

U.S. Election Campaigns: A Documentary and Reference Guide (Documentary and Reference Guides)

By Thomas J. Baldino, Kyle L. Kreider

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This book provides an analytical guide to the modern political campaign, chronologically covering key federal, state, and local campaign laws, election commission rules, and the court decisions interpreting them.

• Analytical essays and suggested print and electronic resources accompany every documentary entry

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- Sales Rank: #6881875 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Greenwood
- Published on: 2011-09-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.02" h x .88" w x 8.50" l, 2.75 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 351 pages

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
The election cycle is upon us sooner than we might want it, but the coming campaigns do bring questions. This volume not only arrives at an excellent time but also has good intentions to inform the general public about the finer points of campaign law. The text consists of primary documents concerning election law reform enhanced by sidebars that help provide context and scholarly analysis that places the document in the scope of history. Each document is headed by bulleted points providing the name of the document, the date, and a short paragraph that speaks to its significance. The text of each document is followed by an analysis and a list of further readings. The volume itself is divided into time periods, and the pagination reflects the growth in the legal wrangling in this area. For example, the entire nineteenth century takes a mere 41 pages, while the period from 1970 to 1999 needs 112. The twenty-first century (so far) requires 82. Documents include the Boston Gazette editorial of 1812 coining the phrase gerrymandering; the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925, clarifying the need to report campaign donations; the Supreme Court ruling from 1993 concerning racial gerrymandering; and the Supreme Court ruling from 2010 declaring corporate and union political contributions to be a form of political speech. The text is enhanced by period illustrations and political cartoons. The volume begins with a list of the documents and sidebars in order by date and then sorted by topics. The entries themselves are preceded by a chronology of campaign-reform events. There is a comprehensive index and a list of selected resources that includes books, articles, and websites. This is appropriate for any academic library that has an interest in politics or history and most medium-sized to large public libraries. --Danise Hoover

Review
"A good reference for users interested in the financial facets of election campaigns." - **Library Journal**

"This volume not only arrives at an excellent time but also has good intentions to inform the general public about the finer points of campaign law. . . . This is appropriate for any academic library that has an interest in politics or history and most medium-sized to large public libraries." - **Booklist**

"This work will be useful to those seeking documentary evidence and analysis of US election campaigns. Summing up: Recommended." - **Choice**

About the Author

Thomas J. Baldino is professor of political science at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and program coordinator for the university's Political Science major and minor.

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