



# Democracy and Political Ignorance

Why Smaller Government Is Smarter

Ilya Somin

September 2013 | 288pp

9780804786614 | Paperback | £21.95 / €26.00

9780804786089 | Hardback | £69.95 / €82.00

One of the biggest problems with modern democracy is that most of the public is usually ignorant of politics and government. Often, many people understand that their votes are unlikely to change the outcome of an election and don't see the point in learning much about politics. This may be rational, but it creates a nation of people with little political knowledge and little ability to objectively evaluate what they do know.

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endorsements

- Mines the depths of ignorance in America and reveals the extent to which it is a major problem for democracy.
- Weighs various options for solving this problem, arguing that political ignorance is best mitigated and its effects lessened by decentralizing and limiting government.
- Provocatively argues that people make better decisions when they choose what to purchase in the market or which state or local government to live under, than when they vote at the ballot box, because they have stronger incentives to acquire relevant information and to use it wisely.

## About the Author:

**Ilya Somin** is Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law. Somin's work has appeared in numerous academic journals. He has published widely in popular press outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal OpinionJournal.com*. He has been quoted and interviewed by *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *BBC*.

Law / Political Science

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