GENDER AND ELECTIONS, FOURTH EDITION

The fourth edition of *Gender and Elections* offers a systematic, lively, multifaceted account of the role of gender in the electoral process through the 2016 elections. This timely, yet enduring, volume strikes a balance between highlighting the most important developments for women as voters and candidates in the 2016 elections and providing a more long-term, in-depth analysis of the ways in which 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, voter participation and turnout, voting choices, congressional elections, 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 electoral politics.

Susan J. Carroll is professor of political science at Rutgers University and senior scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Most recently she is coauthor of *More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to State Legislatures* (2013, with Kira Sanbonmatsu), and the editor of *Women and American Politics: New Questions, New Directions* (2003) and *The Impact of Women in Public Office* (2001).

Richard L. Fox is professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University. His research examines how gender affects voting behavior, state executive elections, congressional elections, and political ambition. Most recently he is coauthor of *Women, Men & U.S. Politics: Ten Big Questions* (2017) and *It Still Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don’t Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), with Jennifer Lawless, and author of *Running From Office: Why Young Americans are Turned Off to Politics* (2015).
Gender and Elections

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Fourth Edition

Edited by

Susan J. Carroll
Rutgers University

Richard L. Fox
Loyola Marymount University
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Contributors

Barbara Burrell is a professor emerita in the political science department at Northern Illinois University and former director of graduate studies for the political science department. She is the author of A Woman’s Place Is in the House: Campaigning for Congress in the Feminist Era (1994); Public Opinion, the First Ladyship and Hillary Rodham Clinton (2001); and Gender in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives (2014). Burrell also has published numerous articles on how gender interacts with the electoral process.

Dianne Bystrom is the director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. A frequent commentator on political and women’s issues for state, national, and international media, she is a contributor to twenty-one books – most recently Routledge Handbook of Political Advertising (2017); Praeger Handbook of Political Campaigning in the United States (2016); alienNATION: The Divide and Conquer Election of 2012 (2014); Media Disparity: A Gender Battleground (2013); and Women & Executive Office: Pathways and Performance (2013) – and has written journal articles on women candidates, youth voters, and the Iowa caucuses. Her current research focuses on the styles and strategies that female and male political candidates use in their television advertising and their news coverage by the media.

Susan J. Carroll is professor of political science at Rutgers University and senior scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Most recently she is coauthor of More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to State Legislatures (2013, with Kira Sanbonmatsu). Earlier books include: Women as Candidates in American Politics (Second Edition, 1994); Women and American Politics: New Questions,
Carroll also has published numerous journal articles and book chapters focusing on women candidates, voters, elected officials, and political appointees in the United States.

Kelly Dittmar is an assistant professor of political science at Rutgers-Camden and a scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on gender and American political institutions with a particular focus on how gender informs campaigns and the impact of gender diversity among elites in policy and political decisions, priorities, and processes. She is the author of Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns (2015) as well as multiple book chapters on gender and American politics. At CAWP, Dittmar manages national research projects, helps to develop and implement CAWP’s research agenda, and contributes to CAWP reports, publications, and analyses.

Georgia Duerst-Lahti is a professor of political science at Beloit College. She regularly provides analysis and commentary for state and national news coverage of U.S. politics, especially on the presidency, and gender and elections. She also has worked as a senior specialist on women’s leadership and entrepreneurship for U.S. development projects. Her most recent coauthored book, Creating Gender: The Sexual Politics of Welfare Policy (2007), develops a theory of gender ideology in policy making. Her articles have appeared in journals such as PS, Sex Roles, and Public Administration Review. She currently researches socially responsible businesses and sustainability as a means to women’s empowerment.

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Susan A. MacManus is distinguished university professor in the department of government and international affairs at the University of South Florida. Her most recent book is Florida’s Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government (2017). She is the author of Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century (1996), Targeting Senior Voters: Campaign Outreach to Elders and Others with Special Needs (2000); coauthor with Aubrey Jewett, Thomas R. Dye, and David J. Bonanza, of Politics in Florida (4th edn., 2015), and with Thomas R. Dye, of Politics in States and Communities (15th edn., 2015). MacManus was the long-time political analyst for WFLA-TV (Tampa’s NBC affiliate), more recently for WFTS-TV (Tampa’s ABC affiliate).

Madison Oakley is a recent graduate of Beloit College with a degree in political science and critical identity studies. She intends to pursue a Ph.D. She earned departmental honors in political science and was awarded the department’s Pi Sigma Alpha best thesis award for her critical theory examination of false equivalence in the 2016 presidential election. At Beloit and abroad in the Netherlands, she has researched gentrification and belonging as well as gendered legislative styles of members of the European Parliament.

Anna Sampaio is director and associate professor of ethnic studies and political science at Santa Clara University with specializations in immigration, Latina/o politics, race and gender politics, intersectionality, and transnationalism. Her recent book, Terrorizing Latina/o Immigrants: Race, Gender, and Immigration Politics in the Age of Security (2015), won the 2016 American Political Science Association award for the Best New Book in Latina/o Politics. She is also coeditor of Transnational Latina/o Communities: Politics,Processes, and Cultures (2002, with Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez), and her research has appeared in a wide range of outlets including International Feminist Journal of Politics, Latino Studies, NACLA, New Political Science, Political Research Quarterly, PS: Political Science and Politics, Signs, and Women’s Studies Quarterly. Her current book project, Latinas Political Participation and Activism in the U.S., examines the history of Latina political engagement in the U.S., with particular attention to the experiences of Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban American activists in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

Kira Sanbonmatsu is professor of political science and senior scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. She is the coauthor (with Susan J. Carroll) of More Women Can Run: Gender and
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Pathways to the State Legislatures (2013). She is also the author of Where Women Run: Gender and Party in the American States (2006) and Democrats, Republicans, and the Politics of Women’s Place (2002). Sanbonmatsu studies gender, race, parties, elections, public opinion, and state politics. Her research has appeared in journals such as Politics & Gender, American Politics Research, and Journal of Politics.

Wendy G. Smooth is an associate professor in the departments of women’s gender and sexuality studies and political science at The Ohio State University and a senior faculty affiliate with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Before joining the faculty at Ohio State, she served as an assistant professor of political science at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Her research focuses on the impact of gender and race in state legislatures, and Smooth’s research on women of color in American politics appears in journals such as Politics & Gender and Journal of Women, Politics and Policy. Currently, she is completing a manuscript titled Perceptions of Power and Influence: The Impact of Race and Gender in American State Legislatures. Smooth is President of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.
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 on those roundtables. As we gathered at these professional meetings, we began to talk among ourselves about a major frustration we faced in teaching courses on women and politics, campaigns and elections, and American 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 updated and expanded second and third editions following the elections of 2008 and 2012, respectively. Gratified by the positive response, we are pleased to provide this fourth edition of the volume which updates the volume to include information on the 2016 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 and Chelsea Hill at CAWP have been invaluable sources of knowledge about women and politics, and several contributors relied on the data they have 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 four 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, she helped to make all of our chapters more readable, accessible, and polished. We are especially indebted to her.

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