

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910968002703321
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Titolo	Local redistribution and local democracy : interest groups and the courts / / Clayton P. Gillette
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2011
ISBN	9786613150622 9781283150620 128315062X 9780300171822 030017182X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xiii, 235 p
Disciplina	339.20973
Soggetti	Distribution (Economic theory) Local government - United States Local finance - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The scope of local competence -- Why does local autonomy matter? -- The meaning and scope of local redistribution -- Why do local governments redistribute? -- Local political markets and state constitutional constraints -- Proxies for distinguishing benign and malign redistribution -- The limits of judicial intervention -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	The traditional theory of urban finance argues against local redistribution of wealth on the assumption that such action is likely to chase away the relatively wealthy, leaving only the impoverished behind. Nevertheless, Clayton P. Gillette observes, local governments engage in substantial redistribution, both to the wealthy and to the poor. In this thoughtful book, Gillette examines whether recent campaigns to enact "living wage" ordinances and other local redistributive programs represent gaps in the traditional theory or political opportunism. He then investigates the role of the courts in distinguishing between these explanations. The author argues that courts have greater capacity to review local programs than is typically

assumed. He concludes that when a single interest group dominates the political process, judicial intervention to determine a program's legal validity may be appropriate. But if the political contest involves competing groups, courts should defer to local political judgments.
