

Editorial Foreword

This issue of *The New England Journal of Political Science* is the last one that I will publish as editor-in-chief. Since having founded the journal, I have been honored to have been assisted in this process by numerous colleagues, some of whom have served as associate editors and many of whom who have served on the journal's prestigious editorial board. One member of that board deserves special mention and, indeed, this issue of the journal is dedicated to her.

Dr. M. J. Peterson became an original member of the journal's editorial board in 2004. She also actively supported its nascent activities as a member of the Executive Council of the New England Political Science Association. Most significantly, she has been, by far, the most active reviewer for the journal, having peer reviewed an uncounted but considerable number of submission during the past several years. Her energy has been as unflagging as her expertise has been broad and profound. Her advice and encouragement have been invaluable and we are extremely fortunate that she will continue in that role for my successor. We are very proud to dedicate this issue of the journal to her.

Volume IV, number 2 of *The New England Journal of Political Science* reflects the ongoing theme of the journal as a venue for all fields and areas of the discipline, as well as a potential home for articles from related disciplines. It also upholds the original aspiration of the journal to showcase articles that highlight the role of critical thought and political inquiry as a defining feature of New England and its various states. Leslie DeNardis begins the issue with a regional study of profound importance for a critical understanding of local government, which is one of the most underappreciated areas of the discipline. Her article on the politics of school reform in Connecticut reinforces the role of the New England states as profoundly experimental bastions of politics and public policy that this journal has particularly sought to explore. Jonathan McKenzie's

study of Thoreau's ideas in the areas of individualism and privacy also reinforces the historical role of New England as a center for profound political thought and critical inquiry. Likewise, Scott Roulrier's article on the significance of Frederick Law Olmstead in linking public space to the promotion of democratic goals also underscores this interpretation of the prominent intellectual role that New England has provided and continues to provide, politically and otherwise.

In addition to these New England themed contributions, Howard Cody's article on party politics in Canada during the premiership of Stephen Harper extends his ongoing study of the profound transformation of that country's political party system. His analysis is complemented by a new type of contribution to the journal's State Reports section by Marc Jacques of the Canadian Consulate General in Boston. That overview addresses the region from the outside and from the perspective of the largest trading partner of each of the New England states. More conventionally, the State Reports section also includes papers that assess recent events and trends by that section's editor, Paul Petterson, regarding the political policies and contests of Vermont, an additional and typically insightful contribution by Howard Cody relating to recent politics in Maine, and Jerold Duquette's enlightening assessment of the political scene in Massachusetts.

The next editor-in-chief of this journal will be Dr. Mark Brewer, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Maine. Mark is a political behavioral specialist who earned his doctorate at Syracuse University. He has distinguished himself as a scholar, particularly in the areas of both elite and mass partisanship and electoral behavior and he reflects the ongoing reputation of New England as a bastion of academic and scholarly excellence. The journal is extremely fortunate to have him as its next editor and the next issue should serve to confirm that anticipated excellence.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served as editor-in-chief of *The New England Journal of Political Science*. In the journal's inaugural issue, I stated my objective

to use the journal as a venue for the promotion of a regional community of political science and political scientists and a vehicle for the New England Political Science Association to advance its scholarly mission for this region and beyond. The past four volumes have, I hope, made an incremental advance toward that goal. I trust that future volumes will continue that mission, which would not have been possible without the dedication of the editorial staff. In particular, Dr. Paul Petterson has been a stalwart supporter and influence and he deserves particular praise for his efforts, not just in editing the State Reports section but in many other (usually unattributed) ways. Dr. Peter Goodrich provided an absolutely essential base of technical support as the journal's first Technical Editor. An online journal of this nature could not have survived without his pivotal assistance and we continue to be grateful for it. Dr. Clifford Bates also provided his editorial support during a critical period of the journal's development and Mark Griffith, along with the recent contributions of Odeh Halaseh, was crucial to the technical success of the journal throughout this period.

Finally, the generosity of the Editorial Board, featuring some of the "giants" of the discipline of political science, has been the essential foundation of this enterprise. I am grateful to all of its members and to the executive officers and Executive Council of the New England Political Science Association. It has been an outstanding experience to serve this scholarly initiative and I look forward to its continued success and improvement for many years to come. Thanks to everyone!

James T. McHugh
Editor-in-Chief