

The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy
Invites faculty, law, and graduate students to a
Work-in-progress luncheon presentation



Wednesday, February 6, 2008

12:30 – 2:00 pm

lunch available at noon

509 O'Brian Hall

RSVP for lunch to ekausner@buffalo.edu



Who is Mobilized by Direct Democracy?

Joshua Dyck

UB Political Science

Introduced by **James Gardner**

UB Law Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and
Director, Jaeckle Center for State and Local Democracy

A number of recent studies find that direct democracy increases voter turnout. Whom does direct democracy mobilize to vote? From one perspective, voters mobilized by ballot initiative campaigns may reflect the partisan tenor of many ballot initiative elections. Alternatively, ballot initiatives might allow disaffected voters to fully express their policy preferences. Using a unique research design that incorporates neighborhood contextual variables with the California registered voter list, Professor Dyck examines the strong partisan effects that social context exerts on participation in ballot initiative elections. Additionally, he clarifies the way citizens are educated by initiatives. The findings demonstrate how partisan context mitigates the potential for direct democracy to mobilize from the middle.

Joshua J. Dyck is an Assistant Professor in American Politics who joined the Political Science Department in the fall of 2006. Professor Dyck studies Public Opinion and Voting Behavior with a particular focus on how institutions and social context influence voter choice and participation; much of his current work focuses on direct democracy. His work has been published in *The Journal of Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Party Politics*, and *Electoral Studies*.

Copies of the paper available in the Baldy Center, the Law School Mailroom, or on our Web site at <http://www.law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/pdfs/DyckPaper08.pdf>.

Cosponsored by Jaeckle Center for State and Local Democracy

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