



Mighty Peculiar Elections: The New South Gubernatorial Campaigns of 1970 and the Changing Politics of Race

By Randy Sanders

Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Louisiana Pbk.. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1970, four racially moderate Democrats won governors seats in the American South -- Dale Bumpers in Arkansas, Reubin Askew in Florida, John West in South Carolina, and Jimmy Carter in Georgia. In *Mighty Peculiar Elections*, Randy Sanders explores these campaigns and shows that while each reflected aspects of its state's unique history and political idiosyncrasies, taken together, they signaled changes in attitudes and the politics of race in the South as well as the nation as a whole. Most southerners by 1970 had come to realize the futility of overt opposition to federal civil rights policies and no longer wanted to hear political candidates singing the refrains of white supremacy. Bumpers won Arkansas's Democratic primary over former Governor Orval Faubus, who had symbolized southern intransigence since 1957, when he ordered the state militia to prevent school integration at Central High School in Little Rock. Askew defeated Florida's Republican incumbent governor, Claude Kirk, who seized a school district during the campaign in order to thwart a court-ordered school desegregation plan. Similarly, West ran against...



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