

# The Masculine Advantage in Candidate Emergence: The CAWP in Gender and American Politics

The Masculine Advantage in Candidate Emergence: The CAWP in Gender and American Politics

In the realm of American politics, the underrepresentation of women in elected office has long been a persistent issue. Despite progress made in recent years, women continue to face significant barriers to entry into the political arena. One key factor contributing to this disparity is the "masculine advantage" in candidate emergence, which refers to the tendency for men to be more likely to run for office than women.



## Who Runs?: The Masculine Advantage in Candidate Emergence (The Cawp Series In Gender And American Politics)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1233 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 164 pages



This phenomenon has been extensively studied by political scientists, who have identified a complex interplay of factors that contribute to the

masculine advantage. These include structural barriers, such as institutional biases and societal norms that discourage women from seeking office, as well as psychological factors, such as differences in self-confidence and risk aversion between men and women.

## **The Conceptualization of CAWP**

One of the most influential frameworks for understanding the masculine advantage in candidate emergence is the "Candidate-Activist-Wealth-Power" (CAWP) model, developed by political scientists Ruth B. Mandel and Ann Shola Orloff. This model posits that four key resources—candidate skills, political activism, economic wealth, and social power—are crucial for political candidacy. According to the CAWP model, men tend to possess higher levels of these resources than women, which contributes to their greater likelihood of running for office.

**Candidate skills:** Men are often perceived as having stronger leadership and negotiation skills, which are highly valued in politics. They are also more likely to have relevant professional experience, such as in law or business, which can be seen as an asset in electoral campaigns.

**Political activism:** Men are more likely to be involved in political organizations and activities, such as volunteering for campaigns or attending political events. This engagement can provide them with valuable experience and connections that can facilitate their entry into electoral politics.

**Economic wealth:** Men are more likely to have higher levels of economic wealth than women, which can provide them with the financial resources necessary to run for office. Campaigning can be an expensive endeavor,

and candidates who can self-fund their campaigns have a significant advantage.

**Social power:** Men are more likely to occupy positions of social power, such as being in leadership roles in their communities or professions. This social power can translate into political influence and can make it easier for men to gain access to the resources and support they need to run for office.

### **Empirical Evidence**

Empirical research has consistently supported the CAWP model in explaining the masculine advantage in candidate emergence. Studies have shown that men are more likely to have higher levels of political activism, economic wealth, and social power than women, and that these resources are positively associated with the likelihood of running for office.

For example, a study by political scientists Jennifer L. Lawless and Richard L. Fox found that men were more likely to have held political office or run for office in the past, and that this experience was a strong predictor of future candidacies. Another study by political scientist Melissa R. Michelson found that economic wealth was positively associated with the likelihood of running for office, and that this relationship was particularly strong for women, suggesting that economic resources may be even more important for women to overcome the barriers to candidate emergence.

### **Implications for Gender Equity in Politics**

The masculine advantage in candidate emergence has significant implications for gender equity in politics. By limiting the pool of potential candidates to a predominantly male group, it perpetuates the

underrepresentation of women in elected office. This in turn can lead to policies that are less responsive to the needs and perspectives of women and other marginalized groups.

To address the masculine advantage and promote gender equity in politics, it is essential to identify and dismantle the structural barriers and societal norms that discourage women from seeking office. This can include measures such as increasing funding for women's campaigns, providing training and mentorship programs for aspiring female candidates, and challenging the stereotypes and biases that perpetuate the perception of politics as a male-dominated field.

The masculine advantage in candidate emergence is a complex phenomenon that reflects a combination of structural and psychological factors. By understanding the CAWP model and the empirical evidence that supports it, we can identify the key resources and pathways that contribute to the greater likelihood of men running for office. Addressing these factors is essential for promoting gender equity in politics and ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all citizens are represented in government.



## Who Runs?: The Masculine Advantage in Candidate Emergence (The Cawp Series In Gender And American Politics)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1233 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 164 pages

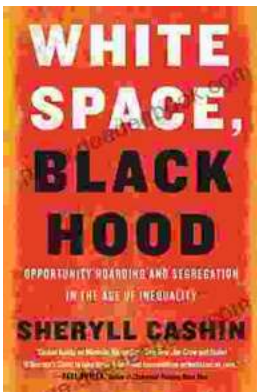
FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



## Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo: A Western Adventure

Every Cowgirl Loves Rodeo is a 2021 American Western film directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Lily James, Camila Mendes, and Glen...



## Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality

In an age marked by profound inequality, the concepts of opportunity hoarding and segregation have emerged as pressing concerns. These phenomena...