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Larry Sabato

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Larry Sabato, the Robert Kent Gooch Professor of Government and Foreign Affairs at the University of Virginia, is known for his research on U.S. elections. His political expertise has earned him different nicknames over the years. The Wall Street Journal once referred to him as "probably the most quoted college professor in the Land," The Washington Post dubbed him "the Mark McGwire of political analysts," and Fox News Channel called him "America’s favorite political scientist" while the Washingtonian magazine called him the "Dr. Phil of American politics." Dr. Sabato is the founder and director of the University of Virginia’s Center for Politics, and his favorite slogan "Politics is a good thing!" aptly describes his lifetime contribution to political analysis.

Sabato’s research focuses broadly on national and state governments, particularly the different elements of the U.S. electoral scene. He has written numerous books and essays on topics such as the rising power of political consultants in U.S. elections, the changing nature of the gubernatorial office, the role of Political Action Committees (PACs) in the U.S. political process, and history of U.S. primary elections. He was among the first to identify the changing nature of the political scenario with increasing power being handed over to consultants and to point out how campaign financing determines U.S. electoral dynamics.


A graduate in government from the University of Virginia, Sabato also studied at Princeton University for a year before completing his doctorate at Queen’s College at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He has appeared on numerous U.S. news programs as a political expert and has served on many national and state commissions and panels.

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Further Readings

