

Multiparty Politics in America

Prospects and Performance

Second Edition

Edited by
Paul S. Herrnson and John C. Green

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Preface

This first edition of this volume originated in the sixth workshop sponsored by the Political Organizations and Parties Section (POP) of the American Political Science Association in September 1996. The workshop brought together scholars and practitioners to consider the role of minor parties in American politics. The subject was timely and important then, and it remains so now. First, the number of independent and minor-party candidates has increased in recent times, a pattern symbolized by Ross Perot, Patrick Buchanan, and Ralph Nader, the standard-bearers for the Reform and Green parties during the presidential elections held in the 1990s and 2000. Second, the possibility of multiparty politics in the United States has captured the imagination of many individuals. Some political observers and activists have advocated a wide range of reforms designed to promote minor-party and independent candidacies; others have held opposing views, championing the strengths of the current two-party system. Scholars, election officials, and representatives from across the political spectrum representing both sides of the issue have testified in state legislatures, the courts, special commissions, and other public forums on the subject

This second edition of *Multiparty Politics in America* benefited from the hard work of many people. First and foremost, we wish to thank the chapter authors, whose outstanding contributions made this volume possible. Second, we wish to thank the staff at the Center of American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland and the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron for helping to prepare the manuscript. Special thanks to Nathan Bigelow, Aaron Davis, Alfeia Bell, Kim Haverkamp, and Jason Hass for correcting page proofs and preparing the index.

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