Letting the People Decide Dynamics of a Canadian Election

David Flanagan 2014-03-01 Elections are about more than voting for a candidate. They are about understanding the forces that brought a candidate to office, and the ways in which that person will govern. This book advances our understanding of Canadian elections by attempting to answer the following questions:

What factors influence voter behavior in Canadian elections?

- How do parties develop their campaign strategies?

- What role do media and other campaign actors play in shaping voter preferences?

- How do elections affect the policy outcomes that governs will embrace?

- What are the consequences for democracy when elections are not free and fair?

Letting the People Decide is a comprehensive study of the 2004 Canadian federal election and offers insights into the dynamics of political campaigning in Canada. It is the result of over two years of research, including interviews with key political actors, analysis of campaign advertising, and examination of the electoral process. The book provides a detailed account of the 2004 election, including its context, issues, and outcomes, and offers a critical analysis of the role of the media and other campaign actors in shaping voter preferences. It also explores the consequences of the election for democracy in Canada.

Dynamic Democracy

Chapter 1: The Canadian Electoral System

The Canadian electoral system is unique in many respects. It is a mixed-member proportional representation system, with both single-member plurality seats and party-list proportional representation seats. This system has been in place since 1988, and has been described as "one of the most complex and least understood electoral systems in the world."

Chapter 2: The Political Parties

Canada has a multi-party system, with a variety of political parties represented in the federal parliament. The two major parties are the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, but there are also smaller parties such as the New Democratic Party, the Green Party, and the Bloc Québécois.

Chapter 3: The Election Campaign

Canada's election campaigns are usually short and intense, with candidates and parties working hard to win over voters. The campaigns are marked by high levels of spending, negative campaigning, and a focus on policy issues.

Chapter 4: The Vote and the Results

In the 2004 election, the Liberal Party won the most seats in the House of Commons, but fell short of a majority. The election resulted in a hung parliament, with the Liberals having to rely on the support of the New Democratic Party to govern.

Chapter 5: The Consequences

The 2004 election had significant consequences for Canadian politics. The Liberal Party's failure to win a majority led to increased polarization and gridlock in the House of Commons, and raised questions about the future of Canadian democracy.

Conclusion

Letting the People Decide is a comprehensive and critical analysis of the 2004 Canadian federal election. It offers insights into the dynamics of political campaigning in Canada, and provides a critical examination of the consequences of the election for Canadian democracy.