

## Editor's Forward

We are pleased to present Volume IX, Number 2 (Fall 2016) of the *New England Journal of Political Science*. In keeping with recent practice, we have three high quality original articles in this issue. Shannon Jenkins, Douglas Roscoe, and David Borges lead off with an intriguing look at voters in elections for representative town meeting. Gregory Petrow follows with an examination of the place of social movements in the larger political system. Our final article in this issue is from Edward Kammerer, who uses the lens of *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* to shed light on how judicial narratives played out in the same-sex marriage policy arena.

This issue contains one state report. James Melcher and Amy Fried update on the increasingly contentious politics of Maine.

Our Book Review section is once again strong, containing four reviews for your consideration. The current issue has five reviews for your consideration. This section begins with a review of Timothy J. Lukes' *Politics and Beauty in America* by Jonathan Allen. Next we have Paul Foote's review of *Constitutionalism, Executive Power, and the Spirit of Moderation*, edited by Giorgi Areshidze, Paul O. Carrese, and Suzanna Sherry. Our third review in this issue features Robert Boatright's review of William Crotty's edited volume *Polarized Politics*, and our review section closes with Christopher Simon's review of the latest edition of Ann Serow's and Everett Carl Ladd's classic edited volume, *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*.

As always I have benefitted from the hard work of talented others in bringing this issue to publication. Copy editor extraordinaire Tess Marchant-Shapiro was awesome as always. Paul Petterson of Central Connecticut State University once again directed our State Reports section. Book Review Editor Peter Lindsay of Georgia State University continues to add value to the journal with this still newish section. Please keep us in mind as a review outlet as your book projects come to fruition. You can ask your publisher to send books for review directly to Peter. Technical Advisor Odeh Halaseh of Kent State University put everything together with his usual speed and skill. Our anonymous reviewers were crucial to making this issue possible, and their efforts are much appreciated. Reviewers for Volume IX are noted at the end of this issue.

As always I ask you to consider us as an outlet for your work, and to encourage your colleagues and graduate students to do so as well. We are still trying hard to attract more submissions. We are also still looking for state report assistance, so anyone interested in perhaps contributing to our State (and hopefully Province) Reports section should contact Paul Petterson at Central Connecticut State University ([pettersonp@ccsu.edu](mailto:pettersonp@ccsu.edu)).

In closing, I provide an early heads-up on some exciting changes in the works for the Journal. Under the leadership of New England Political Science Association President Meg Mott, we are in the early stages of exploring some exciting design changes for the journal. We hope these changes will make the journal look more professional and also attract more readers and submissions (the latter of which remain woefully low, in my opinion). Peter Lindsey will also be leading the continued evolution of our Book Reviews section. We are excited about these coming changes, and hope that you will be excited with the results.

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Editor-in-Chief