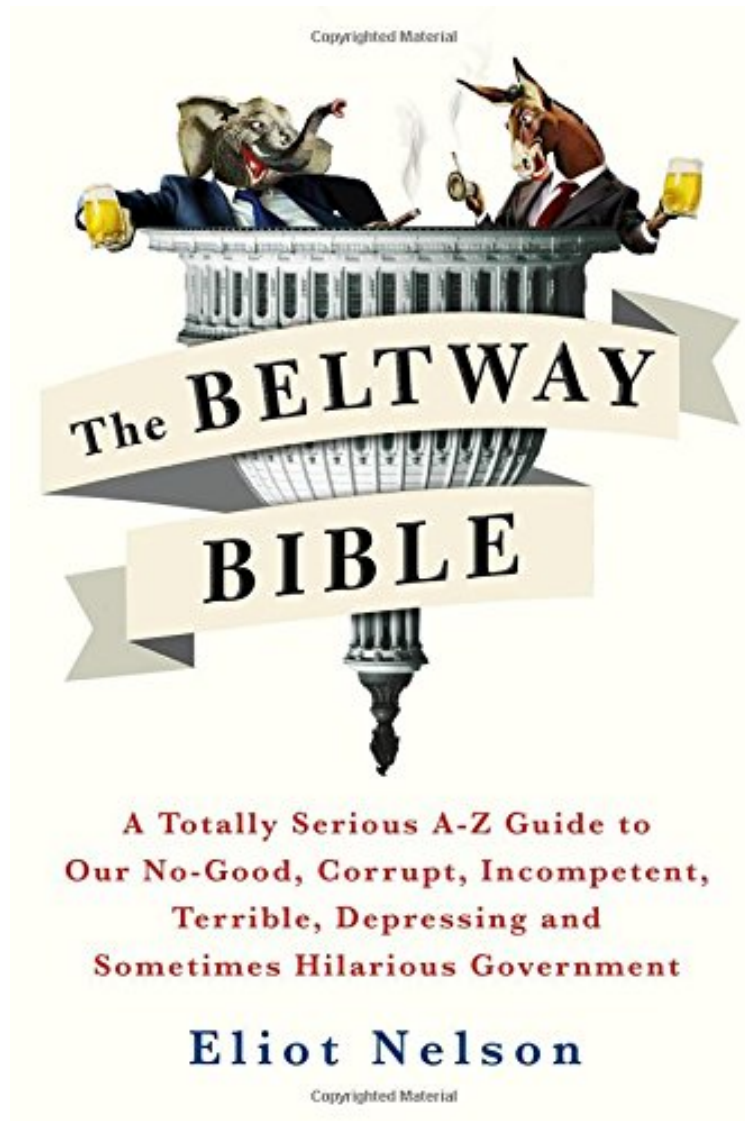


(Free) The Beltway Bible: A Totally Serious A-Z Guide to Our No-Good, Corrupt, Incompetent, Terrible, Depressing, and Sometimes Hilarious Government

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Eliot Nelson

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOLBy John C. WhitfordEvery tax paying voter needs to read this witty tome.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A witty way to teach Americans how real government worksBy Connie (She who hikes with dogs)I'm a bit of a political junkie. This book is geared toward anyone wanting to understand how the real US government works, both the good and not-so-good. Eliot Nelson understands our Congress, and teaches in an often witty way how it works...and not works. When he uses politicians for examples (like Bill Clinton under "adultery"), he also makes sure he adds politicians from the other party as examples. Apparently adultery is rampant in DC and it is bi-partisan.This book is organized like an encyclopedia, starting with "accents" and ending with "Ya'll" and "zoophilia." Pages that start with a new letter are marked, with L being the largest group as we have Leaders, Leadership PAC, Legislation, Legislative Glossary, Lobbying and Lobbyist, all terms that are worthwhile understanding thoroughly. There are plenty of Ps as well: PAC, Panels, Paywall Journalism, Pool Report, Pork, Press Conference and more.While Nelson also includes little-known-outside-the-Beltway words like "Shumwich" or "Crystal City Restaurant" (a popular strip club frequented by Pentagon brass and defense contractors), there is much in this thick book to both inform and entertain.13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. For once, a good book on DCBy CustomerI wish would filter out the "Vine" reviews where people are given a copy of a book to provide some shrug of a comment. Not helpful to most anyone who is actually interested in buying a book. That's what you get when a company's first, second, and third priority is lowering its fiduciary burden and not actually providing a service in exchange for my money - i.e. capitalism, i.e. market functions, etc. To the book.I bought this book because it's increasingly obvious that politics is a language. The terms, jargon - if you will, signal to others your awareness of the mechanisms that allocate the power given by our electoral system. Side bar and table comments about the electoral college and how money is corrupt or something. If you believe in your civic duty to vote, you'd be well-served to be able to separate the wink and chuckle of broadcast news from true action in our government. You'd be similarly served by becoming less easy prey for people who want you to be dumb at politics. These people exist.Perhaps you have an in-law who lives in DC and swaggers over the table at thanksgiving and wrings his hands at the unknowable nature of our Capitol. Your family floats earnest questions to him about climate change or taxes or the middle east and in between bites he begins each phrase with "the thing is," in order to pre-digest his difficult wisdom of policy-making for the common mind.Eliot Nelson is the cool cousin who passes you a flask under the table.

How is legislation crafted? How do you lose an election? What do "bundler," "quorum call" and "omnibus" mean? Why do some of the White House's most important meetings occur at a Starbucks? Why are Washington insiders obsessed with something called Jumbo Slice? What, exactly, is a "skintern?" Eliot Nelson, one of Washington's funniest and most admired young journalists, knows how the sausage factory works and his new book, *The Beltway Bible*, is every citizen's must-have owner's manual. Arranged from A to Z, *The Beltway Bible* provides an insider's perspective of politics and government, breaking down both into easily-digested entries on subjects like how legislation is formed, the scope of the president's power and an overview of federal agencies. Nelson also looks at D.C.'s less-well-known power structures: the internal pecking order of White House aides, the high school cafeteria power struggles behind party invites and the petty congressional arguments over how highway on-ramps are named. *The Beltway Bible* makes our complex government accessible in a way that will please everyone from Jon Stewart to John Doe. Eliot Nelson's *The Beltway Bible* is tailor-made for Election 2016.

About the AuthorELIOT NELSON is a political reporter and editor at The Huffington Post's Washington, D.C. bureau where he covers campaigns, Congress and the intersection of culture and politics. He is the author of *HuffPost Hill*, a humorous political tip sheet that *Washingtonian Magazine* called, "among the most biting, trenchant, and ultimately truthful humor being written" and which has become a must-read for hundreds of thousands of political junkies in Washington and beyond. He lives in Washington, D.C.