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Table of Contents

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PANEL ABSTRACTS

PANEL I: NEW DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT 1215

Since the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, ethnic minority participation in the political arena has increased dramatically and has brought with it a host of accompanying challenges. Focusing on the 2000 presidential election and results of Census 2000, contributors examine these new challenges—tensions between ethnic minority groups as they vie for political power, opposition to the creation of majority-minority congressional districts, and factors that reduce voter participation among ethnic minority groups. Contributors also evaluate what, if any, inter-minority and majority-minority conflicts concerning political representation loom on the political horizon of the twenty-first century.

PANEL II: REDISTRICTING IN A NEW AMERICA 1301

Compliance with both the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and constitutional requirements raises difficult questions about how to draw districts in a way that satisfies both mandates. Using North Carolina gerrymandering litigation as a launching point, contributors evaluate challenges and goals associated with drawing district lines and will focus on the role that race should play as legislators redraw district lines post-Census 2000. Contributors assess the viability of possible solutions, such as independent redistricting commissions, for ensuring constitutional districts.

PANEL III: WHAT MINORITY POPULATIONS ARE SUFFICIENT TO AFFORD MINORITIES A REALISTIC CHANCE TO ELECT CANDIDATES OF CHOICE? 1383

When applying the Voting Rights Act, courts and commentators alike have often fixated on the distinction between “majority-minority” districts and “majority-white” districts, while paying relatively little attention to the likely electoral outcomes that any given districting plan will actually generate. These contributors evaluate a conceptual framework for predicting minority electoral success, taking into account the participation rates and voting patterns of minority and white

voters, and incorporating the multi-stage election process. Through an empirical analysis of election data, contributors explore how the model can be applied to voting rights disputes.

PANEL IV: RACE AND MONEY IN POLITICS: CAMPAIGN

FINANCE REFORM AS A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE.....1469

Campaign finance reformers continue to advance equality arguments on behalf of campaign finance reform, while overlooking the possibility that equality has a different meaning for voters of color than it does for white voters. These contributors address the effect of racial inequality on the outcomes of campaign finance reforms. Contributors also explore the analogy between money as a vehicle for speech and race as a form of expression for people of color. Using this framework, the contributors evaluate the extent to which campaign finance reform has included minority interests, criticize various campaign finance proposals, and suggest alternative proposals that take racial inequalities into account.