GENDER AND ELECTIONS, THIRD EDITION

The third edition of *Gender and Elections* offers a systematic, lively, and multifaceted account of the role of gender in the electoral process through the 2012 elections. This timely yet enduring volume strikes a balance between highlighting the most important developments for women as voters and candidates in the 2012 elections and providing a more long-term, in-depth analysis of the ways that gender has helped shape the contours and outcomes of electoral politics in the United States. Individual chapters demonstrate the importance of gender in understanding and interpreting presidential elections, presidential and vice presidential candidacies, voter participation and turnout, voting choices, congressional elections, the political involvement of Latinas, the participation of African-American women, the support of political parties and women’s organizations, candidate communications with voters, and state elections. Without question, *Gender and Elections* is the most comprehensive, reliable, and trustworthy resource on the role of gender in U.S. electoral politics.


Gender and Elections

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Third Edition

Edited by

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Acknowledgments

This volume had its origins in a series of three roundtable panels at professional meetings in 2002 and 2003 focusing on how women fared in the 2002 elections. Most of the contributors to this book were participants at those roundtables. As we gathered at these meetings, we began to talk among ourselves about a major frustration we faced in teaching courses on women and politics, campaigns and elections, and U.S. politics. We all had difficulty finding suitable, up-to-date materials on women candidates, the gender gap, and other facets of women’s involvement in elections, and certainly none of us had been able to find a text focused specifically on gender and elections that we could use. We felt the literature was in great need of a recurring and reliable source that would first be published immediately following a presidential election and then updated every four years so that it remained current.

At some point in our discussions we all looked at one another and collectively asked: As the academic experts in this field, aren’t we the ones to take on this project? Why don’t we produce a volume suitable for classroom use that would also be a resource for scholars, journalists, and practitioners? In that moment Gender and Elections was born. We are enormously grateful to Barbara Burrell for organizing the first of our roundtable panels and thus identifying and pulling together the initial core of contributors to this volume.

We produced the first volume of Gender and Elections in the immediate aftermath of the 2004 presidential election, and an updated and expanded second edition came out following the elections of 2008. Gratified by the positive response, we are pleased to provide this third edition of the volume, which updates it to include information on the 2012 elections. We hope to continue to revise and publish new editions following future presidential elections.
Acknowledgments

The third edition of this book would not have been possible without the assistance of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University. Debbie Walsh, director of CAWP, has embraced and encouraged this project and been supportive in numerous ways, especially in making CAWP staff available to assist on the project. Gilda Morales, who is in charge of information services at CAWP, continues to be an invaluable source of knowledge about women and politics, and several contributors relied on her expertise as well as the data she has compiled over the years for CAWP.

While everyone at CAWP was helpful, we want to single out Kathy Kleeman, senior communications officer at CAWP, for assistance above and beyond what we ever could have expected. Kathy, for all three editions, has spent numerous hours making each volume much better than it otherwise would have been. She brought an additional set of critical eyes to the reading of every chapter and, as an extremely skilled writer, helped make all of our chapters more readable, accessible, and polished. We are especially indebted to her.

Finally, we would like to thank Cambridge University Press and our editor, Robert Dreesen, for their continued support for this project. We also thank Ed Parsons, our editor on previous editions, for helping us bring the initial idea of this volume to fruition.