



# Behind the Ballot Box: A Citizen's Guide to Voting Systems

*Douglas J. Amy*

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## **Behind the Ballot Box: A Citizen's Guide to Voting Systems** Douglas J. Amy

Interest in voting systems and voting system reform is growing in the United States. Voting systems?the procedures by which we cast votes and elect our public officials?are a crucial part of the democratic election process. The decision to use one kind of voting system rather than another has far-reaching political consequences. Among other things, voting systems help to determine which officials are elected to run our governments, the variety of parties that voters have to choose from at the polls, whether political minorities can win any representation, and whether the majority will rule.

Amy gives readers all the information and analytical tools needed to make intelligent choices among voting systems. He provides a set of political criteria that can be used to judge voting systems and gives detailed descriptions of all the common voting systems used in the United States and other Western democracies, including winner-take-all systems as well as proportional representation systems. He also provides an analysis of the various political advantages and disadvantages associated with each type of system. This is an important guide for citizens, government officials, political activists, students, and anyone who wants to learn more about voting systems and their political implications.

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