Contents

List of Tables and Figures vii
Preface ix

1 Local Elections, Campaign Finance, and the Health of American Democracy 1
2 The Cities and the Data 17
3 Campaign Finance, Competition, and Electoral Success 39
4 Why Campaign Spending Matters 59
5 Electoral Accessibility and the Campaign Finance Barrier 83
6 Biases in the Contributor Pool 101
7 The Effects of Contribution Limits 145
8 The Impact of Public Financing 167
9 Conclusion: Reforming City Elections 193

Appendix A: Coding for Contributions 203
Appendix B: Coding for Expenditures 209
References 211
Index 223