



Citizens' Assembly

Annotated Bibliography of Introductory Readings

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Brodie, Janine and Sandra Rein. 2002. "Election Laws and Electoral Systems" In *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics*. Edited by Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein. 171-183. Toronto: Prentice Hall.

Summary: Briefly describes and defines basic terms and concepts such as constituencies, district magnitudes, apportionment, malapportionment (gerrymandering), representation, and categorical versus ordinal ballots. The advantages and disadvantages of majority/plurality systems, proportional representation, and mixed systems are discussed. Included is a "debate box": Should Canada Adopt a PR [Proportional Representation] Electoral System? Projections are used to compare the results of the 2000 Canadian Federal Election with the number of seats each party would have won under proportional representation. (12 pages).

Evans, Mark. and Michael Slodovnick. Terezia Zoric and Rosemary Evans. 2000. *Citizenship: Issues and Action*. Toronto: Pearson-Prentice Hall.

Summary: This textbook is 'approved learning material' for Ontario secondary students. There are sections on Canada's institutional structure at the federal and provincial levels, the electoral process, political parties and the dynamics of election campaigns. Of particular is a section entitled 'Does Canada Need to Reform Its Electoral System' which summarizes and discusses the main types of electoral systems. Each section is illustrated with informative charts, pictures and diagrams.

Jackson, Robert and Doreen Jackson. 1998. "Elections and Political Behaviour: Voting, Public Opinion and the Media." In *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy*. Edited by Robert Jackson and Doreen Jackson. 420-468. Scarborough: Prentice-Hall.

Summary: Explains the link between representation and elections, the importance of elections, the different types of electoral systems and their effects, how elections themselves are conducted, and the forces that determine people's voting behaviour. Also provides an in-depth case study of the 1997 federal election. (49 pages). Note: There are several more up-to-date versions of this textbook. All editions included the relevant material.

O'Neill, Brenda. 2003. "Democracy in Action: Elections, Referendums and Citizen Power." In *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. Edited by Rand Dyck. Scarborough: Thomson-Nelson. pp. 262-289.

Summary: This provides general overview of how democratic principles are put into practice. pp. 271-277 give a brief explanation of the main types of electoral systems. (28 pages).

Pond, David, Susan Hynes, and Larry Johnston. 2003. "Ontario Politics and Government: A Brief Overview" *The Legislative Library of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario*. ([available online](#))

Summary: This piece provides a general overview of the Ontario government and political system. It includes brief discussions of topics such as the Crown, the Executive, the Legislature, Elections and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Reynolds, Andrew and Ben Reilly and Andrew Ellis. 2005. *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook*. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Summary: This International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) document is the Ontario Citizens' Assembly Handbook, every member of the Assembly is encouraged to read this book. It examines a wide range of electoral systems and discusses issues related to the each. The authors make use of examples and case studies from countries all over the world. (223 pages).

Tindal, Richard C. 2004. *A Citizens' Guide to Government*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Summary: This is an accessible introduction to government in Canada. It might be read as a refresher on Canadian politics that emphasizes the structure of our political institutions. Of particular interest are Chapter 2 *What Are Our Many Governments and What Do They Do?* and Chapter 5 *Federal and Provincial Governments*.

Watt, Jennifer, Ivor Sinfield and Charles Hawkes. 2000. *Civics Today*. Toronto: Irwin Publishing.

Summary: This textbook is 'approved learning material' for Ontario secondary students. There are sections on the electoral process and the history of the franchise in Canada. There is a brief discussion of the role of political parties and the party system in Canada. Of particular interest is a brief discussion of provincial legislatures. Each section is illustrated with informative charts, pictures and diagrams.

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

Ballington, Julia and Azza Karam (EDS). 2005. *Women in Parliament: Beyond the Numbers*. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Summary: This International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) document looks at women's participation in parliament. The authors consider the obstacles women face in getting elected and possible solutions are offered. (263 pages).

VOTER TURNOUT

IDEA. 1999. *Youth Voter Participation: Involving Today's Young in Tomorrow's Democracy*. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Summary: This International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) document explores the causes of low voter turnout among youth internationally and suggests practical ways to get youth involved and interested in politics. Some ideas include making it easier to register to vote, supporting educational initiatives on democracy, preparing mock elections for youth and lowering the voting age. (104 pages).

Pintor, Rafael Lopez and Maria Gratschew. 2002. *Voter Turnout Since 1945: A Global Report*. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Summary: This International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance document (IDEA) provides statistics related to voter turnout from over 170 countries and the more than 1600 elections that have taken place in those countries since 1945. Of particular note are the sections that deal with comparative statistics on electoral systems and those about women's and youth participation. (128 pages).