



AM GOV, 6th edition

Losco and Baker

Copyright 2020

ISBN: 1259912442 / 9781259912443

Overall Changes

AM GOV is a relatable, informative, and visual introduction to American politics. Designed with today's students in mind, AM GOV is a concise, magazine style program that teaches students how to think critically, and politically. With an emphasis on current events, AM GOV engages its readers through approachable content and digital tools that are proven to help students better understand and connect with the concepts and language used in the American government course.

AM GOV presents content in an approachable, meaningful way, designed to engage students.

Thinking It Through Activities: Our discussions at the American Government symposia conducted across the country, as well as survey feedback, made it clear that critical thinking is an essential skill for which instructors need additional support. Now with additional scaffolding, every chapter concludes with a "Thinking It Through" activity tied to a learning objective for the chapter that challenges students to go beyond the basics to think through a problem and formulate possible solutions. Examples include "Media and Political Campaigns" (Chapter 10) and "The Path to the Presidency" (Chapter 12).

Citizenship Quizzes: In these quizzes, students are invited to take the U.S. Citizenship Test to check their understanding of institutions such as the courts, behavior such as voting rights, and the number of amendments to the Constitution.

Current Controversy: These features examine controversial issues, ranging from "Attacks on Journalists and Journalism" (Chapter 10) to "Lower Federal Courts and the Travel Bans" (Chapter 14).

Challenges Ahead: These features examine the political challenges following the 2016 elections and beyond. Topics range from “The Changing American Identity” (Chapter 1) to “Cell Phones and Civil Liberties” (Chapter 4).

Global Perspectives: These features compare the United States to other nations by interpreting charts and graphs. Topics include “Changing Patterns of Political Participation” (Chapter 7) and “Defense Spending” (Chapter 16).

Chapter Changes

The authors revised the text in response to student heat map data that pinpointed the topics and concepts with which students struggle the most. This heat-map-directed revision is reflected primarily in Chapters 9, 11, 13, and 14.

Chapter 1—Citizenship in Our Changing Democracy

- Revised opening vignette, “Millennials: You’re in Charge Now: Where Will You Take Us?”
- New content on government surveillance and social media
- New poll results on power and influence in Washington
- Updated data on trust in national governments worldwide
- Expanded discussion of the nature and role of political ideologies
- Expanded coverage of the relationship between economic stratification and political engagement
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “The Changing American Identity”
- Expanded discussion of service learning programs
- New figure, “Freshman Class Survey: Essential or Very Important Personal Objectives”

Chapter 2—The Constitution: The Foundation of Citizens’ Rights

- New opening vignette, “Our Constitution: Time for a Change?”
- Expanded discussion of the Bill of Rights’ applicability to the states
- New “Current Controversy” feature, “An Arcane Provision Comes to Life,” addressing the emoluments clause and the Trump presidency

Chapter 3—Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power

- New opening vignette on sanctuary cities, “At Odds over Immigration”
- Revised discussion of the evolution of federalism
- New “Portrait of an Activist” feature, “Climate Change Activists”
- New “Challenges Ahead” feature, “A Clash of Wills: Cities Push Back on Preemption”

Chapter 4—Civil Liberties: Citizens’ Rights Versus Security

- New opening vignette on the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, “Civil Liberties Versus Civil Rights: A Sweet Dispute”
- Refined explanation of selective incorporation
- New coverage of the NFL football player protests and the right to free speech
- Updated coverage of the role of religion in American life, the relationship between religious and political affiliation, and the separation of church and state
- Updated coverage of campaign contributions as free speech
- Updated data on incarceration rates
- Updated search and seizure cases
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “Cell Phones and Civil Liberties: Can You Hear Me Now?”
- New “Current Controversy” feature, “More Than a Few Scraped Knees”

Chapter 5—Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry

- New opening vignette, “Sexual Assaults on College Campuses”
- Updated information on economic disparities between racial groups in America
- Updated information on perceptions of police and of racial privilege
- Revised explanation of judicial tests regarding discrimination
- Revised discussion of affirmative action, including recent court cases
- Revised coverage of Hispanic Americans, including population growth, college enrollment rates, and immigration
- Update coverage on same-sex marriage
- New “Challenges Ahead” feature, “Voter Suppression and the 2016 Election”
- Updated coverage of pay equity for women
- Updated coverage of sexual harassment

Chapter 6—Public Opinion

- New opening vignette, “Changing Tides of Public Opinion,” on the Obama voters who voted for Trump
- Updated discussion of partisan polarization and partisan clustering
- Updated coverage of the political divide between urban and rural residents
- Revised coverage of the accuracy of polling, including a new Challenges Ahead feature, “Is Polling in Crisis?”
- Updated discussion of trust in government in America
- Updated coverage of support for democratic values
- Revised discussion of ideological divisions, including ideological leanings by generation
- Revised discussion of deliberative polling
- New “Current Controversy” feature on opinion persistence

Chapter 7—Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices

- New opening vignette, “Millennials Rising,” on young mayors across the nation
- Updated coverage of factors related to political participation
- Updated information on factors affecting voter turnout
- Updated discussion of unconventional political participation, including a new “Global Perspectives” feature
- New “Portrait of an Activist” feature, “Allie Armstrong and the H-CAN Community Moms”

Chapter 8—Interest Groups in America

- New opening vignette, “The National Rifle Association and the Status Quo”
- New figure, “Lobbying Expenditures by the Pharmaceuticals and Health Products Industry”
- Coverage of lobbying and the Trump administration
- New figure, “Total Lobbying Spending and Number of Lobbyists”
- New content on the role of outside money and dark money in the 2016 election

Chapter 9—Parties and Political Campaigns: Putting Democracy into Action

- New opening vignette, “Separate Tables, Please,” on avoiding our partisan adversaries
- Revised explanation of the functions of political parties
- Updated discussion of partisan realignment and the partisan divide
- Updated coverage of campaign spending and campaign advertising
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “Tamping Down the Cost of Elections”

Chapter 10—Media: Tuning In or Tuning Out

- New opening vignette, “How to Restore Confidence,” addressing a recent study on trust in the media
- Updated coverage of differing news media habits across generations
- Updated discussion of the political divide in favored news sources, including a new figure

- Updated polls on the public perception of media bias, including data on the partisan divide on the issue
- New coverage of Facebook and the 2016 election
- Discussion of press coverage of the Trump administration
- New Current Controversy feature, “Attacks on Journalists and Journalism”

Chapter 11—Congress: Doing the People’s Business

- New opening vignette, “Last Man Standing,” on challenges to male dominance in Congress
- Complete coverage of 2018 midterm elections
- New Portrait of an Activist feature, “Meet Jonathan Castañeda” (former congressional staffer)
- Extensive revisions and updates to the section on congressional procedures
- Updated suggestions for improving the efficacy and public image of Congress

Chapter 12—The Presidency: Power and Paradox

- New opening vignette, “The Unprecedented President”
- Coverage of historical continuities and discontinuities of the Trump presidency throughout the chapter
- Analysis of electoral factors contributing to the Trump victory
- Coverage of how Trump exercises presidential powers including appointments, executive orders, diplomacy and foreign policy, and Trump’s legislative success record
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “It’s Two Minutes ‘til Midnight.”
- Analysis of Trump’s presidential style
- Coverage of Russian interference in the 2016 election and the role Facebook played

Chapter 13—Bureaucracy: Citizens as Owners and Consumers

- Updates throughout opening vignette, “Student Loans, Debt, and Bureaucracy”
- New Current Controversy feature, “The Special Counsel: Outside Regular Bureaucratic Boundaries”
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “The FCC and Net Neutrality”
- Updated examples of whistle-blowing and of judicial controls on bureaucratic power

Chapter 14—The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting

- New opening vignette, “The Tortuous Selection of a Supreme Court Justice,” on the appointment of Judge Gorsuch
- Refinements and clarifications throughout the section on Supreme Court decision making
- New Current Controversy feature, “Lower Federal Courts and the Travel Bans”
- Updated Challenges Ahead feature, “Confidence in the Supreme Court”

Chapter 15—Public Policy: Responding to Citizens

- Updated opening vignette, “The Widening Gap,” on income inequality
- Updates on greenhouse gas pollution
- Material on the Trump administration’s policies on the environment, poverty, health care, economics, and trade
- Updated statistics on poverty levels in America

Chapter 16—Foreign and Defense Policy: Protecting American Interests in the World

- New opening vignette, “Flight and Fight,” on the world refugee crisis
- Material on the Trump administration’s national security and foreign relations policies and procedures
- Updates on current world conflicts

Digital

- **Connect**[®]—The Connect Suite effectively engages students in the course so they are better prepared for class, more active in discussion, and achieve better results. Its innovative and adaptive technology addresses a wide variety of student and instructor needs with a rich database of assignable and assessable activities, each attached to learning objectives. Connect, part of the Connect suite, is a web-based assignment and assessment platform that features a number of powerful tools that make managing assignments easier for instructors and learning and studying more engaging and efficient for students.
- **Connect Insight**[™]—As part of the Connect Suite, Insight[™] puts real-time analytics in your hands so you can take action early and keep struggling students from falling behind. Designed for your tablet or desktop computer, Insight is a series of visual displays providing at-a-glance information regarding how your section, students, and assignments are doing.
- **SmartBook**—As part of the Connect Suite, SmartBook is the first and only adaptive reading and learning experience that changes the way students read. It creates a personalized, interactive reading environment like no other by highlighting important concepts, while helping students identify their strengths and weaknesses. This ensures that he or she is focused on the content needed to close specific knowledge gaps, while it simultaneously promotes long term learning.