



## California Politics: A Primer

By Renee B Van Vechten

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### California Politics: A Primer By Renee B Van Vechten

Underscoring the essentials, Van Vechten's concise text delivers on the concepts and details students need to understand how California's political system works. The thoroughly revised second edition retains all the strengths of the first edition, with updates that include: all charts, graphs, and tables reflecting major data releases such as the U.S. Census, election results, state reports, and public opinion polls; a look at direct democracy in counties and municipalities through local initiatives; an expanded view of political constraints on the annual budgeting process; coverage of significant alterations to the primary system and redistricting process; the replacement of Arnold Schwarzenegger with new governor Jerry Brown; and a new chapter on political engagement, examining where Californians get their political information and how they use it to influence state politics.

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#### **About the Author**

Renee B. Van Vechten is assistant professor of political science at the University of Redlands, where she teaches courses primarily in American Government and California Politics. She received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Irvine. In 2002-03, she was a Kevin Starr Fellow in California Studies, and in 2008, was honored with the American Political Science Association's only national teaching award, the Rowman and Littlefield Award for Innovative Teaching in Political Science. A lifelong resident of Southern California, she has spent the better part of her graduate and professional life studying, writing, and lecturing about California institutions.

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