

## **Editorial Foreword**

This special issue of *The New England Journal of Political Science* is the first such issue that has been offered. It is the result of a collaborative effort of various persons and institutions involved with the New England Political Science Association. It demonstrates the opportunities that can result from the sorts of ventures that the association and its journal provide and everyone associated with it is extremely pleased with its outcome. Its focus upon a specific New England state (supplemented by an update of recent political events of the Pine Tree State within the State Reports section) is both a departure from the broader scholarship that usually is provided within this journal and a fulfillment of that part of its academic mission as exemplified by the regular inclusion of that State Reports section.

A significant part of the original conception for this journal was to offer an outlet for scholarship that focuses upon New England. In addition to having a well-deserved reputation for being a region with a strong tradition of higher education, New England also has fostered an image of being populated with deep thinkers who engage in profound inquiries in many fields and disciplines. Furthermore, the history of this region has highlighted a long tradition of political development and experimentation, beginning with the practices of the Native peoples of this part of the continent and, then, the various models of self-government introduced by the colonial settlers who established Plymouth Colony, the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the Province of New Hampshire, Connecticut Colony, the Republic of Vermont, and, eventually (and well after American independence was established), the State of Maine—an extension of Massachusetts that could trace its political history to the councils of the Abenaki, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot peoples and such early experiments as the early Popham Colony and other land grants.

Maine has had a fascinating political history, including the fact that it was only one of two states during the 1930s to continue to support the Republican Party—the other state being its New England neighbor of Vermont. But it has experienced a transition in terms of its political inclinations, especially at the federal level. It has demonstrated traits of both traditional political sensibilities and progressive ideas. This special issue, devoted to the role that Maine's senators have played in that distinguished history, provides an outstanding contribution to scholarship that might, otherwise, lack the sort of academic venue that it so richly deserves.

This special issue was the result of a conference held at the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement of Colby College in Waterville, Maine. The principal organizers of this conference, Calvin Mackenzie and Sandy Maisel, are not only distinguished scholars and professors but also have been active supporters of, and participants in, the activities of the New England Political Science Association and this journal. Furthermore, Dr. Maisel has been active as a political candidate, as well as a political analyst, in this state, having previously run for Congress. The guest editors embody the participatory spirit that inspired the founding of this scholarly journal and this special issue reflects the best intentions of that experiment. The contributors represent a noteworthy assembly of excellent writers from various fields who provide insights into this significant subject that has had such an important impact upon New England and the nation. It is hoped that this special issue will be the first of many such offerings, especially as it so laudably fulfills the mission that was envisioned when this journal was first established.

James T. McHugh  
Editor-in-Chief