

democratic theorists, but I do claim that changes in the past half-century have cumulated to strip away much of the insulation from political and institutional processes.¹⁷ The political system today is far more exposed to popular pressures than was the case at midcentury.¹⁸ Consider a partial listing of the changes.

In the electoral arena, John Kennedy entered a few primaries in 1960 to demonstrate to party professionals who controlled the delegates that a Catholic could win in Protestant states. Four years later Barry Goldwater's "purist" or "amateur" supporters rolled over the Republican establishment in the caucuses and primaries, and George McGovern's followers did the same on the Democratic side in 1972.¹⁹ While the parties declined, the advantage of incumbency in congressional elections surged. The literature began to use the terms "candidate-centered" politics and "entrepreneurial" politics to describe the new reality of candidates communicating directly with constituencies rather than relying on the traditional party organizations and encompassing interest groups.

On the institutional side Congress made its proceedings—both committee and floor—more public in the early 1970s. Judicial processes were opened up by expanded rules of standing promulgated from within, as well as by legislation giving citizens greater access to the courts.²⁰ Similarly, bureaucratic processes were opened up, both by new legislation mandating expanded public notice and participation and by the aforementioned actions of the courts. At the local level, "maximum feasible participation" was the watchword of the 1960s, and ensuing decades saw the proliferation of local government bodies such as planning boards, resource boards, and so forth—many of them filled by volunteers.²¹ Concord's NRC is one of thousands of similar bodies created since the 1960s.

In political science jargon, these are changes on the supply side of the political system—office-holders and institutions that supply public policies are far more exposed to popular pressure today than a generation ago.

17. Well-known works in the participatory democratic tradition include Barber (1984) and Pateman (1970).

18. This is the organizing theme of a textbook, *The New American Democracy* (1998) that I have written with Paul Peterson. The book provides a comprehensive survey of the changes.

19. James Q. Wilson distinguished "amateurs" from "professionals" in his 1962 work *The Amateur Democrat*. The term "purist" seems to have come into common use in the mid-1960s, especially in connection with the Goldwater campaign.

20. For a detailed discussion see Stewart (1975).

21. Burns (1991) documents these local government trends.