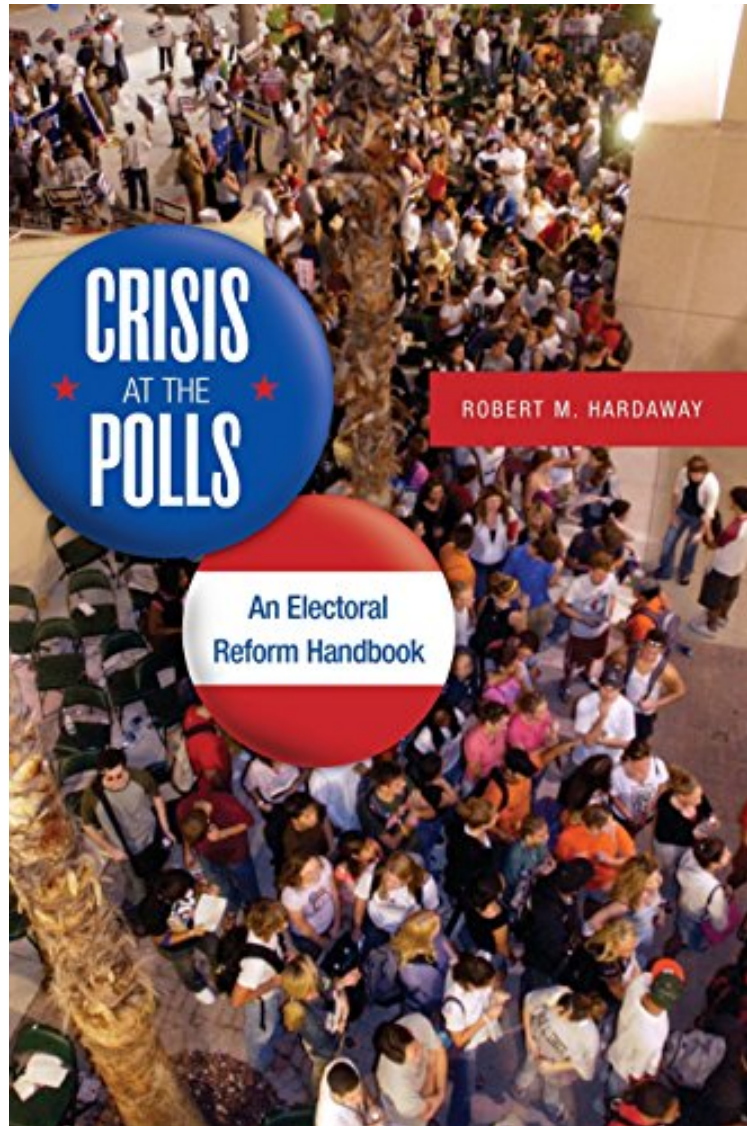


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Crisis at the Polls: An Electoral Reform Handbook

Robert M. Hardaway

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helpful. An invaluable acquisition for academic and community library Political Science and American History reference collections. By Midwest Book Review. A free and fair election means that every qualified citizen votes, and every legitimate vote gets counted honestly. Unfortunately in all too many elections voting at the polls has been beset by a number of problems, some of which are so severe as to violate the law and corrupt the political system. Ranging from fraudulent votes to deliberate voter suppression, from bribery to physical violence, from ballot stuffing to 'hanging chads', the electoral history of the United States has been a checkered one. This is the subject of "Crisis At The Polls" by Robert M. Hardaway (Professor of Law at the University of Denver College of Law) who provides a systematic exploration of the election administration, historical and comparative perspectives, and a great deal of insightfully informed and informative commentary on the subjection of known attempts to subvert the democratic system of free elections. Enhanced with a Chronology, a Glossary, and an extensively annotated bibliography of print and electronic materials for further study, "Crisis At The Polls" is a seminal work of meticulous scholarship and an invaluable acquisition for academic and community library Political Science and American History reference collections.

If free and fair elections are the heart of our prized democratic system of government, the integrity of our electoral system must be beyond question. Yet all too often, flaws in the administration of our elections have undermined public confidence in the results. This volume is virtually unique in focusing closely on the procedural problems of our electoral system, including those posed by the computerization of voting systems. The author analyzes events in the electoral history of the United States (and, tangentially, of certain other nations) to reveal the particular dynamics of democratic electoral systems that permit purportedly free and fair elections to subvert rather than express the public will. Past electoral crises shedding light on our electoral deficiencies are chronicled in detail, allowing the author to diagnose systemic failures that can, he contends, be remedied in order to strengthen our democratic system. Chapters focus on current laws and procedures regarding voter registration, provisional ballots, absentee ballots, computerized voting systems, and the Electoral College. The author recommends specific reforms in all these areas that will safeguard our democratic heritage and ensure that the voice of the people is heard. The book presents often-complex material in lucid prose, illuminating issues vital to democracy.

"Enhanced with a Chronology, a Glossary, and an extensively annotated bibliography of print and electronic materials for further study, Crisis at the Polls is a seminal work of meticulous scholarship and an invaluable acquisition for academic and community library Political Science and American History reference collections." - Midwest Book /Internet Bookwatch. "This timely examination of a crucial issue will serve students and general readers in high school, public, and academic libraries." - Lawrence Looks at Books. About the Author: ROBERT M. HARDAWAY is a Professor of Law at the University of Denver College of Law. A frequent contributor to national and major regional newspapers and occasional media commentator, he is also the author of No Price Too High: Victimless Crimes and the Ninth Amendment (Praeger, 2003) and The Electoral College and the Constitution: The Case for Preserving Federalism (Praeger 1994), among other works.