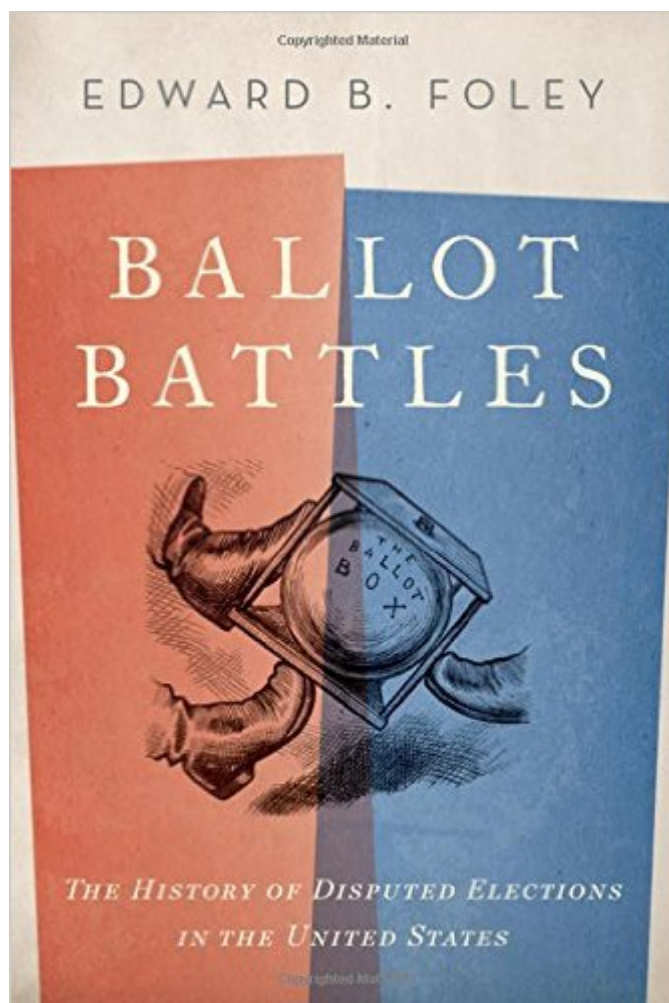


The book was found

# Ballot Battles: The History Of Disputed Elections In The United States



## Synopsis

The 2000 presidential race resulted in the highest-profile ballot battle in over a century. But it is far from the only American election determined by a handful of votes and marred by claims of fraud. Since the founding of the nation, violence frequently erupted as the votes were being counted, and more than a few elections produced manifestly unfair results. Despite America's claim to be the world's greatest democracy, its adherence to the basic tenets of democratic elections-the ability to count ballots accurately and fairly even when the stakes are high-has always been shaky. A rigged gubernatorial election in New York in 1792 nearly ended in calls for another revolution, and an 1899 gubernatorial race even resulted in an assassination. Though acts of violence have decreased in frequency over the past century, fairness and accuracy in ballot counting nonetheless remains a basic problem in American political life. In *Ballot Battles*, Edward Foley presents a sweeping history of election controversies in the United States, tracing how their evolution generated legal precedents that ultimately transformed how we determine who wins and who loses. While weaving a narrative spanning over two centuries, Foley repeatedly returns to an originating event: because the Founding Fathers despised parties and never envisioned the emergence of a party system, they wrote a constitution that did not provide clear solutions for high-stakes and highly-contested elections in which two parties could pool resources against one another. Moreover, in the American political system that actually developed, politicians are beholden to the parties which they represent - and elected officials have typically had an outsized say in determining the outcomes of extremely close elections that involve recounts. This underlying structural problem, more than anything else, explains why intense ballot battles that leave one side feeling aggrieved will continue to occur for the foreseeable future. American democracy has improved dramatically over the last two centuries. But the same cannot be said for the ways in which we determine who wins the very close races. From the founding until today, there has been little progress toward fixing the problem. Indeed, supporters of John Jay in 1792 and opponents of Lyndon Johnson in the 1948 Texas Senate race would find it easy to commiserate with Al Gore after the 2000 election. *Ballot Battles* is not only the first full chronicle of contested elections in the US. It also provides a powerful explanation of why the American election system has been-and remains-so ineffective at deciding the tightest races in a way that all sides will agree is fair.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 496 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (January 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0190235276

ISBN-13: 978-0190235277

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 1.5 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #587,335 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Â Books > Law >

Administrative Law > Urban, State & Local Government #679 in Â Books > Law > Legal History

#784 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political

Process > Elections

## Customer Reviews

I have long been a fan of the papers and other writings of Edward B. Foley of the Moritz College of Law. He writes extensively on the issues associated with close elections, how have been decided since the founding of the United States, and how the process might be improved. To me, it was a highly fascinating read that kept my interest through every page. It should be required reading for anyone interested in Election Integrity. As I would define it, Ballot Battles is focused on one component of election integrity, i.e. How close elections have been decided in the U.S., rather than if the vote counting itself was accurate. Foley's work is an important component of election integrity. Further along that vein we could say that Fair Elections go beyond Election Integrity to include fair voter eligibility, access to the polls, candidate access to the ballot, access to the press, and campaign financing etc. Ballot Battles follows close elections and the process for deciding the declared winner from 1781 through 2008. While Presidential races from 1800, 1876, and 2000 are important, many other races for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and Governors are just as important to history and the challenges remaining today. Reforms have been attempted after major controversies, yet as Foley shows they have been insufficient, including those after 2000. We remain vulnerable. As summarized at one point in Ballot Battles: "the 1960 presidential election must be viewed as a failure of American government to operate as a well-functioning democracy."

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Ballot Battles: The History of Disputed Elections in the United States Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections): The Battles That Define America from Jefferson's Heresies to Gay Marriage Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections

The Cthulhu Wars: The United States? Battles Against the Mythos (Dark Osprey) The Presidential Debates: Issues and Questions for the 2016 Elections and Beyond General Elections 1976: The Grenada Chronicles (Volume 8) Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government (Princeton Studies in Political Behavior) American History: The People & Events that Changed American History (People's History, American, United States of America, American Revolution, Patriot, United States History Book 1) Scott 2017 Specialized United States Postage Stamp Catalogue (Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps) Handbook of United States Coins 2017: The Official Blue Book, Paperback Edition (Handbook of United States Coins (Paper)) With the Help of God and a Few Marines: The Battles of Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood (Illustrated) O God of Battles THE BATTLES: 6 Special Ops Romance Bundle Scott 2017 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1: A-B: United States, United Nations & Countries of the World (A-B) (Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue: Vol.1: U.S., Countri) Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 2016: United States and Affiliated Territories United Nations: Countries of the World A-B (Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Vol 1 Us and Countries A-B) Deculturalization and the Struggle for Equality: A Brief History of the Education of Dominated Cultures in the United States (Sociocultural, Political, and Historical Studies in Education) Nicaragua Early History: Precolonial Period, Colonial Period, United States Intervention History of Gulf States, Persian people,: Persian people, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirate History of Persian Gulf States, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirat: Government, Politics, Economy, Defense, Resources, People

[Dmca](#)