



California Politics: A Primer (Fourth Edition)

By Renee B. Van Vechten



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By emphasizing how history, political culture, rules, and institutions influence choices that lie at the heart of governing, this book presses the reader to think about how these forces conspire to shape politics today and how they will determine the state of affairs tomorrow. The thoroughly revised fourth edition includes coverage of the political problems raised by the state's persistent drought, the widening of health care access to low-income children and adults, the increase in the state's minimum wage, controversy over legislation for mandatory vaccination of schoolchildren, and the state's precariously balanced budget.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This well-organized and clearly written book provides students with a solid foundation in California government and works well in an introductory course. In addition to explaining the nuts and bolts of everything from institutions to the budget to the initiative process, it explores political debates and controversies and motivates students to learn what is at stake in state level politics." -- Ronnee Schreiber

"The strengths of Van Vechten's text are its brevity and its preference for straight talking. Students appreciate the absence of hyperbole and exaggeration that tends to accompany a lot of the discussion of California politics. I am relieved to have found the book, especially since it is so much more affordable and readable than others. " -- Sarah John "Van Vechten's book is the best introduction to California politics available. Covering topics from direct democracy to citizen engagement, her analysis of California politics is of such high quality that I often use this book as my main political science textbook, even in American politics courses." -- David Selby

About the Author

Renee B. Van Vechten is associate professor of political science at the University of Redlands, where she teaches courses primarily in American Government and California Politics. She received her PhD in political science from the University of California, Irvine. In 2002-03, she was a Kevin Starr Fellow in California Studies, and in 2008, was honored with the Rowman and Littlefield Award for Innovative Teaching in Political Science, the American Political Science Association's national teaching award at that time. She is also engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning. A lifelong resident of Southern California, she has spent the better part of her professional life studying, writing, and lecturing about California institutions.

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