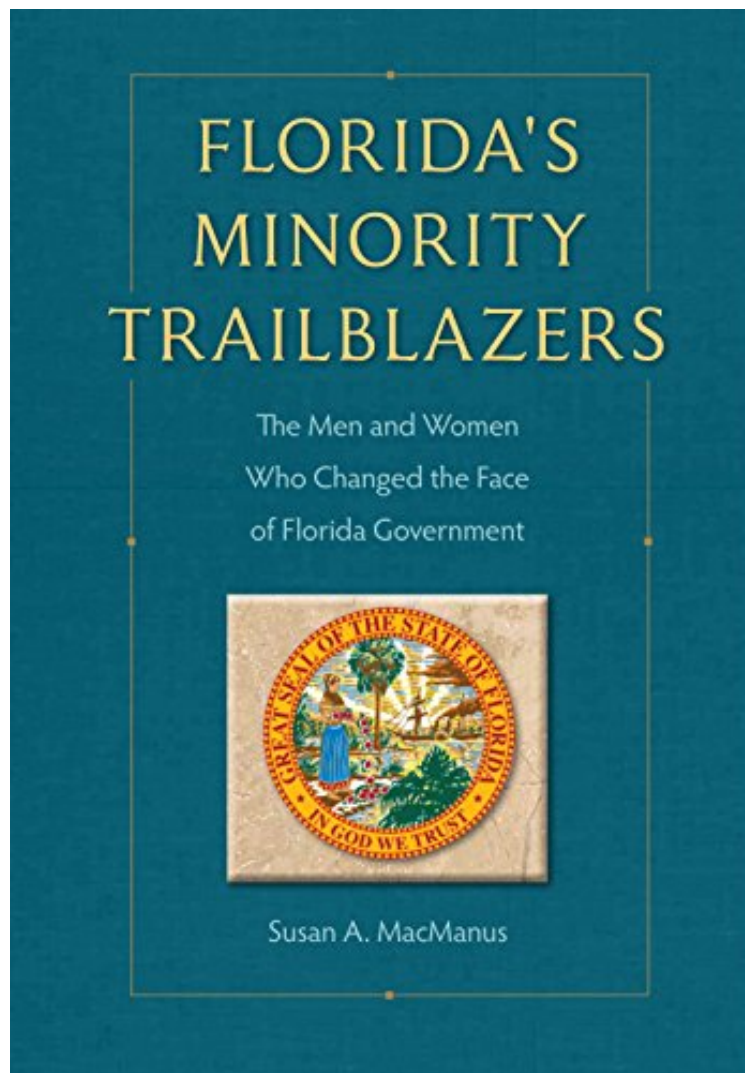


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Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government (Florida Government and Politics)

Susan MacManus

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Saves a piece of Florida political history by narrating the personal stories of the states minority trailblazers from the civil rights movement to the present day. Richard E. Foglesong, author of *Immigrant Prince: Mel Martinez and the American Dream Captures Floridas ongoing political transition from a yellow dog, lily white state to one where diversity is beginning to make an impact on Florida politics.* Doug Lyons, former senior editorial writer, South Florida Sun-Sentinel Once one of the Souths poorest and least populated states, Florida experienced a population surge during the 1960s that diversified the state and transformed it into a microcosm of the nation, but discrimination remained pervasive. With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the opportunity to participate in government was finally open to previously silenced voices. Drawing primarily from personal interviews, Susan MacManus recounts the stories of fifty-one trailblazersthe first minority men and women, both Democrat and Republicanwho were elected or appointed to state legislative, executive, and judicial offices and to Congress since the 1960s. She reveals what drove these leaders to enter office, how they ran their campaigns, what rewards each found during their terms, and what advice they would share with aspiring politicians. What emerges is an in-depth rendering of personal strugglesguided by opportunity, ambition, and idealismthat have made Florida the vibrant, diverse state it is today. A volume in the series *Florida Government and Politics*, edited by David R. Colburn and Susan A. MacManus

-Will wind up on the shelves of researchers and scholars, and in libraries as a ready reference for anyone wanting to study Florida politics. But it's also a good yarn. You can open it anywhere...and find an entertaining tale of a time gone by--but vividly within memory.---Tallahassee DemocratAbout the AuthorSusan A. MacManus is Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida and the coauthor of *Politics in Florida* and *Politics in States and Communities*.