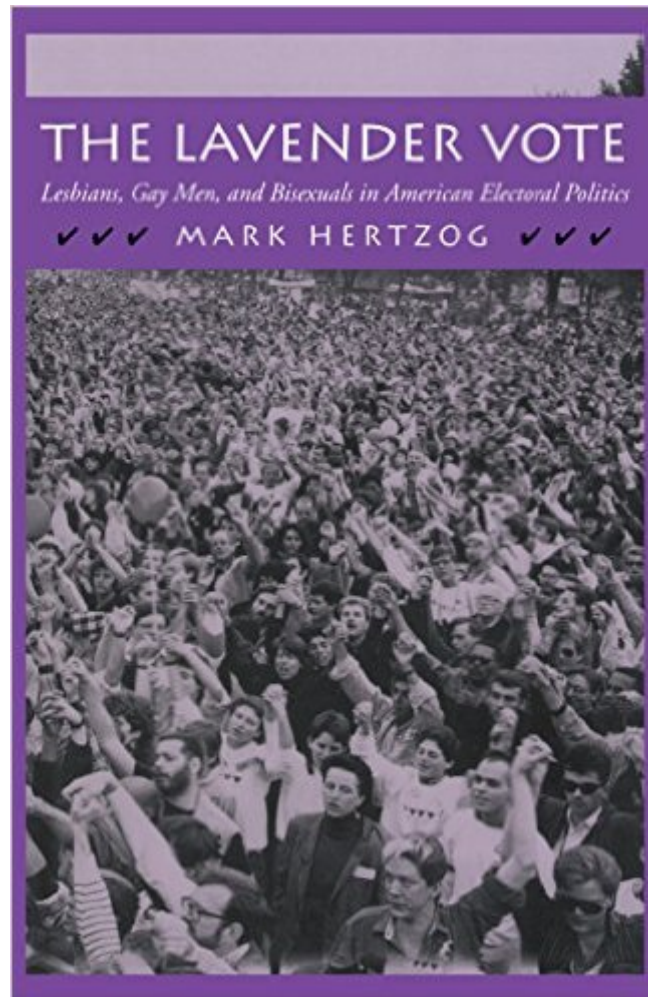


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The Lavender Vote: Lesbians, Gay Men, And Bisexuals In American Electoral Politics



Synopsis

In the quarter century since the Stonewall riots in New York City's Greenwich Village launched the national gay-rights movement in earnest, LGB voters have steadily expanded their political influence. *The Lavender Vote* is the first full-length examination of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals as a factor in American elections. Mark Hertzog here describes the differences in demographics, attitudes, and voting behavior between self-identified bisexuals and homosexuals and the rest of the voting population. He shows that lavender self-identifiers comprise a distinctive voting bloc equal in numbers to Latino voters, more liberal across the board on domestic social issues (though not necessarily on economic or national security issues) than non-gay voters, and extremely unified in high-salience elections. Further, lavender voters, contrary to popular belief, are up for grabs between the two major parties. Offering a clear and thorough explanation of LGB voting tendencies, this volume will be must-reading for elected officials, candidates for office, and all those interested in learning about LGB voters.

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Customer Reviews

Hertzog's work examines the electoral behavior and political participation of GLBT Americans. Notably with the 1992 election of Bill Clinton, this group came out of the shadows of American politics, and their quest for equality was given unparalleled endorsement first from the campaign trail, and then the White House. Although they as a discernable voting block tend to be more socially liberal than the general population at large, this does not necessarily mean GLBT voters are anti-war or the oft-riddiculed "tax and spend liberal". Indeed, GLBT Americans can even be found as

members (or at least supporters of) conservative political parties. Hertzog's premise and supporting research argue that the potential electoral power of GLBT Americans has been historically undertapped (hindered by first a general climate of discrimination, and then the failure to inquire about sexual orientation on previous polling questionnaires) and utilized by the major American political parties, but even the advances that happened in the 1990's still leave the community underutilized compared to both the general population and other community voting blocks. He also looks at voting blocks within the GLBT community and concludes that voters identifying as feminist will have less in common with the heterosexual society than non-feminist GLBT voters. These feminist voters are more likely to register as very liberal on social issues and much less likely to support a strong military-industrial complex. Finally, Hertzog makes some interesting and (somewhat prophetic) predictions for the 1996 presidential elections.

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