



# **Governing California: Politics, Government, and Public Policy in the Golden State**

*Ethan Rarick (editor)*

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# Governing California: Politics, Government, and Public Policy in the Golden State

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Who are the people of California, and what do they believe politically? How do Californians choose their leaders, and how do those leaders govern once they are in power? How has California confronted some of its greatest public policy challenges?

These are the questions that underlie this in-depth and careful examination of America's mega-state. This book uses the latest research and scholarship to explore California's civil society -- how an extraordinarily complex state of 37 million people governs itself through politics and policy.

The results paint a complex picture, one not nearly so simple as the handy California stereotypes. Are Californians really worse off than they used to be? Are they all Hollywood liberals far to the left ideologically? Are the recent reforms in their political systems making much of a difference? Who really governs the state -- its world-famous governors or its highly professional legislature? How can a state often derided as a hopeless failure be leading the way on one of the most important public policy issues of our time? All these questions are examined in this new edition of *Governing California*, updated to reflect the results and changes of the 2012 election.

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