

**THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN POLITICAL EQUITY AND  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CANADA AND THE UNITED  
STATES<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Organization of American States.

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The overall objective of this study was to provide a comparative analysis of the 34 member states of the OAS, assessing not only the normative framework of political party and campaign financing, but also how legislation is actually put into practice. The specific themes addressed included Disclosure, Enforcement, Public and Private Financing, Access to the Media, and Gender. The study, to be published in three separate volumes, includes in-depth analysis of all the countries of the hemisphere.

Political leaders, academics, and civil society activists made up the team of national researchers. We believe that the diversity of these researchers provides a three-dimensional picture of political party and campaign financing, albeit at the risk of incorporating some personal opinion. Every effort has been made to provide a balanced, yet nuanced, view of this topic. Given the fluidity of political party reform in the region, some information may already be out of date upon publication of this report, an inherent hazard in a complex project such as this.

Numerous North American experts contributed their time, expertise and knowledge of political parties in the United States and Canada. First and foremost, we would like to thank Distinguished Professor Emeritus Herbert E. Alexander of the University of Southern California; Dr. Gene Ward of the United States Agency for International Development; Professor Clyde Wilcox of the University of Georgetown; and Professor Lisa Young of the University of Calgary for drafting the thematic chapters of this report.

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