

Invited Lecturer

Democracy and Political Ignorance: Why Smaller Government is Smarter

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Monday, December 9, 2024 16:30

The Buchmann Faculty of Law (via Zoom)



Prof. Ilya Somin

Ilya Somin is Professor of Law at George Mason University and B. Kenneth Simon Chair in Constitutional Studies at the Cato Institute. He is the author of [*Free to Move: Foot Voting, Migration, and Political Freedom*](#) (Oxford University Press, rev. ed., 2022), [*Democracy and Political Ignorance: Why Smaller Government is Smarter*](#) (Stanford University Press, rev. ed. 2016), and [*The Grasping Hand: Kelo v. City of New London and the Limits of Eminent Domain*](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2015). Somin has also published articles in a variety of popular press outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, CNN, The Atlantic, and USA Today. He is a regular contributor to the popular [Volokh Conspiracy](#) law and politics blog, affiliated with Reason magazine.

One of the biggest problems with modern democracy is that most of the public is usually ignorant of politics and government. Many people understand that their votes are unlikely to change the outcome of an election and don't see the point in learning much about politics. This creates a nation of people with little political knowledge and little ability to objectively evaluate what they do know.

Ilya Somin mines the depths of public ignorance in America and reveals it as a major challenge for democracy. He weighs various potential solutions, provocatively arguing that political ignorance is best mitigated and its effects lessened by decentralizing and limiting government. People make better decisions when they choose what to purchase in the market or which state or local government to live under, than when they vote at the ballot box, because they have stronger incentives to acquire relevant information and to use it wisely.

The Event will be held online. Please see [Zoon link here](#)

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