

ESTABLISHING THE RULES OF THE GAME:  
ELECTION LAWS IN DEMOCRACIES

Election laws vary greatly across contemporary democratic societies. In *Establishing the Rules of the Game*, Louis Massicotte, André Blais, and Antoine Yoshinaka provide the first thorough examination of these laws. The study incorporates original data collected from more than sixty democracies around the world. The authors focus on six dimensions of election laws: the right to vote, the right to be a candidate, the electoral register, the agency in charge of the election, the procedure for casting votes, and the procedure to sort out the winners and losers.

Massicotte, Blais, and Yoshinaka uncover underlying patterns in election laws, explaining why certain types of countries tend to adopt particular sets of rules. For instance, the study demonstrates that former colonies generally adopt laws that are similar to those of their former mother country, and that established democracies tend to be more inclusive than non-established ones. The authors point out demographic patterns and review normative and practical arguments for and against each set of rules, providing invaluable insights into the electoral process and democratic theory.

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# Establishing the Rules of the Game

## Election Laws in Democracies

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