

Editor's Forward

It is my pleasure to present Volume V, Number 1 (Fall 2010) of *The New England Journal of Political Science*. This issue is my first as editor-in-chief, and I hope that readers will deem it on par with the fine issues that have preceded it. I wish to thank the members of the Editorial Board and the executive officers and the Executive Council of the New England Political Science Association for their faith in and support of my editorship. I hope to demonstrate that their decision to install me as editor was a wise one.

This issue features three articles and six state and province reports. David Shock of Kennesaw State University opens the issue with an examination of the largely ignored but critically important matter of discretionary authority on the part of local school districts in the United States. Kris Aaron Beck and Prathibha Joshi—both of Gordon College—follow with an in-depth consideration of tyranny that takes on heightened relevance given recent global events. This issue's final article is a thoughtful analysis of the question of citizenship in early American romance literature by Darrell Driver and Helen McGuire-Driver, both of the American Public University System. Howard Cody of the University of Maine opens the State and Province Reports section with his analysis of the current political climate in Maine, and is followed by Jerold Duquette's (Central Connecticut State University) analysis of Massachusetts, Martin Lubin's (SUNY Plattsburgh) discussion of Québec politics, and Paul Petterson's (Central Connecticut State University) analysis of the current politics of Connecticut and a look at New Hampshire and Vermont in tandem. Maureen Moakley (University of Rhode Island) closes the state and province reports with her evaluation of politics in Rhode Island.

A number of individuals have been of invaluable assistance in putting this issue together. My thanks go first and foremost to founding editor Jim McHugh of the University of Akron. Jim's guidance has been centrally important as I settle into my role as editor, and his patience in breaking in a rookie editor is much appreciated. NEPSA President Howard Reiter of the University of Connecticut has been very supportive of the Journal, and has been very helpful to me in my duties. The same is true of NEPSA Treasurer Joe Reisert of Colby College. This issue could not have come together without the hard work and careful eye of the Journal's new copyeditor, Tess Marchant-Shapiro of Southern Connecticut State

University. The State Reports section of the Journal that so many readers highly value (justifiably so) is the baby of State and Province Reports Editor Paul Petterson of Central Connecticut State University. Paul and I wish to thank all of our State and Province Reports contributors, and warmly welcome Martin Lubin as the new Report contributor on the Canadian Province of Québec, which from this point forward will be a regular feature in the Journal. Technical Advisor Odeh Halaseh of the University of Mount Union has been highly valuable in the actual production of the Journal and Editorial Assistants Margaret Payne and Kevin Price, both of the University of Maine, have been essential in assisting with the day-to-day operations of the Journal. Chris Bosso of Northeastern University also deserves much thanks for continuing to provide the Journal with its online home. I am also happy to note that the Library of Congress recently began archiving scholarly materials that are disseminated in digital-only formats, and that the Journal was one of the first works requested by the LOC. You should be able to find us there very soon.

I have very much enjoyed producing my first issue of *The New England Journal of Political Science* and I hope that you enjoy reading it. My aim is to continue Jim McHugh's vision of the Journal providing for a sense of a regional community of political science, and also to expand the Journal's reach beyond the borders of New England. I very much want the Journal to be a venue for high quality pieces of critical thought and inquiry across all the subfield of political science. Toward achieving this goal I encourage you to consider submitting your work to the Journal, and also to urge your colleagues and students to do the same. A journal is only as good as the scholars who contribute to it, and therefore the success of *The New England Journal of Political Science* going forward ultimately lies with you.

Mark D. Brewer
University of Maine