

Governing Texas Anthony Champagne

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a new texas politics book with a proven approach

how do legal professionalism and politics influence efforts to structure the process of selecting and retaining state judges

john c domino examines texas supreme court justice bob gammage s progressive jurisprudence during the most tumultuous period in texas judicial history this era witnessed numerous seismic shifts including the manner in which judicial campaigns were conducted the rise of million dollar judicial races a dramatic change in the partisan and ideological composition of the texas supreme court the court of criminal appeals and

most of the fourteen intermediate appellate courts as well as the birth of the judicial reform movement in Texas. Gammage who served as a court of appeals judge and as a state supreme court justice forged a solid liberal record arguing for robust individual rights including the right to privacy, freedom of expression, due process and equal protection. Whether those rights were implied in the Texas constitution or rooted in an evolving common law or set out in state and federal judicial precedent.

politics is relevant and participation matters

show students how politics really works through a focus on conflict and compromise

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which originally was intended to prohibit barriers to black registration and voting, has been hailed as a triumph for civil rights and as a catalyst for the election of minorities to public office in both the Deep South and the urban North. To advance its objective, federal courts instructed many cities to change from at-large to single-member district electoral systems as a way to ensure that minorities had a reasonable chance to elect representatives of their choice. In the first book to critique the implementation of this landmark legislation in a major American city, Ruth Morgan examines its effect on local governance over forty years in Dallas and shows that it had unintended consequences for racial politics, representation and public policy. Breaking from studies that measure the success of the VRA in terms of increased minority representation, Morgan assesses the consequences of the act for Dallas city government and for the wider interests of minorities as well. While endorsing the original intent of the VRA, Morgan believes that this intent was subverted by subsequent amendments to the act and by the courts' attempts to advance the political standing of particular minority groups. She argues that court-imposed single-member districts have created in Dallas a city council infected with parochialism and careerism, a result of members no longer having to compromise to win citywide votes and have had an adverse impact on governmental effectiveness and voter turnout. With corruption and cronyism now rampant, voting rights legislation and litigation have ultimately failed to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the unempowered, and the district system has created an incentive for continued racial separation. Governance by decree offers a pointed assessment of the complexities and contradictions produced by the voting rights law while at the same time calling for the federal judiciary to exercise restraint in imposing its will when it lacks the capacity to make choices that are inherently political. Morgan's powerfully argued case study should inspire much debate and inform forthcoming congressional deliberations over the renewal of the preclearance section of the VRA in 2007.

Reflecting the insights of authors who have written about, taught or participated in Texas government and politics for over 20 years, this text explores Texas government and its relationship to the people it serves and to the federal and local governments that form the American political system. Merging the writing styles of an academic and a professional newsman, this treatment of Texas politics is scholarly and exceedingly

readable

as played out in newspapers across the country this is the definitive account of the highest stakes corporate drama of our time the 11 billion battle for getty oil 8 pages of photographs

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