

## Arkansas Political Science Journal

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Manuscripts

Communications and manuscripts should be sent to the Editor, Box 1755, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas, 72302. Manuscripts should be placed in the form of the current *American Political Science Review* and should be sent in quadruplicate. All manuscripts are evaluated by three anonymous referees. Arkansas-related topics are preferred but not required.

Front cover by Brooks Green (University of Central Arkansas)



## In This Issue

The first article is a statistically-oriented approach to public policy analysis. Richard B. Webb (Texas Tech University) and Robert L. Savage (University of Arkansas at Fayetteville) in "Tax Equity: Environmental Influences on a Policy Outcome" analyze variables affecting distribution of property tax assessments in all 75 Arkansas counties. They employ principal components factor analysis with varimax rotation to derive seven unrelated orthogonal factors from 83 measures of urban, political, and social conditions. The factor scores of these seven factors are regressed on a measure of uniformity of property tax assessments. Webb and Savage find that political and social variables, as well as economic conditions, are important. In light of recent public policy research (e.g., Thomas Dye) findings of the importance of economic variables over political variables, Webb and Savages' work is especially noteworthy to political scientists and public administrators.

The second work is a more traditional Public Administration advocacy-analysis. R. Lawson Veasey (University of Central Arkansas) and W. David Moody (University of Houston) in "New Federalism: 2nd Edition," address the nature of devolutionary federalism as implemented by the Reagan Administration. The move toward cutback management types of policies on the federal level is designed to force the states to become more fiscally responsible. This work attempts to illustrate a possible response to the federal cutbacks by the state of Arkansas, principally in the area of taxation. The paper looks at several of the major sources of funding for the state suggesting where Arkansas may look for additional funding in order to make up for the federal aid shortfall. This work should be of interest to practitioners and academicians alike who are interested in intergovernmental relations or state and local finance.

The third article is an essay-analysis of the Arkansas General Assembly as a representative institution. Donald E. Whistler and Charles DeWitt Dunn (both University of Central Arkansas) conceptualize a legislative body as an accountable institution, in contrast to the longstanding Political Science tradition of thinking in terms of individual legislators and their constituents. Using data from surveys of the 1981 and 1983 General Assemblies, they find that the Arkansas state legislature does seem to meet criteria for legislative accountability. Weaknesses of this institutional representative conceptualization are offered. This article provides theoretically-oriented readers with a vital concern (the nature of representation) and practical readers with data on how the General Assembly operates.

In the research notes section, Deb Hilliard, a journalist, writes on "Financial Support for Women in Arkansas State Legislative Campaigns." She uses 664 finance contributions and expenditures' reports from 1982 primary and general elections for the state legislature. Hilliard writes that Arkansas state legislative campaigns are largely self-financed by both male and female candidates, though significantly more so by

women, who reported higher average contribution levels in both the primary and general House elections. Male candidates who raised more funds than their opponents won overwhelmingly, while females with higher campaign incomes than their opponents were also successful, but at a much lower rate. Once past the critical primary state, however, females were able to raise slightly more funds from other than their own funds than were males.

Arthur English (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) and John J. Carroll (Southeastern Massachusetts University) inquire into state constitutional conventions as recruitment vehicles for other elective offices and "seeding" a state with continually-attentive elites. A two-step mailed questionnaire and interview process was conducted in the 1969-70 and 1979-80 conventions. They find that convention service motivates some delegates to seek public office, but that their chances of winning depend upon factors unrelated to the convention. As to the matter of "seeding" continually-attentive elites, both conventions were followed by extraordinary supportive activities by the former delegates.

Robert Johnston and Mary Storey (both University of Arkansas at Little Rock) interviewed thirty of thirty-five Arkansas state senators in 1981. They overview the senators' views of their jobs, the benefits and costs of serving, unwritten norms of the Arkansas Senate, information sources and vote-cues, ethics and conflicts of interest, and the internal Senate power structure. The major assertion from this note is that senior senators have become very dominant within the Arkansas Senate's institutional structure, exercising power in a self-serving manner, while penalizing those who do not go along.