

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784316803321
Autore	Bensel Richard Franklin <1949->
Titolo	The American ballot box in the mid-nineteenth century // Richard Franklin Bensel [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2004
ISBN	1-107-14834-0 1-280-54084-2 0-511-21428-6 0-511-21607-6 0-511-21070-1 0-511-31501-5 0-511-60672-9 0-511-21247-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 302 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	324.973/07
Soggetti	Voting - United States - History - 19th century Elections - United States - History - 19th century United States Politics and government 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Preface; 1 Introduction; 2 Structure and Practice of Elections; 3 Social Construction of Identity in Eastern Rural Communities; 4 Ethno-Cultural Stereotypes and Voting in Large Cities; 5 Frontier Democracy; 6 Loyalty Oaths, Troops, and Elections during the Civil War; 7 Conclusion; Index
Sommario/riassunto	During the middle of the nineteenth century, Americans voted in saloons in the most derelict sections of great cities, in hamlets swarming with Union soldiers, or in wooden cabins so isolated that even neighbors had difficulty finding them. Their votes have come down to us as election returns reporting tens of millions of officially sanctioned democratic acts. Neatly arrayed in columns by office, candidate, and party, these returns are routinely interpreted as reflections of the preferences of individual voters and thus seem to

unambiguously document the existence of a robust democratic ethos. By carefully examining political activity in and around the polling place, this book suggests some important caveats which must attend this conclusion. These caveats, in turn, help to bridge the interpretive chasm now separating ethno-cultural descriptions of popular politics from political economic analyses of state and national policy-making.
