

Politics of the Administrative Process

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Looking closely at policymaking and politics, this sixth edition has been substantially updated to provide readers with up-to-date research, data and case studies on the US administrative process.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Politics of the Administrative Process stands out among other competing textbooks for its clarity, comprehensiveness, and coverage. It tackles the issue of government accountability in a direct way, but also has a positive, upbeat tone toward public service, which is important for today's students, many of whom question the value of public service. Other public administration textbooks are dry and uninteresting but this book works better for my students, due to the clear, straightforward writing style and illustrative case studies. Students like real-life examples, and the case studies really bring the more abstract discussions to life and are an important part of helping to meet our teaching and learning objectives. Many texts also ignore or downplay discussion of state and local governments, but Kettl's coverage is robust, and incorporates numerous state and local examples. I particularly like the last section that puts public administration into the context of the rules, processes, and politics of our democratic system- the text's emphasis on politics is one of its most attractive aspects for me." -- John Klemanski "The approach that Donald Kettl takes in Politics of the Administrative Process really stands out as a very appealing aspect of the book, especially the perspective that the government is working for the people and is involved in our lives on a daily basis, rather than being a distant and formal monolith. The placement of accountability and ethics as the first chapter also effectively sets the stage for the rest for the book. The excellent case studies at the end of each chapter are one of the text's key strengths, covering a variety of topics that are grounded in actual events, instead of generic scenarios. Kettl also makes an effort to help students connect with the book by discussing events that they can relate to, such as the Boston Marathon bombing, and placing them into the context of the themes of the text." -- Kurt Fenske "Politics of the Administrative Process is truly a comprehensive text. Donald Kettl is a well-known scholar who is very knowledgeable on the role of administration in policy formation and implementation, and he is able to condense a great deal of information and present it in a way that is relatively easy for students to follow. Kettl's book is effectively organized, and focuses on the core issues and concepts of public administration, including important topics like accountability and bureaucratic reform. The book also includes strong pedagogical aids, with very clear and helpful tables, figures, and charts, and useful end-of-chapter elements." -- Patricia Freeland "One of the key strengths of The Politics of the Administrative Process is its organization; the book opens and closes on the theme of accountabilityfitting bookends to the topics in-between. The case studies at the end of each chapter are exceptional, providing the basis for many interesting classroom discussions and thoughtful written assignments. Overall, Politics is very engaging and accessible to students." -- Neal Buckwalter

About the Author

Donald F. Kettl is Dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Prior to his appointment, he was the Robert A. Fox Leadership Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Professor of Political Science. Kettl is the author of numerous books, including The Next Government of the United States: Why Our Institutions Fail Us and How to Fix Them, The Global Public Management Revolution, and Leadership at the Fed. Kettl has twice won the Louis Brownlow Award for the best book in public administration, for The Transformation of Governance: Public Administration for Twenty-first Century America in 2003 and System under Stress: Homeland Security and American Politics in 2005. In 2008, he was awarded the John Gaus Award of the American Political Science Association for lifetime contributions to the scholarship in the joint tradition of political science and public administration. Kettl has consulted broadly for government organizations and is a regular columnist for Governing magazine.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Wild:

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