



# Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## The Pandemic, Protests, and the 2020 Presidential Election:

# The 2020 Presidential Election

Wednesday, August 26 at 2 pm ET

You are invited to the fourth of CSG East's continuing series Weekly Webinars this August. Wednesday, August 26 at 2 pm ET, Professor Rachel Bitecofer, who has earned the nickname "election whisperer," will discuss the upcoming fall 2020 Presidential Election, and the growing influence of negative partisanship on elections outcomes. Journalist and host of WYPR radio's *On the Record*, Sheilah Kast will moderate the discussion.



**Speaker**

**Rachel Bitecofer**, is a Senior Fellow with the Niskanen Center in Washington, D.C., where she conducts research on elections and political behavior. She is also a lecturer at Christopher Newport University, where she has taught classes on political behavior, elections, and political analysis, and conducted survey research and elections analysis. Her research has been featured in many media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and NPR; she is a contracted commentator on CBC Radio. Her book, *The Unprecedented 2016 Presidential Election* (Palgrave MacMillan) is available via Amazon.

Bitecofer's election forecasting model predicted the 2018 midterms five months before Election Day, ahead of other forecasting methods. Her forecasting work, based on quantitative analysis and voter behavior, argues that American elections have become increasingly nationalized and highly predictable, with partisanship serving as an identity-based, dominant vote determinant for all but a small portion of Americans.



**Moderator**

As host of *On the Record*, her daily show on WYPR 88.1 FM public radio in Baltimore MD, **Sheilah Kast** asks community leaders, authors, artists, politicians and other interesting people why they do what they do, and what it means for her listeners.

Her entire career has been asking people questions—first as a reporter at *The Washington Star*, and then at ABC News, where she covered the White House, the Congress and the economy. She was the ABC News correspondent on the ground in Moscow in August 1991 in the first hours of the coup that signaled the end of the Soviet empire. She has also reported for NPR and CNN.

Ms. Kast has launched and hosted two interview shows on public television—one in association with *BusinessWeek*, one with AARP.

**Register for Rachel Bitecofer**