Contents

List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xiv
I The Mandate Process	1
1. Choosing Governments or Identifying Preferences? The Role	1
of Elections in Democracy	3
2. Mandate Theories: Government and Median	19
3. Communicating Preferences: The Public Policy Space	30
4. Research Questions for Comparative Investigation	49
II The Electoral Process	59
5. Choices Parties Offer	61
6. Mandates Without Obvious Majorities?	91
7. Representing the Median Voter	116
III The Governing Process	139
8. Who Controls Short-Term Policymaking?	141
9. From Declared to Actual Policy: Short-Term Influences on	
Government Policies	154
IV The Democratic Process	169
10. Long-Term Policy Regimes: Incrementalism Put in Context	171
11. Fluctuating Political Forces	181
12. Politics and Policy Regimes: Setting a Long-Term Equilibrium	203
13. Unifying Theories of Democracy Through the Median Mandate	227
Bibliography	243
Index	253

Contents

List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xiv
I The Mandate Process	1
1. Choosing Governments or Identifying Preferences? The Role	
of Elections in Democracy	3
2. Mandate Theories: Government and Median	19
3. Communicating Preferences: The Public Policy Space	30
4. Research Questions for Comparative Investigation	49
II The Electoral Process	59
5. Choices Parties Offer	61
6. Mandates Without Obvious Majorities?	91
7. Representing the Median Voter	116
III The Governing Process	139
8. Who Controls Short-Term Policymaking?	141
9. From Declared to Actual Policy: Short-Term Influences on	
Government Policies	154
IV The Democratic Process	169
10. Long-Term Policy Regimes: Incrementalism Put in Context	171
11. Fluctuating Political Forces	181
12. Politics and Policy Regimes: Setting a Long-Term Equilibrium	203
13. Unifying Theories of Democracy Through the Median Mandat	e 227
Bibliography	243
Index	253