

Editor's Forward

It is my pleasure to present Volume V, Number 2 (Spring 2011) of *The New England Journal of Political Science*. This issue features three articles and one state and province report. Lesley DeNardis of Sacred Heart University opens this issue with an examination of charter schools and the politics of education reform in Connecticut. L. Sandy Maisel, Justin Rouse, and Russell Wilson of Colby College follow with a provocative piece on the place of presidential nominating conventions in American politics. The final article in this issue comes from Catherine Simpson Bueker of Emmanuel College who provides an in-depth analysis of political and civic engagement at the local level through the lens of park usage. Howard Cody of the University of Maine closes this issue with an up-to-the-minute report on Maine politics.

As always, a number of individuals have been of invaluable assistance in putting this issue together. Tess Marchant-Shapiro of Southern Connecticut State University did the heavy lifting of copyediting, and Paul Petterson of Central Connecticut State University admirably handled the State and Province Reports section. We aim for full representation in the next issue. Technical Advisor Odeh Halaseh of the University of Mount Union has been highly valuable in the actual production of the Journal and Editorial Assistant Danielle Hansen of the University of Maine has been essential in assisting with the day-to-day operations of the Journal. Chris Bosso of Northeastern University also deserves much thanks for continuing to provide the Journal with its online home.

I close this forward with a plea. I very much want the Journal to be a venue for high quality pieces of critical thought and inquiry across all the subfield of political science. Toward achieving this goal I encourage you to consider submitting your work to the Journal, and also to urge your colleagues and students to do the same. A journal is only as good as the scholars who contribute to it, and therefore the success of *The New England Journal of Political Science* going forward ultimately lies with you.

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