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The third edition of America Votes! Challenges to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights will make an excellent acquisition for any academic, firm, or county law library collection. The timeliness of the subject matter makes the book a necessary addition to the collections of academic law libraries and the book may serve as a starting point for researchers who wish to delve further into the topics discussed therein. In the Introduction, attorney and member of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Election Law Advisory Commission, Thurgood Marshall Jr., notes that America Votes! is accessible to both laypeople and experts due to its material regarding basic tenets of election law and suggestions for government officials and policy makers. For this edition, a variety of contributors including professors, practicing attorneys, and directors of organizations that seek to promote civic engagement have written about the history and future of developments within election administration processes, the Voting Rights Act, voter suppression, and challenges of redistricting.

The book begins with Ann Ravel’s overview of the origin and purpose of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) in which she highlights recent case law regarding the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 and details where the FEC has fallen short. As the book progresses, contributing authors note a variety of issues within election law such as how restrictive photo ID laws have affected voters, the disenfranchisement of people with criminal convictions, and allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections.

Throughout the book, contributing authors have ended their chapters with possible solutions to challenges in the field of election law and presented how various jurisdictions have handled these challenges. For example, in the chapter entitled Language Assistance to Voters, Terry Ao Minnis discusses Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, which touches on how jurisdictions have populations that could benefit from language assistance, yet are not covered by Section 203, can assist these populations in exercising their right to vote. Minnis notes that in Beverly Hills, California, where there is a population of voters who speak Farsi, the City has provided ballots and other voting materials in Farsi. Tova Wang points out that the disenfranchisement of people with criminal convictions is not as publicized by the media as other forms of disenfranchisement, however six million people in the United States are not allowed to vote due to their criminal convictions. Wang sees the lifting of restrictions on voting for those with criminal convictions in
Virginia and Delaware as a step forward. Wang also notes that another way to make sure that more people are registered to vote is through automatic registration at state departments of motor vehicles as is the practice in Oregon, the first state to implement this measure.

As the title suggests, the book focuses on election law in the United States, however Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Canada’s former chief electoral officer, and Nancy G. Abudu, legal director of the ACLU of Florida, introduce aspects of comparative law in the Foreword and the chapter entitled Immigration, Voting Rights, and Electoral Access, respectively. Kingsley’s brief summary of the electoral system in Canada and Abudu’s mentioning of jurisdictions that allow noncitizens to vote such as the European Union, Bolivia, and Colombia add a global perspective.

The Summary of Contents, Contents (which includes headings within the individual chapters), Table of Cases, and Index all provide page numbers that facilitate readers’ finding of major sections, case law, and key terms within the book. The contributing authors have documented their sources very well. Each chapter ends with an extensive list of notes. Hopefully, there will be a future edition of this book which will address the Voting Rights Act, voter suppression, and challenges of redistricting after the 2016 presidential election.

Review by Latia Ward, Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor, Indiana Tech Law School, Fort Wayne, Indiana. llward@indianatech.edu

DIGITAL EXTRA "Leveraging E-records Peer Pressure: One Library's Experience" | AALL Spectrum | May/June 2016 | Volume 20, Number 5

Leveraging E-records Peer Pressure: One Library's Experience

Created by: Carol Ottolenghi, Pari Swift, Nathan Owens, and Angie Crandall

Like many government agencies and public universities, the Ohio Attorney General's Office (AGO) is required by statute to have a records manager with attendant policies and retention schedules. Unfortunately, statutory requirements and universal acceptance are not synonymous. In fact, librarians may be the only people within an organization who truly understand the value of organized, well-weeded records.

The AGO records management team is nothing if not tenacious (they are librarians, after all). With time and guidance, many of the AGO practice groups developed records processes specific to their needs, which has led records, data services, and the library to tap into the AGO staff's competitive nature. With senior