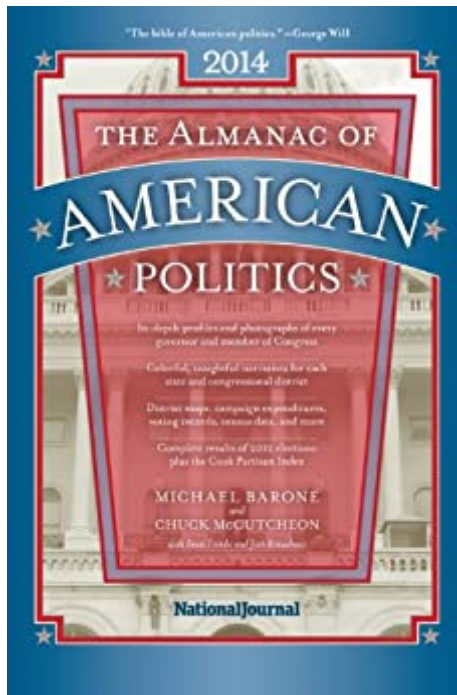


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The Almanac Of American Politics 2014



Synopsis

The Almanac of American Politics is the gold standard—the book that everyone involved, invested, or interested in American politics must have on their reference shelf. Continuing the tradition of accurate and up-to-date information, the 2014 almanac includes new and updated profiles of every member of Congress and every state governor. These profiles cover everything from expenditures to voting records, interest-group ratings, and, of course, politics. In-depth overviews of each state and house district are included as well, along with demographic data, analysis of voting trends, and political histories. The new edition contains Michael Barone's sharp-eyed analysis of the 2012 election, both congressional and presidential, exploring how the votes fell and what they mean for future legislation. The almanac also provides comprehensive coverage of the changes brought about by the 2010 census and has been reorganized to align with the resulting new districts. Like every edition since the almanac first appeared in 1972, the 2014 edition is helmed by veteran political analyst Michael Barone. Together with Chuck McCutcheon, collaborator since 2012, and two new editors, Sean Trende, senior elections analyst for RealClearPolitics, and Josh Kraushaar, managing editor at National Journal, Barone offers an unparalleled perspective on contemporary politics. Full of maps, census data, and detailed information about the American political landscape, the 2014 Almanac of American Politics remains the most comprehensive resource for journalists, politicians, business people, and academics.

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Customer Reviews

For a fan of The Almanac ever since the first edition, but who stopped buying it because of its price, the Kindle edition is very welcome. Structurally, the Kindle edition is not much different from the early print editions. It is an enormous undertaking. A political and statistical profile of 50 states and 435 Congressional districts comprising almost 400 million people joined to profiles of the politicians who represent them and govern them. If you want a detailed view of the United States, this is the best source. Michael Barone is the genius who created The Almanac. He is also a conservative political columnist. Do not let Barone's day job deter you from buying this book. In reading this book and earlier editions one can not tell what Barone's politics are. Barone knows that American politicians reflect those who elect them. As a conservative, he might share the view of Edmund Burke, father of modern conservatism, that, rather than be rubber stamps for their constituents, politicians should rely upon their own wisdom and experience to do what they perceive to be in the best interest of their constituents and the nation. That might have worked two centuries ago when it took a few days or even weeks for the electors of Bristol, England to find out what Burke was up to at Westminster over a hundred miles and a couple of days travel away, and the role of the national government was much smaller than it is today. It does not work in the age of the internet. Today, the politician who goes against the strongly held preferences of her constituents might not survive the next electoral cycle. If you want to know what that politician will do about a particular issue or if you want to run against her, start with this book and learn something about the people and the place that sent her to Congress. What are the demographics? What drives the local economy? How have they voted in recent elections? What is her background, her profession, her political history, and her ability to raise funds? Barone knows that very well and has always done a masterful job of laying this out. This reviewer has not read every word of this edition but has read about areas that he knows. In too many cases I got the impression that Barone, busy with his day job as a columnist, has turned over the writing of this book to a bunch of contracted graduate students who regurgitate a lot of clichés. That is why I withheld the fifth star. It would definitely be worth five stars if more

of Barone's political savvy were reflected in its pages. That said, one difference between politics in the 2010s and the 1970s when this book first appeared is that politics is at once both more national and less local in some ways but also more local in other ways. When this book first appeared, young men all over the country were forced to put their lives at risk in a war for dubious reasons, American citizens were quite legally denied the right to vote based on their race, women and ethnic minorities found entire sections of the economy quite legally closed to them, government decided who could and could not marry, and most high school students could not go on to college. Immigration laws quite frankly favored white northern Europeans, even to the extent that not enough white northern European immigrants were available to take up that opportunity while talented and industrious southern and eastern Europeans, Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans could not even think of emigrating to this country because the door was legally closed to them. Since then, Americans have become freer, more prosperous, more ethnically and racially diverse, and less parochial. In many cases it was strong action by the federal government, too often only when prodded by aroused citizens who took to the streets in protest, that brought this about. The politics and the issues today are national more than local, but people have sorted themselves into politically homogenous localities. Maybe Barone does not think that local detail is as important today as it was 40 years ago. Buy this book anyway, even if you are not a political junkie. Reading this book will give you a comprehensive overview of American society in all its diversity.

Extensive geographical and district write-ups as well as biographical and election results continue to make the book an invaluable resource! But I did not agree with the removal of election finance info. They were always a real snapshot of time. Like in the 1970's editions you can see how it was rare for candidates to spend more than \$200,000 each! Now you have over 15 million in some cases! I think that info should be brought back.

The Almanac is a must for political managers giving local background of districts and states plus the actual votes over the years.

You have a dictionary for vocabulary and spelling, AAP 2014 gives you references for all the 'inside the beltway' policies and processes. Great BRL if you are spending too much time there just contemplating.

An indispensable piece of reading if you're interested in politics. As others have noted I wish the

campaign spending portion would be brought back, it is always interesting to see just how much money gets spent in elections. The Kindle version is great, searching is super easy as always.

I get each new edition when it comes out every other year. There's nothing like it for understanding legislators, states, and districts. I was a little disappointed that some useful tables weren't in this edition, but it's still a wonderful book. Anyone interested in politics should own this.

I get it every time a new addition comes out. It not only informs you about politics but gives you a great over view of each district. It tells you what the people in each district are like and what is the good and bad sides of each town of any size.

Don't leave home without it! Honestly, you will learn more about the nation by reading the Almanac of American Politics than any other book. Have read every edition since the late 1970s. It just keeps getting better.

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