List of Changes

The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy, 4th Edition
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Detailed List of Changes

The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy, 4e, combines concise content with effective digital tools that provide a personalized learning experience for every student. Built to align directly with state learning outcomes and core objectives, this highly readable program provides students with the content and tools to make Texas government relevant in their lives.

Chapter Changes

The Fourth Edition was revised in response to student heat map data that pinpointed the topics and concepts where students struggled the most. This was reflected primarily in the chapter on Public Policy in Texas.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Texas History and Politics

- Reduced the number of historical details
- Added information on diversity within Texas
- Updated political and economic information
- Added "How to Read a Map" feature

Chapter 2: The American Federal System and the Texas State Constitution

- Enhanced discussion of American Federalism
- Explained the connection between culture and constitutional history
- Highlighted characteristics common to state institutions
- Updated information on Navarro's legacy today and how it impacts us
- Added a "How to Read Critically" feature

Chapter 3: The Texas Legislature

- Reordered text to improve flow
- Reduced amount of detail
- Revised information on gerrymandering
- Included information on how students can find contact information for their own representatives
- Added "How to Think Critically about Issues" feature
- Updated political information, economic information, and research results

Chapter 4: The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas

- Enhanced discussion of governor's formal and informal powers
- Explained how race, class and gender play into the history of the Texas governorship
- Highlighted the role informal powers play in the governorship
- Updated the Focus Feature with 2018 Texas Governor's Race
- Added a "How to Interpret a Table" feature

Chapter 5: The Court System in Texas

- Enhanced discussion of Texas judicial selection
- Explained the role campaign finance plays in judicial elections and decision-making
- Highlighted the difference between civil and criminal procedures
- Updated the Focus Feature to include brief discussion of Hispanics on the Texas Supreme Court today
- Added a "How to Interpret Figures" feature

Chapter 6: The Criminal Justice System in Texas

- Added information on juvenile justice and the death penalty
- Updated research data and polling results
- Added "How to Locate Primary Sources" section, with a focus on Texas primary sources

Chapter 7: Local Governments in Texas

- Enhanced discussion of Types of Local Government
- Explained Municipal Elections in Texas
- Highlighted the issue of Voter Turnout
- Updated information on Special purpose districts
- Added a "How to Speak Effectively" feature

Chapter 8: Public Opinion and the Media in Texas

- Enhanced coverage on the Role of Public Opinion
- Explained the Functions of Media in Texas Politics
- Highlighted the Role of the Media in Texas Political Campaigns
- Updated information of the Various Sources of Media
- Added a "How to Interpret Polling Data" feature

Chapter 9: Voting and Political Participation in Texas

- Added an explanation of how wealth and political protests affect politics
- Added information on gerrymandering in Texas
- Streamlined information
- Added "How to Become Personally and Socially Responsible Citizens" feature

Chapter 10: Elections and Campaigns in Texas

- Enhanced coverage of the Election Process
- Explained Primary Elections
- Highlighted information on federal Voting Rights Act
- Updated data on Early Voting
- Added a "How to Get Involved with a Candidate or Issue" feature

Chapter 11: Political Parties in Texas

- Added specifics on voter fraud to make chapter livelier and easier to understand
- Included information on Texas women seeking the right to vote
- Included information on "white primaries" in Texas and on nonwhite people being excluded from voting
- Updated information on Texas political races
- Clarified information on the impact of third parties in Texas, including Raza Unida
- Included information on "bathroom bill" in Texas and on transgender citizens

Chapter 12: Interest Groups in Texas

- Added "How to Evaluate Sources" feature
- New "Understanding Impact" feature challenging students to think critically about the political process in which interest groups operate

- Updated map of right-to-work states and new photos.
- Enhanced discussion of Hispanic interest groups and recent challenges to Texas immigration law
- Updated data on labor union participation rates and lobbyists in Texas
- New examples of interest group activity

Chapter 13: Public Policy in Texas

- Added an introduction explaining what public policy is and why it matters to an individual student
- Revised and streamlined information on why and how public policy changes
- Revised information on policy liberalism indices to focus on Texas
- Streamlined chapter by reducing or deleting information on welfare policy, school curricula, sex education, water policy, and veteran policy
- Updated information on LGBTQ rights
- Updated information on border control
- Updated information on tuition costs at public universities in Texas and elsewhere in the United States
- Updated research results

Chapter 14: Financing State Government

- Enhanced coverage of Tax Equity
- Explained the principles of Taxation
- Highlighted new data on Tax Structures
- Updated data on Texas Expenditures
- Added a "How to Interpret a Graph" feature

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.

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