OPEN HOUSE: On Saturday, April 21 from 1:00 to 4:00pm, the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library will host an OPEN HOUSE. The afternoon will include hands-on activities for children and tours of the new exhibition, America Votes by Curator Ronald Grim at 1:30pm and 2:30pm.



America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape

"America Votes: Mapping the Political Landscape" includes approximately 30 maps, political cartoons, photographs and other graphic images that date from the 1780's to the present. With each election Americans have become accustomed to seeing national maps colored red and blue signifying Republican and Democratic voting patterns. Presenting election results has long intrigued mapmakers as the maps and graphics in this exhibition reveal. Examples range from several early efforts to the most recent campaigns.



The display begins with gerrymandering, 200 years of manipulating political districts for partisan objectives, and includes maps illustrating the extension of the vote to non-property owners, blacks, and women. These issues are represented in many examples that also show the importance of the states as the proxy for the voice of the people they represented. Efforts to legislate behavior, such as prohibition, were another aspect of mapping the political landscape.

On display in the Leventhal Map Center Gallery through November 10, 2012