

Sources and Resources for [the 2016 edition](#) of
Elephants in the Room

Items Favored by the Book's Authors

(1) U.S. HOUSE and SENATE

[Surviving Inside Congress](#) by Climer, Johnson and Strand. "A guide for prospective, new and not-so-new Congressional staff..." (2015, 412 pp.)

About the 17th Amendment (which gave us [direct election of Senators](#))

Seven House Judiciary Committee GOPers (including freshmen Bill Cohen, Harold Froehlich and Trent Lott) confront the impeachment of Richard M. Nixon — www.ExactingEditor.com/Judiciary-Seven.mp3

(2) The WHOLE STORY behind the Launch of "REAGANOMICS"

You likely don't remember, or never heard, how disjointed and economically treacherous 1981 and '82 were. Far from a smoothly implemented turnaround, Reaganomics got going as a blend of roller coaster and [roller derby](#).

Tax-cut absolutists would've been toast without Paul Volcker's Fed (crushing an inflation that had been building for 15 years) and Senator Bob Dole (who during the Summer of '82 pushed the tax hike that finally gave the Fed room to lower interest rates). Bottom line? [Amnesia and ironies galore!](#) Too bad, too. Because President Reagan's first term contains valuable lessons for the GOP legislators and staff of 2018-2021 — www.exactingeditor.com/Eighty-One.pdf

(3) HEALTH INSURANCE and MEDICAL CARE in TURMOIL

"A Doctor Asks: [Was ObamaCare Designed to Fail?](#)"
September 19, 2016 — by Jeffrey I. Barke, M.D.

Watching the Affordable Care Act's parts (and the people) move — <http://obamacarefacts.com/sign-ups/obamacare-enrollment-numbers/>

Short-Term Coverage Plans Under Fire from the pre-Trump HHS — <http://khn.org/news/hhs-announces-plans-to-curtail-consumers-use-of-short-term-insurance-policies/>

A consumer-oriented version of "[ObamaCare — How It Works, Why it Doesn't](#)" by health-insurance broker **June A. Shaffer**. Updated for HHS and Trump Administration remedial actions through December of 2017, the original version is Chapter 12 (pages 203-216) of the 2016 book.

Information about High-Risk Pools — www.verywell.com/high-risk-pools and also www.ncsl.org/research/health/high-risk-pools-for-health-coverage.aspx

Personal Survival and the Financing of "Health" in Canada — <http://healthblog.ncpa.org/free-canadian-health-care-costs>

(4) **AMBITIOUS RESPONSES to the GOVERNING CRISIS**

www.ConventionOfStates.com — "Citizens concerned for the future of their country, under a federal government that's increasingly bloated, corrupt, reckless and invasive, have a constitutional option. We can [call a Convention of States](#) to return the country to its original vision of a limited federal government that is of, by and for the people."

"Trump's Appeal to the Radical Middle Is a Wake-Up Call to Conservatives" by Nicholas Gallagher — appearing first in *National Review* June of 2016 — <http://global.nationalreview.com/article/436544/donald-trump-jacksonian-voters-andrew-jackson-nationalist-politics-are-back?target=author&tid=1752461>

www.Thirty-Thousand.org — TTO — "contends that reducing the population size of legislative districts forces the Representatives to be more accountable to the citizens they are elected to represent and, as a result, smaller legislative districts foster greater individual liberty. Conversely,

as legislative districts grow larger, so does the tendency for the government to become increasingly autocratic."

(a) [New Hampshire versus the People's Republic of California](#)

(b) And deeper — www.thirty-thousand.org/pages/resources.htm

(5) GOP WRECKAGE and REJUVENATION during the 1970s

(a) The disaster faced by House and Senate Republicans [in the wake of the Nixon Economy](#) is barely touched on in this book; the successor Administration of Gerald Ford is covered not at all. **Elephants** editor Frank Gregorsky regrets both of those slights. But an unusual write-up on Election Night 1974 is available via www.ExactingEditor.com/Seventy-Four.pdf and a favorable treatment of Jerry Ford's Presidency on economic and energy issues can be found by calling up www.ExactingEditor.com/Seventy-Five.html

(b) **Elephants in the Room** has just one footnote, and the bibliography offered in its back section isn't exhaustive. But for those who savor sourcing, see this web assortment of pre-Reagan items — www.ExactingEditor.com/Nixon-Kissinger-Ford.pdf — and the complete bibliography, divided into seven categories — www.ExactingEditor.com/Categorical-Sources.pdf

(6) The U.S. HOUSING RECOVERY, BOOM and BUBBLE

Key chapter-source items are displayed by date of publication...

"[Clinton Proposes Tax Cuts on Profits in Home Sales](#)" by Jerry Gray, *New York Times* 8/30/1996

"[Housing Sales Show New Life with Good Year](#)" by Nick Ravo, *New York Times* 12/25/1996

July 16, 1997: Joint hearing by two U.S. House subcommittees on the GSEs — http://commdocs.house.gov/committees/bank/hba42908.000/hba42908_of.htm

"[Some Housing Markets are Overheating](#)" by Patrick Barta, *Wall Street Journal* 3/6/2000 page A1

"[It's Hip to Flip Houses in a Market this Hot](#)" by Nancy Holt, *Wall Street Journal* 5/10/2000, page B14

["Home Prices Are Out of Reach for Many"](#) by Michael Janofsky, *New York Times* 6/12/2000, page A20

["Trouble on the Home Front,"](#) by Heather Timmons in *Business Week* 4/30/2001, pages 122-123. "Borrowers are mortgaged to the hilt, and lenders that have been offering easy credit may be out on a limb."

["Gains in Home Values Unprecedented"](#) by Thomas A. Fogarty, *USA Today* 9/13/2001 page 12B

"Bubbles in Real-Estate Markets" by Susan Wachter and Richard J. Herring, University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School: March 2002. Prepared for a Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and World Bank Group's Conference on "Asset Price Bubbles: Implications for Monetary, Regulatory, and International Policies" in Chicago. www.researchgate.net/publication/23739793

["President Calls for Expanding Opportunities to Home Ownership"](#) at the St. Paul AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia, on 6/17/2002. "I believe that we can address hopelessness and despair where hopelessness and despair exist... It starts with having great education systems for every single child. (Applause.) It means that we unleash the faith-based programs to help change people's hearts, which will help change their lives. (Applause.) It means we use the mighty muscle of the federal government in combination with state and local governments to encourage owning your own home."

["Housing is Not a House of Cards: At Least That's What Alan Greenspan Says"](#) by Laura Cohn, *Business Week* 9/2/2002, page 34

HUD Secretary [Mel Martinez Addresses the 89th Annual Convention of the Mortgage Bankers of America](#) in Chicago, Illinois, on 10/22/2002

["Zero-Down Mortgage Initiative by Bush is Hit"](#) by Chris Reidy, *Boston Globe* 10/5/2004. "Budget office says plan likely to spur more loan defaults"

["Bernanke: There's No Housing Bubble to Go Bust"](#) by Nell Henderson, *Washington Post* 10/27/2005

["Tax Break May Have Helped Cause Housing Bubble"](#) by Vikas Bajaj and David Leonhardt, *New York Times* 12/18/2008

And the entire ***Financial Crisis Inquiry Report*** (2010) — abrim with helpful tables, charts, and appendices — can be downloaded at no charge using http://fcic-static.law.stanford.edu/cdn_media/fcic-reports/fcic_final_report_full.pdf

Page 161 of ***Elephants in the Room*** cites a December 2012 story by Paul Sperry in *Investor's Business Daily* about the NBER paper www.nber.org/papers/w18609.pdf. The paper's title is a question: "Did the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Lead to Risky Lending?" And, in their boil-down, the NBER paper's four authors answer: "Yes, it did... In the six quarters surrounding the CRA exams, lending is elevated on average by about 5% every quarter and loans in these quarters default by about 15% more often... These patterns are accentuated in CRA-eligible census tracts and are concentrated among large banks. The effects are strongest during the time period when the market for private securitization was booming."

(7) WEBSITES KEPT by the Book's CONTENT-CONTRIBUTORS

www.ArizonaLifeLines.com — June Shaffer (AZ)

www.CarlyleGregory.com — Carlyle Gregory (VA)

www.IgoeAssociates.com — Kevin Igoe (MD)

www.ExactingEditor.com — Frank Gregorsky (VA)

Atoning for the 2016 Edition's Omissions

In the original *Elephants* book, certain important historical topics were slighted, left out completely, or were partially covered on other platforms...

The Reagan Administration's firm yet agile Central American policy is a success story in the never-ending battle for democratic freedom. We mean no disrespect by not including it in this book. For younger readers who want a comprehensive one-volume account, try ***A Twilight Struggle: American Power and Nicaragua, 1977-90***, by Robert Kagan (New York: The Free Press, 1996, 903 pages).

When Newt Gingrich picked up the Speaker's gavel on January 3, 1995, it was the first use of that precious instrument by a Republican since Joe Martin of

Massachusetts turned it over to Sam Rayburn exactly 40 years prior. Martin's biographer is James J. Kenneally and the only Martin book is ***A Compassionate Conservative: A Political Biography of Joseph W. Martin Jr.*** (Lexington Books, 2003, 335 pages). You can see how and why Kenneally wrote it at www.ExactingEditor.com/Kenneally-Martin.html

Some of the Member interviews extracted in this book are on-line in chunks that run from 4,000 to 10,000 words. Others in this array will be called upon in later books. The editor's personal favorites are...

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/HelenBentley.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/DaveEmery.pdf>

<http://www.ExactingEditor.com/MarjorieHolt.html>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/William-Frenzel.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/BobLivingston.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/AlexMcMillan.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/DeborahPryce.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/ArthurRavenelJr.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/RonSarasin.pdf>

<http://www.exactingeditor.com/SteveSymms.pdf>

And we thank **Geoffrey Kabaservice** for sharing some of his own interviews, carried out as part of his writing ***Rule and Ruin*** (Oxford University Press, 2012, 482 pages). In marvelous ways, that book brings back the U.S. Republican Party of the 1960s. Why Kabaservice put such care and color into that decade is conveyed in www.ExactingEditor.com/Kabaservice-GOP.pdf

Elephants in the Room resource display,
third rendition — uploaded April 8, 2018

To PURCHASE the BOOK —

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1537146696/ref=cm_sw_su_dp