

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820952703321
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Titolo	A unified theory of voting : directional and proximity spatial models // Samuel Merrill III, Bernard Grofman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, UK ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 1999
ISBN	1-107-11842-5 0-511-30208-8 1-280-42091-X 0-511-15179-9 0-521-66222-2 0-511-04893-9 0-511-60586-2 0-511-17289-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 213 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Altri autori (Persone)	GrofmanBernard
Disciplina	324.9182/1
Soggetti	Voting Social choice Voting - United States Voting - Norway Voting - France
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 (p. 196-206) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; Contents; List of Tables and Figures; Acknowledgments; CHAPTER 1 Introduction; CHAPTER 2 Alternative Models of Issue Voting; CHAPTER 3 A Unified Model of Issue Voting: Proximity, Direction, and Intensity; CHAPTER 4 Comparing the Empirical Fit of the Directional and Proximity Models for Voter Utility Functions; CHAPTER 5 Empirical Model Fitting Using the Unified Model: Voter Utility; CHAPTER 6 Empirical Fitting of Probabilistic Models of Voter Choice in Two-Party Electorates; CHAPTER 7 Empirical Fitting of Probabilistic Models of Voter Choice in Multiparty Electorates CHAPTER 8 Equilibrium Strategies for Two-Candidate Directional Spatial Models; CHAPTER 9 Long-Term Dynamics of Voter Choice and

Party Strategy; CHAPTER 10 Strategy and Equilibria in Multicandidate Elections; CHAPTER 11 Strategy under Alternative Multicandidate Voting Procedures; POSTSCRIPT Taking Stock of What's Been Done and What Still Needs to Be Done; Appendices; Glossary of Symbols; References; Index

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Sommario/riassunto

This book addresses the questions: how do voters use their own issue positions and those of candidates to decide how to vote? Does a voter tend to choose the candidate who most closely shares the views of the voter or rather a candidate who holds more extreme views due to the fact that the voters discount the candidates' abilities to implement policy. The authors develop a unified model that incorporates these and other voter motivations and assess its empirical predictions - for both voter choice and candidate strategy - in the US, Norway, and France. The analyses show that a combination of proximity, direction, discounting, and party ID are compatible with the mildly but not extremely divergent policies that are characteristic of many two-party and multiparty electorates. All of these motivations are necessary to understand the linkage between candidate issue positions and voter preferences.

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