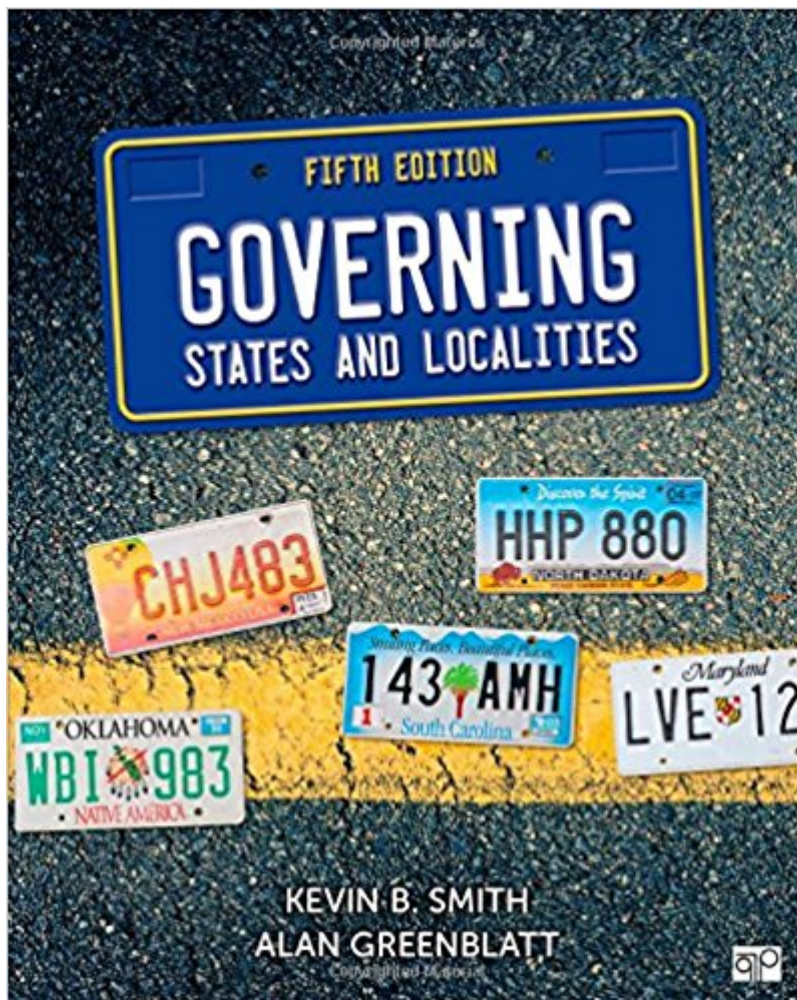


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# Governing States And Localities



## Synopsis

Federal-state relations remain contentious as states continue to face stark choices over funding and public services seven years after the start of a recession that's been slow to end. The worst of the economic hardships appear to have passed, but state and local budgets continue to be tight. The new edition of *Governing States and Localities* continues its focus on economic and budget pressures as they play an important role in the issues facing states and localities concerned with charting a path for the future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Smith and Greenblatt engage students with their seamless integration of contemporary political and policy issues. *Governing States and Localities* presents the material in an accessible manner that ensures that students understand the core concepts yet are also challenged to consider more advanced theoretical puzzles." -- Jennifer Clark "Governing States and Localities is a great introduction to the fascinating study of state politics and policies. It employs an unpretentious reportorial style and includes interesting examples and illustrations that reflect the amazing diversity of the states as well as their successes and challenges." -- David H. Folz "I am very impressed with *Governing States and Localities*. It contains up-to-date scholarship on state and local politics and presents material in a highly engaging manner. The organization and writing are excellent." -- Patricia Freeland "Governing States and Localities is a better-written and more accessible book [compared to the competition] for college undergraduates. It does a great job of explaining and

clarifying core concepts and its graphics are decidedly superior. Bright colors jump off the page and captivate readers with useful and insightful information." -- Adam Butz, "This is my go-to book. It challenges students but is also a book that they can actually read and understand. Smith and Greenblatt integrate and reinforce the comparative method throughout the text, and students come away absolutely certain that we can learn about democracy by studying the various differences that exist between states." -- Joel Turner "Governing States and Localities is the gold standard for state government textbooks, with others struggling to keep up." -- Stephen Yoder

Kevin B. Smith is professor and chair of the political science department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has been studying and teaching state politics and policy for more than twenty years. He has authored or co-authored nine books and dozens of scholarly articles, and is a former associate editor of *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*. Prior to becoming an academic he covered state and local politics as a newspaper reporter. Alan Greenblatt, a reporter at NPR, has been writing about politics and government in Washington and the states for more than a decade. He won the National Press Club's Sandy Hume award for political journalism while reporting for *Congressional Quarterly*. During his years at *Governing* magazine, he covered issues of concern to state and local governments, including budgets, taxes, and higher education. Along the way, he has written about politics and culture for numerous other publications, including the *Washington Post* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Exactly the book I needed for my political science class.

the author failed to mention FL secy of State Harris, of bush v gore fame.

Good

Very happy

The book, and its companion website, contain numerous errors.1. page 128: mis-defining what a blanket primary is.2. page 121: falsely stating "Less than half the voting-age population cast ballots in presidential elections." checking 2016, 2012, 2008, 2004: VAP averages about 55%, never below 54%, and VEP averages 59%3. page 121, reporting that California and Colorado have held secession votes recently. Online publisher quiz marking that FALSE. ch4 on finances, a question on

per capita income tax not having the correct answer, per the book. (most problematic of the online quiz questions: the picayune details, rather than straight up inaccuracy).4. page 108, regarding 1996 Welfare Reform: "Most liberals predicted such welfare 'reform' would result in disaster. Instead, the number of people on welfare rolls declined dramatically." The second sentence is not a contradiction of the first: rolls declined dramatically AND the percent of children living in serious poverty has increased. Liberals probably do see that as a disaster.5. Greenblatt is a journalist, and that infuses the text in the best and worst ways. Sometimes readable, sometimes annoyingly repetitious, and sometimes flat-out interfering with meaning: page 69, speaking of the Supreme Court "tossing out" a ruling, which one might think is overruling or disqualifying. Nope: they mean it as "handing down."6. Treatment of federalism is unnecessarily recursive: one section on "time periods," another on the role of the supreme court. why not merge them, since interpretation of commerce clause and 10th amendment, for instance, really mattered 1895-1935. Of course, there is no context for this anyway, since there is no mention of either of these as limiting the national government in this time. Hence, mention of Wickard in the next period is without context.7. Map 1-4, page 17, is mislabeled as "Number of Government Employees by State, 2012". it is number per capita. Small thing, but I had to check, as the number just didn't make sense.8. After characterizing the Tenth Amendment correctly in ch2, in ch 3 they write "As the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution makes clear *all* powers not *expressly* delegated...." They join Chief Justice Day, in Hammer v. Dagenhart, in misreading the amendment. ("all" is italicized. I flag "expressly" to show this egregious error).Had enough? I have, and I am only in the early part of chapter 5.

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