Volumes IV and V of *The Temple Papers on the Pennsylvania General Assembly*, which are now available online at [www.temple.edu/ipa](http://www.temple.edu/ipa), explore possible institutional changes in legislative structure and practice that are under discussion by experts, critics, and legislators themselves in Pennsylvania and across the nation as remedies to public discontent about governance in America.

These volumes complete a two-year study requested and funded by the Heinz Endowments and the William Penn Foundation and aimed at assisting the General Assembly in representing citizens, making laws, and balancing the other branches of government.

Volume IV -- "A Discussion of Topics Related to the Continuing Evolution of the Pennsylvania General Assembly" -- presents data and summarizes expert opinions on dozens of institutional changes organized under 28 subjects that include but are not limited to the state budget process, the operation of committees, the regulation of individual behavior, the conduct of elections, and the establishment of bipartisan, bicameral informational sessions for members. Major subjects not covered in this report were discussed in Volume I: the legislature's size, cost and full-time status.

This volume and others in the series are based not only on extensive research but on dozens of confidential interviews with current and former members of the General Assembly, current and former senior legislative staffers, leading scholars who study state legislatures, journalists, and our legislature's sharpest critics. We thank them for their willingness to share their candid and thoughtful views.

Rick Stafford, Distinguished Service Professor of Public Policy at the Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, was my co-principal investigator on the project and is the lead author of Volume IV. Our co-authors include the talented Temple team that also has supported the entire two-year effort: Michelle J. Atherton, assistant director of the Institute for Public Affairs; Megan Mullin, associate professor of political science; and Nathan Shrader, doctoral student in political science.

Volume V -- "Literature Review: Findings from Academic Research on State Government Institutions and Reforms" -- reviews more than 190 scholarly books and articles about how state legislatures conduct business. Authored by Professor Mullin, this paper informs the other volumes but also has stand-alone value as a crisp and thoughtful commentary on a wide range of ideas under discussion in the states.

We hope these volumes will deepen understanding of the tradeoffs often inherent in institutional change and contribute to discussions of the continuing evolution of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the two foundations and emphasize that the perspectives presented in these volumes -- and any errors of fact or omission -- are the authors' alone.

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