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Monday, August 2, 2010

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POLITICAL SYSTEM STILL FAILING WOMEN AND WOMEN CANDIDATES, BOOK FINDS

Washington, DC – Despite the media’s attention to several high-profile female candidates running for office this election cycle, new research conducted by Jennifer L. Lawless (American University) and Richard L. Fox (Loyola Marymount University) reveals a continued and substantial gender gap in political ambition among both Democrats and Republicans. As a result, men are getting elected to office; women are not.

In their new book, *It Still Takes A Candidate: Why Women Don’t Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press), Lawless and Fox report the results of a survey of nearly 4,000 lawyers, business leaders, educators, and political activists, all of whom are well-situated to run for office. They find that women, even in the highest tiers of professional accomplishment, are still substantially less likely than men to seek elective office. This phenomenon is due to an array of structural factors: women are less likely than men to be recruited to run for office, less likely than men to think they are qualified to run for office, and less likely than men to have the flexibility to take on the burdens of running for office. This gender gap in political ambition has NOT improved over time. And younger women report facing the same barriers to elected office as their older counterparts. The book ultimately demonstrates that many fundamental barriers continue to confront women in politics, thereby making gender equality a remote prospect.

Lawless and Fox are available to discuss their new book, as well as women candidates and gender in the 2010 midterm elections. If you are interested in an obtaining a copy of the book, then please contact the authors.

**Jennifer L. Lawless** is an Associate Professor of Government at American University, where she is also the Director of the Women & Politics Institute. She is a nationally recognized speaker, and her scholarly analysis and political commentary have been quoted in various newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio shows. In 2006, she sought the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in Rhode Island’s second congressional district. Email: jennifer.lawless@american.edu

**Richard L. Fox** is an Associate Professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University. He is the author of *Gender Dynamics in Congressional Elections* (1997) and co-author of *Tabloid Justice: The Criminal Justice System in the Age of Media Frenzy* (2001). He is also co-editor, with Susan J. Carroll, of *Gender and Elections* (2010). He has written several op-ed articles that have appeared in national media outlets, such as the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Email: richard.fox@lmu.edu

Together, Lawless and Fox have published articles regarding gender and electoral politics in academic journals, such as the *American Journal of Political Science* and the *Journal of Politics*, as well as a Brookings Institution report that is used by women’s organizations to help recruit women candidates.

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