cataloged computer-science course availability across schools in multiple states using a structured sampling design, contributing to a national report on K-12 computer science education

Earlier experience: Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin Dept. of Government; Faculty Support Coordinator, Washington University in St. Louis; General Counsel Intern, NAEYC; Intern to the House Minority Leader, Missouri House of Representatives (tracked 1,000+ bills)

Skills & Policy Breadth

Programming & Data: Python (pandas), R, Stata, SAS, SQL, JavaScript/React (AI-assisted), Git/GitHub, data governance, & de-identification
Geospatial & Methods: ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, Census Data API, areal interpolation, regression & causal inference, survey design & weighting
Policy & Legislative: legislative and regulatory analysis, rule drafting & public comments, testimony & briefings, coalition building, 50-state policy scans, & bill tracking
Agencies & Data: TEA, THECB, TWC, Office of Court Administration, TWDB, Secretary of State, Finance Commission, Attorney General, Census Bureau, BLS, BEA, & Federal Reserve
Policy Areas: public education & workforce, affordability & consumer protection, water, energy & utilities, transportation, regional economic development, municipal governance
Language: Spanish (university minor; intermediate proficiency)

Research Publications

Karner, Alex, Minyu Situ, **Kyle Trojahn**, Gian-Claudia Sciara, and Destiny Deguzman. 2023. *Guidance for Implementing Equitable Transportation Decision-Making Technical Memorandum.* NCHRP 08-162.

Fellowships & Awards

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP), 2024

The University of Texas at Austin, 2022 – 2024: five graduate school and Department of Government fellowships, including the Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement