

Steadfast Democrats

How Social Forces Shape Black Political Behavior

Ismail K. White

Chryl N. Laird

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRINCETON AND OXFORD

Copyright © 2020 by Princeton University Press

Requests for permission to reproduce material from this work
should be sent to permissions@press.princeton.edu

Published by Princeton University Press
41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540
6 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1TR

press.princeton.edu

All Rights Reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: White, Ismail K., author. | Laird, Chryl Nicole, author.

Title: Steadfast Democrats : how social forces shape Black political
behavior / Ismail K. White and Chryl N. Laird.

Description: Princeton, New Jersey : Princeton University Press, 2020. |

Series: Princeton studies in political behavior | Includes
bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019033702 (print) | LCCN 2019033703 (ebook) |

ISBN 9780691199511 (hardback) | ISBN 9780691201962 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: African Americans—Politics and government. | Party
affiliation—United States. | Group identity—Political aspects—United
States. | Democratic Party (U.S.)

Classification: LCC E185.615 .W456 2020 (print) | LCC E185.615 (ebook) |

DDC 323.1196/073—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019033702>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019033703>

British Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available

Editorial: Bridget Flannery-McCoy and Alena Chekhanov

Jacket Design: Layla Mac Rory

Production: Erin Suydam

Publicity: Nathalie Levine and Kate Farquhar-Thomson

This book has been composed in Adobe Text and Gotham

Printed on acid-free paper. ∞

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

- 1 Black Political Decision Making 24
 - 2 Norms of Black Political Behavior 56
 - 3 The Political Consequences of Black Social Networks 86
 - 4 The Process of Racialized Social Constraint 111
 - 5 Self-Interest versus Group Interest and “Racialized” Social Constraint 144
 - 6 Institutional Constraints and the Enforcement of Racialized Social Pressure 168
- Conclusion 197

Notes 209

References 215

Index 227