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This special issue on electoral reform is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Timothy A. Hodson, who passed away in October of 2011. A towering figure in the study and practice of California policy and politics, Tim had a distinguished career as a legislative staff member before serving as Executive Director of Sacramento State University's Center for California Studies for over 17 years. Greatly expanding the Center's reputation and impact, he established the Judicial Administration Fellowship program, developed an award-winning program for California secondary school students promoting civic engagement, and funded research of interest to state policy makers. A frequent commentator on California politics, he wrote commentary and academic articles on such topics as redistricting, and remained a popular instructor throughout his career.

Tim had a sterling reputation as a colleague, friend, and mentor. He collaborated with people outside the university to develop programs that benefited Californians more broadly and worked effectively with people with whom he disagreed on policy matters, displaying a civility often extolled but little practiced. He dedicated his life to improving California government. We hope this issue, edited by Brian DiSarro, Wesley Hussey, and Edward L. Lascher, Jr., contributes to that worthy goal.