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Titolo	When the letter betrays the spirit : voting rights enforcement and African American participation from Lyndon Johnson to Barack Obama / / Tyson D. King-Meadows
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (374 p.)
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Soggetti	African Americans - Suffrage - History United States Politics and government 1945-1989 United States Politics and government 1989-
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : Congressional authority and voting rights enforcement -- pt. 1. A retrospective and prospective look at the Voting Rights Act: Why discretion matters in voting rights enforcement ; Obama's inheritance: the Johnson framework, the VRA, and faith in federal power -- pt. 2. The challenge to congressional authority: Misdirection : political theatre and the 2006 reauthorization of section 5 ; Partisan spoils of office : a post-Shaw judicial philosophy of civic literacy ; Is "Bull Connor" dead? : contemporary public opinion on voting rights policy ; A battle of principals : Congress, the DOJ, and the George W. Bush Administration -- pt. 3. A systems theory approach to enforcement: The macro-political context shaping enfranchisement, 2000-2008 ; Conclusion : regulating discretion and the challenge of post-racial politics.
Sommario/riassunto	Drawing from government data, legislative history, Supreme Court decisions, survey results, and the 2006 reauthorization debate, When the Letter Betrays the Spirit examines how executive and judicial discretion facilitates violations of the Voting Rights act. Connecting

Johnson to Obama, the book challenges the executive-centered model of leadership and proffers a Congress-centered approach to protecting voting rights. This approach would both satisfy the goals of the black civil rights movement and give fuller support to the Fifteenth Amendment.

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