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M. Dane Waters

President, Initiative and Referendum Institute

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This book will provide readers with information on how to use the initiative process in their states and contains a simple checklist of the major steps that an initiative proponent should be aware of when using the initiative process.

The appendix contains a complete listing of every statewide initiative that has appeared on the ballot since 1904; a complete listing of all the popular and legislative referenda that have appeared on the ballot since 1998; and other charts and graphs tracking the usage of the initiative and referendum process since its adoption in 1898.

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“This uniquely comprehensive volume provides a wealth of invaluable information about the initiative and referendum process in the United States. The volume combines detailed information about the constitutional and statutory bases of initiative and referendum usage in all fifty states; descriptions of the major court decisions and legislative attempts to regulate the process; comparisons of I&R provisions across the states; and scholarly analyses of some of the main theoretical debates concerning its use. This is certain to be a critical resource for academics, policy analysts, advocates, lawmakers, citizens, the media—indeed, anyone interested in this increasingly important method of citizen lawmaking.”

–Elisabeth R. Gerber, Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan

“The initiative and referendum mechanisms are two of the jewels of American democracy. They have been the tools to usher in critically important reforms in society, and they serve to excite and engage the electorate. This almanac provides a detailed roadmap on the history and workings of this important process. I recommend it for any person interested in politics in America.”

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