You are looking at 1-2 of 2 items for: **keywords : democratic competence**

**Representation, Spending, and the Personal Vote**
Justin Grimmer, Sean J. Westwood, and Solomon Messing

in The Impression of Influence: Legislator Communication, Representation, and Democratic Accountability

Published in print: 2014 Published Online: October 2017
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter provides an overview of how political representation occurs on government spending decisions—one of the most consequential powers of government. Political representation in Congress is, in large part, about how elected officials decide how to spend federal money. While a large literature analyzes how district expenditures affect support for congressional incumbents, it remains unclear how constituents hold legislators accountable for expenditures—how constituents attribute spending to legislators, how constituents evaluate those expenditures, and how constituents reward or punish legislators for spending on projects. One reason for this lack of clarity is that constituents are unlikely to learn about the projects on their own. However, constituents' inability to track spending is not an indictment of their democratic competence. Instead, it reflects the many activities representatives perform and the subtle ways that federal expenditures occur.

**Educational Goods**
Harry Brighouse, Helen F. Ladd, Susanna Loeb, and Adam Swift

in Educational Goods: Values, Evidence, and Decision-Making

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
Item type: chapter

This chapter introduces the idea of educational goods, and breaks these goods down into six capacities: the capacities for economic productivity, personal autonomy, democratic competence, healthy
personal relationships, treating others as equals, and personal fulfillment. It argues that these capacities must be developed in order for individuals to be able to flourish and contribute appropriately to the flourishing of others.