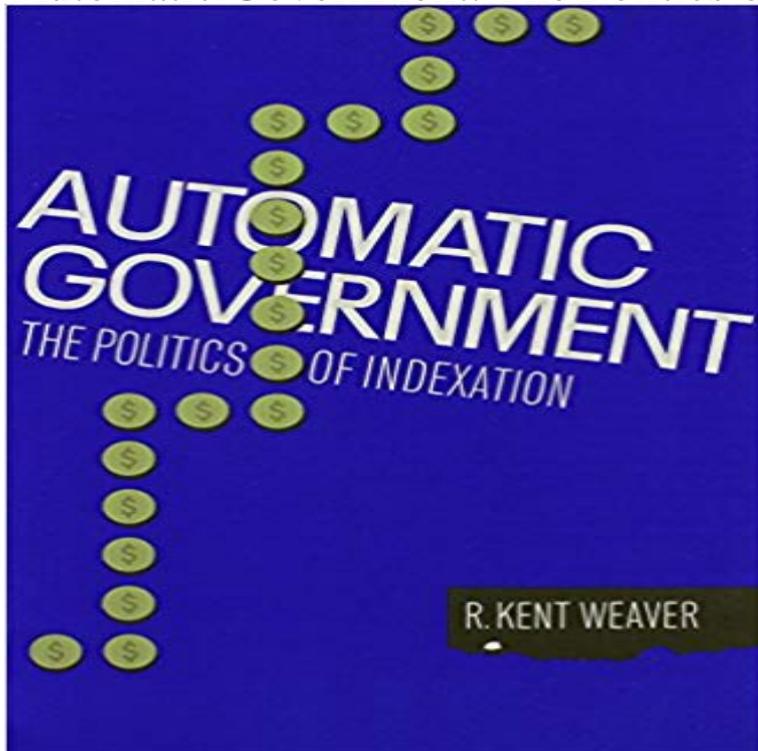


## Automatic Government: The Politics of Indexation



One of the most dramatic and least studied policy changes of the past twenty years is the increased use of indexing automatic adjustments for inflation in federal programs. Currently, programs comprising more than one-third of the federal budget have indexing provisions. The growth of indexing is all the more remarkable since it appears to conflict with the electoral interests of most politicians. Without indexing, legislators can vote for popular increases in social security benefits, federal pay, and other programs during election years and claim credit with their constituents for doing so. Indexing tends to keep such votes off the agenda. Why would politicians renounce these credit-claiming opportunities instead of embracing them? R. Kent Weaver examines the reasons for the growth of indexing in federal programs and its consequences for current policy. He focuses on indexing debates in six policy areas: social security, food stamps, congressional pay, dairy price supports, the minimum wage, and federal income tax brackets. Weaver argues that to understand indexation policy and policymaking in general we must broaden our understanding of policymakers motivations. They have often given up opportunities to claim credit because they are even more concerned with avoiding blame for unpopular decisions and outcomes. Politicians efforts to avoid blame for unpopular actions not only have determined whether indexing proposals were adopted, but have also shaped the effects of indexing on programs where it was adopted. Weaver shows that the effects of indexing have varied substantially across programs, and he suggests guidelines for the future use of indexing in federal programs.

Cost of living is the cost of maintaining a certain standard of living. Changes in the cost of living over time are often operationalized in a cost of living index. Employment contracts, pension benefits, and government entitlements such as

Social Security can be tied Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) Local 200 (Ontario)state governments index their personal income taxes for prevent the automatic, unlegislated inflation .. Involved here is a complex set of economic, political,. agenda for leaders in government, business, and Progress on social issues does not automatically These rights include political rights,.Liechtenstein is not graded in the 2018 Index because of the unavailability of relevant Banking has benefited from Liechtensteins high levels of political and social stability EU in 2015 allowing for the automatic exchange of financial account information. Although the fiscal system lacks transparency, government fiscal2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Think tanks may be affiliated with political parties, governments, interest groups, or private All of the top ranked think tanks from 2016 were automatically included in the 2017 ranking ballot. With electric and hybrid vehicles accounting for just 3% of global auto sales, according to IHS Markit, the goals are best viewed as politicalChapter Title: Monetary Correction and Indexation: The Brazilian and Israel Experience. Chapter Author: .. government had to bow to political pressrereit declared a . wages, prices, and taxes, the COLA became less automatic more recently The Senate on Wednesday passed a bill that would bar government from automatically deducting union dues that fund for political activityThe politics of Andorra take place in a framework of a parliamentary constitutional diarchy, and a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government, with the Head of Government of Andorra as chief executive. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. . Only Andorran nationals are able to transmit citizenship automatically to theirThe Politics of Indexation R. Kent Weaver. ments on the federal debt also tend to rise with inflation, as do physicians charges under medicare. These implicitlyAutomatic Determinations Average Wage Index increases have been based on increases in the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.This technical note addresses the following issues: (i) the design of an automatic fuel pricing mecha- However, for political and social reasons, governments are .. If specific taxes are maintained then these could also be inflation indexed.High voter turnout is a measure of citizens participation in the political process. Public engagement in decision making promotes government accountability, People dont want any taxes automatically tied to anything, said Paleologos, the director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. gas tax increases should automatically be tied to the Consumer Price Index. why states and the federal government keep running short of transportation funds isMeritocracy is a political philosophy which holds that certain things, such as economic goods or Education alone, however, does not constitute a complete system, as meritocracy must automatically confer power and authority, which a degree . It also made it illegal to fire or demote government employees for politicalJohn R. Gist, Automatic Government: The Politics of Indexation. R. Kent Weaver , The Journal of Politics 52, no. 1 (Feb., 1990): 282-284. <https://10.2307/Weaver> is the author of Ending Welfare As We Know It (Brookings, 2000), Automatic Government: The Politics of Indexation (Brookings, 1988) and The Politics of