

## Long Run Research Interests and Current Research Projects

**Robert P. Strauss**

Professor of Economics and Public Policy  
Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University  
[www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/rs9f](http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/rs9f)

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My general research interests include positive and normative economic analysis in the applied and theoretical areas of public economics and human resources, and the development of theoretical and empirical statistical techniques related to these areas of inquiry. My research is typically collaborative across disciplinary boundaries, and often results in meaningful civic engagement at the federal, state and local levels. I seek to report with students and faculty collaborators research findings in appropriate scholarly journals as well as through various kinds of civic engagement.

Current traditional research topics include:

- the readability of the US federal tax system using Natural Language Processing;
- the effects of deductibility of health expenditures in the federal personal income tax;
- the design of least regressive national retail sales taxation in the US and Canada
- the theory and measurement of vertical and horizontal equity, and effective tax function analysis of the US tax system, 1960-2008;
- the effects of Marcellus Shale exploration on public roads, and the general sustainability of public roads given the current system of transportation finance;
- governance structures of publicly listed corporations and k-12 public education; redesign of Pennsylvania's statutory language dealing with public education's oath of office, business judgment rule, superintendent-school board reporting requirements.
- effects of teacher quality reforms in Pennsylvania on teacher preparation institutions and student performance; the design of mechanisms for improving the efficiency of teacher labor markets

Nontraditional applications of technology to civic issues include:

--A Research Guide to Marcellus/Utica Shale: A Searchable Electronic Bibliography  
<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/marcellus-biblio/> (October , 2012)

--Property Tax Estimator for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
[www.propertytaxestimator.net](http://www.propertytaxestimator.net) (August, 2012, 2013)

--RODAS: Road Damage Assessment System (Pothole Tracking through crowd sourcing)  
[www.rodasproject.org](http://www.rodasproject.org) (March, 2010)

Pennsylvania Student and Teacher Test Score Web Site: Compare any building subgroup test scores in the state over time, view how each building does over time. Examine teacher preparation test scores and placement results by Pennsylvania Teacher Preparation Program: [www.paeducationquality.net](http://www.paeducationquality.net) (2008)

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