

In 2006, Congress reauthorized the “crown jewel” of civil rights legislation: the Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act outlawed discriminatory practices that blocked minorities’ access to the ballot and required certain states, counties, and towns to take additional measures to make voting accessible to disenfranchised communities. In 2005, the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law commissioned research from a range of scholars on portions of the act that were set to expire. The interdisciplinary fruits of that research were provided to Congress during the reauthorization debate in 2006, and are now available to the public in this cutting-edge volume. These studies bring legal analysis, and the insights of quantitative social science, to bear on some of the most important questions raised by the Voting Rights Act: has the Voting Rights Act improved minority voters’ access to government? have jurisdictions complied with its requirements? should the expiring provisions have been reauthorized? The studies will aid courts and advocates in defending the Voting Rights Act from legal challenges and will remind supporters of this most fundamental piece of civil rights legislation why it continues to be a vital safeguard for minority political empowerment.

**About the Editor**

Ana Henderson is the Voting Rights Fellow at Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley School of Law. Prior to joining the Warren Institute, she enforced the Voting Rights Act and other federal civil rights statutes as a trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.



Voting Rights Act Reauthorization of 2006

Henderson

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## Voting Rights Act

### Reauthorization of 2006:

Perspectives on  
Democracy,  
Participation,  
and Power

**Ana Henderson, Editor**

Foreword by Christopher Edley, Jr.