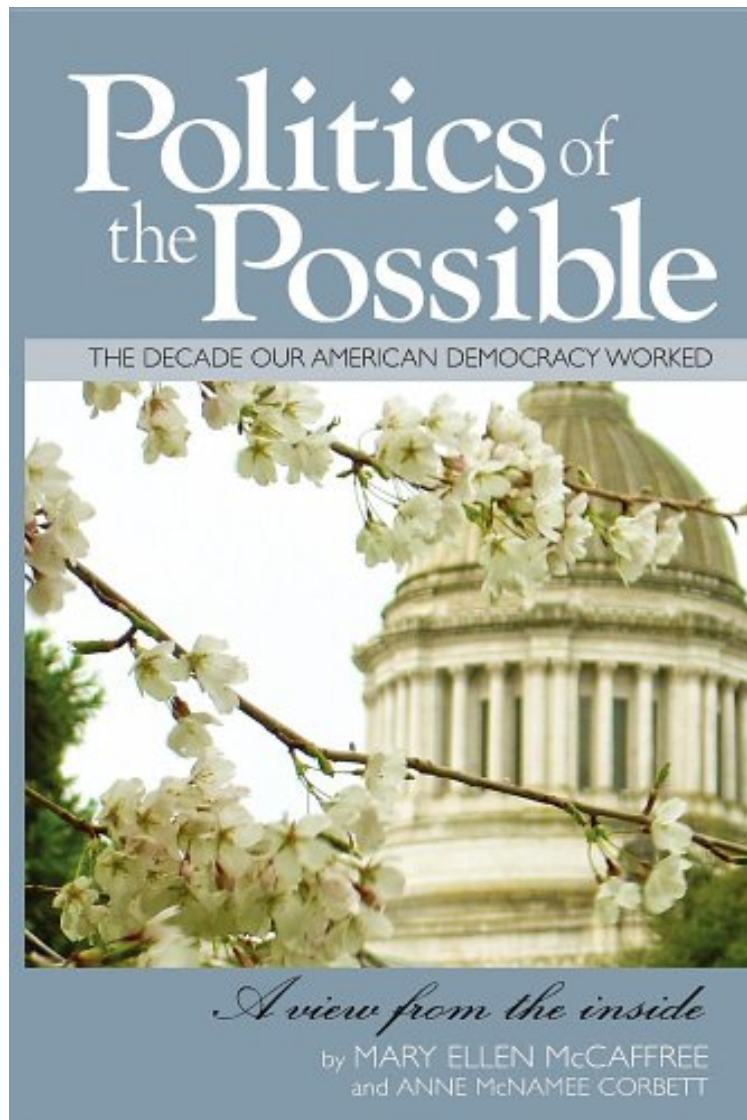


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Politics of the Possible

Mary Ellen McCaffree, Anne McNamee Corbett
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Mary Ellen McCaffree, Anne McNamee Corbett : Politics of the Possible before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Politics of the Possible:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... I am qualified to try a review of this wonderful and courageous account of civic leadership and democracy at ...By darlene burgessI suspect I am qualified to try a review of this wonderful and courageous account of civic leadership and democracy at work. While still a student at the U of W I was hired by Mary Ellen to work for the Legislature and later for the WA Dept of Revenue. At the time I could not

fully appreciate her work and the leadership of the leaders who recruited her. Having just returned to WA from another state where I filled out most of my own political career I can see through this narrative how strongly these wonderful people portrayed a level of statesmanship rarely in today's mixed up political arena. It is inspiring to revisit events I experienced as a very lowly staffer through her eyes. I was extremely lucky for that early introduction and inspiration. Darlene Burgess Aug 2016 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Politics of the Possible By Nancy Talbot Doty I don't think I'm qualified to review this book. I was acquainted with Mary Ellen forty-five years ago, during the time covered by her book. And I know the colleagues and events she discusses here much better than I know her. It was great fun to re-live those exciting years; but I see much of it slightly differently, even though we were both "working" on the same side. I must say that her portrayal of the late Joel Pritchard is vividly accurate. He was irreplaceable. How I miss the days when the Republicans were the "good guys". There is no doubt that Mary Ellen McCaffree was a key player, without whom the Evans Years would have accomplished far less than they did. (Unfortunately, much of what they did has since been wiped out by less adept and less courageous legislators.) And there is certainly no doubt that she'd have not been in position to contribute the huge amount she did without the help and unending support of her husband. My major grievance against "Politics of the Possible" is that she chose to write it in the present tense. That is a most annoying and distracting medium that seems to have become popular lately. It's usually my primary reason for totally rejecting any book. THERE, having said I'm not qualified to write a review--due to personal involvement--I have done so, anyway--for what it's worth.

Using the lens of a citizen who entered politics to secure better funding for her children's schools, we journey through one dynamic decade that transformed an American state. We witness the inner workings of a government overhaul, led by citizens and politicians who enter at the bottom of the legislative heap and rise to become leaders of a sweeping program of bi-partisan reforms, culminating in the most productive legislative session in their state's history... and perhaps of all time. This 1960's government success story impels newer generations to take a more active citizen role - first by understanding how our government is designed, then by entering the process to problem-solve ever new challenges. The engaging narrative about real people, and the actual relationships required to legislate complex change, demystifies the gears of governing and empowers 'ordinary citizens' to speak up and take part in our governmental process.