

The U.S.  
SUPREME  
COURT  
and the  
ELECTORAL  
PROCESS

*Edited by*

DAVID K. RYDEN

*Foreword*

LEE EPSTEIN

# Contents

Contributors	v
Foreword	ix
<i>Lee Epstein</i>	
1 The U.S. Supreme Court, the Electoral Process, and the Quest for Representation: An Overview	1
<i>David K. Ryden</i>	

## I

<i>The Judicial Search for Electoral Representation</i>	15
2 Representation Rights and the Rehnquist Years: The Viability of the “Communities of Interest” Approach	19
<i>Nancy Maveety</i>	
3 Vote Dilution, Party Dilution, and the Voting Rights Act: The Search for “Fair and Effective Representation”	40
<i>Howard A. Scarrow</i>	
4 Districting and the Meanings of Pluralism: The Court’s Futile Search for Standards in <i>Kiryas Joel</i>	58
<i>Stephen E. Gottlieb</i>	

## II

<i>Political Parties: The Key to—or the Scourge of—Representation?</i>	89
5 Back to the Future: The Enduring Dilemmas Revealed in the Supreme Court’s Treatment of Political Parties	95
<i>Michael A. Fitts</i>	

- 6 Partisan Autonomy or State Regulatory Authority?  
The Court as Mediator 110  
*Paul R. Petterson*
- 7 The Supreme Court's Patronage Decisions and  
the Theory and Practice of Politics 124  
*Cynthia Grant Bowman*
- 8 Entrenching the Two-Party System:  
The Supreme Court's Fusion Decision 142  
*Douglas J. Amy*

### III

- The Court and Political Reform: Friend or Foe?* 165
- 9 To Curb Parties or to Court Them? Seeking a  
Constitutional Framework for Campaign Finance Reform 169  
*David K. Ryden*
- 10 Plebiscites and Minority Rights: A Contrarian View 195  
*Bradley A. Smith*
- 11 A *Thornton* in the Side: Term Limits, Representation,  
and the Problem of Federalism 221  
*Jeff Polet*

### IV

- The Court, the Constitution, and Election Law:  
Merging Practice and Theory* 243
- 12 The Supreme Court Has No Theory of Politics—And Be  
Thankful for Small Favors 245  
*Daniel H. Lowenstein*
- 13 The Supreme Court as Architect of Election Law:  
Summing Up, Looking Ahead 267  
*David K. Ryden*
- References 285
- Table of Cases 301
- Index 305