

Voting in Cities
The 1964 Borough Elections

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EDITED BY

L. J. Sharpe

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Preface

THIS book is the result of a suggestion made by Jeffrey Stanyer at the Local Government Research Conference held at Exeter University in September 1963, under the auspices of the Public Administration Committee of the Joint University Council for Social and Public Administration.

Most of the participants in the conference who expressed interest at the time have taken part throughout; one or two eventually found themselves unable to remain members of the group, and two joined later.

Mr. Stanyer prepared the outline scheme for the study and arranged the early meetings of contributors. Peter Fletcher designed the forms for the collection of the standard electoral data provided by each contributor and supervised their coding and processing, which was done centrally at Exeter for all the towns. L. J. Sharpe undertook the overall supervision of the project in the later stages, including the tasks of literary editing and preparing the manuscript for the publishers.

The remaining contributors, besides writing their own chapters, played a part in the design of the project and in the research procedure, but at this stage it is hard to tell what is owed to whom. All made valuable suggestions at one or more stages in the preparation of the study, as did those who later dropped out and others who advised at various times.

One of the important objectives of the study was to achieve a broad conformity of approach in each contribution, but at the same time allow each author freedom to explore the particular characteristics of each town. The reader must judge how far this aim has been fulfilled. The contributors would jointly like to put on record, however, that this involved a degree of co-ordination which made preparation for publication a somewhat slower process than they might have wished. The

complete manuscript did not reach the publishers until the summer of 1966. It is for this reason that the book appears some three years after the elections which it describes.