



Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State

*By Daniel L. Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science
Gerald Benjamin*

Download now

Read Online ➔

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L. Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin

"Laws are like sausages," Otto von Bismarck is said to have remarked. "It is better not to see them being made." Even among sausage factories, New York State's legislature is notoriously dysfunctional, but as *Tales from the Sausage Factory* reminds us, this was not always the case. Indeed, in the early 1980s, New York's legislature was a model of professionalism. Cowritten by former state legislator Daniel Feldman and political scientist Gerald Benjamin, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* offers an up-close look at how law and public policy are made in New York State. Drawing on Feldman's experiences as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1981 to 1998, the book focuses on four major battles over public safety policy in the 1980s and 1990s--organized crime control, the Rockefeller drug laws, sex offender notification, and gun control. Not afraid to name names along the way, Feldman and Benjamin show how politics works in New York State and how major public policy questions are decided (both in the legislature and the courts), as well as how New York's legislature might rise above its present dysfunction to recover the professionalism it once had. At a time when frustration with state government is at an all-time high, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* is a much-needed reminder of what we can--and should--expect from our state legislators.

📄 [Download Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in N ...pdf](#)

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State

By Daniel L. Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L. Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin

"Laws are like sausages," Otto von Bismarck is said to have remarked. "It is better not to see them being made." Even among sausage factories, New York State's legislature is notoriously dysfunctional, but as *Tales from the Sausage Factory* reminds us, this was not always the case. Indeed, in the early 1980s, New York's legislature was a model of professionalism. Cowritten by former state legislator Daniel Feldman and political scientist Gerald Benjamin, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* offers an up-close look at how law and public policy are made in New York State. Drawing on Feldman's experiences as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1981 to 1998, the book focuses on four major battles over public safety policy in the 1980s and 1990s--organized crime control, the Rockefeller drug laws, sex offender notification, and gun control. Not afraid to name names along the way, Feldman and Benjamin show how politics works in New York State and how major public policy questions are decided (both in the legislature and the courts), as well as how New York's legislature might rise above its present dysfunction to recover the professionalism it once had. At a time when frustration with state government is at an all-time high, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* is a much-needed reminder of what we can--and should--expect from our state legislators.

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L. Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1865989 in Books
- Published on: 2010-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x 1.28" w x 6.32" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 374 pages

 [Download Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in N ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin

Editorial Review

Review

Feldman and Benjamin are incredibly qualified to pen any primer for the NY politics fanatic. O-Town Scene a wonderful account of life in New York's legislature This book provides an important tool to serious reformers. Practitioners and scholars interested in understanding the current status of New York's state government will benefit from a close read of this impressive and interesting book. Political Science Quarterly

this former state assemblyman's book reveals nuances of the legislative process seldom captured by scholars for those who love politics there is much good fun, history, and valuable insight in these pages, with wonderful descriptions of political life in New York. CHOICE

The book will offer encouragement to those who are or hope to be participants in the political process. Change is possible, but it takes persistence and luck, and it rarely comes quickly. Tales also serves as a reminder that politics is a tricky business. Laws often have unintended consequences and change doesn't always take place in the way one expects Tales deserves to be read by public officials, journalists, students, political activists and citizens alike. Empire Page

Tales from the Sausage Factory is a cogent and balanced analysis of the Legislature by two authors with impressive credentials One of the book's strengths is how adeptly the authors use Feldman's experiences to examine forces shaping the Legislature. Albany Times Union

...[Tales from the Sausage Factory] is a very good way of beginning to understand how government works. And it's written in a sort of entertaining way. former New York State Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch an unusual collaboration between Daniel L. Feldman, a Democrat who represented southern Brooklyn in the Assembly from 1981 through 1998, and Gerald Benjamin, a Republican and a political scientist Both are pragmatists, preaching that the perfect is the enemy of the good. New York Times

In trying to illuminate how Albany works, the authors don't pull any punches about how years of legislators wedded to perks and promoted for rubber-stamping proposals doesn't help residents of New York, but they're optimistic about the future. Brooklyn Daily Eagle

provides an insider's look at how the legislative process worked or didn't work in addressing such issues as gun control, organized crime, the Rockefeller drug laws and sex offender notification programs, issues in which Feldman was deeply involved. Times Herald-Record

Tales from the Sausage Factory is a must read for anyone interested in the Byzantine workings of the New York State government. Two of the most knowledgeable authorities on New York State government, Gerald Benjamin and Daniel Feldman, have taken on the task of telling us how it really works. Feldman, a former state legislator, and Benjamin, who has done it all and seen it all as a practitioner, professor, and pundit, really help bring it into perspective. The case studies in the book make it all accessible and understandable. I recommend this book, without reservation. Alan Chartock, President and CEO, WAMC/Northeast Public Radio

Those of us who have watched New York State government up close for many years often wonder how so many good ideas wind up on the scrap heap, and why so many well-intentioned legislators lose hope for meaningful progress. Two of the state's most insightful analysts of the legislature, Dan Feldman and Jerry Benjamin, answer those questions in this book. Through revealing anecdotes and careful research, they open a window into the way things go in Albany. What we see often isn't pretty, but it's fascinating and it's important to know. Rex Smith, Editor and Vice President, Albany Times Union

Daniel Feldman and Gerald Benjamin deliver insider anecdotes and scholarly insights describing how the state legislature works (or doesn't). Albany veterans and political newbies alike should be fascinated. Lise Bang-Jensen, Senior Policy Analyst, Empire Center for New York State Policy

Dan Feldman and Jerry Benjamin's sausage tales are hot and spicy. If Albany is the nation's most dysfunctional legislature, this former assemblyman and legendary academic manage to capture how it both functions and malfunctions, taking readers inside a factory that shapes millions of lives. These are the flesh and blood, push and pull, sagas of political life in America's invisible legislative laboratory, where nuance, networking, and nonsense alternately rule. Wayne Barrett, Village Voice

We all seem to expect that legislatures will naturally have to juggle all sorts of balls when they try to make laws. But Feldman and Benjamin show us how everyday justice and long-term public safety are at stake in the everyday machinations that go along with the legislative process. There are no straight lines from here to there. When it comes to the production of legislative changes in crime and justice, the shortest distance between two points is a very interesting journey, indeed. Todd R. Clear, Rutgers University

Dan Feldman and Gerald Benjamin take us inside the mind and heart of a serious state legislator to look at one of the most notorious yet important law-making bodies in the United States. Students of politics have much to learn from the workings (and failings) of the New York legislature in the period they cover, when for example crime fell and imprisonment declined, a double act that continues to prove the envy of many states and nations. Tales from the Sausage Factory shows us just how twisted are the paths for legislators trying to contribute to these and other progressive trends. The book fulfills the promise of its title with its unabashed examination of how principle and ego, politics and the public good get ground together in an unappetizing process that nevertheless produces legal progress. With Gerald Benjamin's help, Dan Feldman reveals psychological and political machinations that most insiders keep hidden, a fitting capstone to his legislative accomplishments. Christopher Stone, Harvard Kennedy School"

"Feldman and Benjamin are incredibly qualified to pen any primer for the NY politics fanatic." -- O-Town Scene

.."a wonderful account of life in New York's legislature ... This book provides an important tool to serious reformers. Practitioners and scholars interested in understanding the current status of New York's state government will benefit from a close read of this impressive and interesting book." -- Political Science Quarterly

.."this former state assemblyman's book reveals nuances of the legislative process seldom captured by scholars ... for those who love politics there is much good fun, history, and valuable insight in these pages, with wonderful descriptions of political life in New York." -- CHOICE

"The book will offer encouragement to those who are or hope to be participants in the political process. Change is possible, but it takes persistence and luck, and it rarely comes quickly. Tales also serves as a reminder that politics is a tricky business. Laws often have unintended consequences and change doesn't always take place in the way one expects ... Tales deserves to be read by public officials, journalists, students, political activists and citizens alike." -- Empire Page

"Tales from the Sausage Factory is a cogent and balanced analysis of the Legislature by two authors with impressive credentials ... One of the book's strengths is how adeptly the authors use Feldman's experiences to examine forces shaping the Legislature." -- Albany Times Union

.."[Tales from the Sausage Factory] ... is a very good way of beginning to understand how government works. And it's written in a sort of entertaining way." -- former New York State Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch

.."an unusual collaboration between Daniel L. Feldman, a Democrat who represented southern Brooklyn in the Assembly from 1981 through 1998, and Gerald Benjamin, a Republican and a political scientist ... Both are pragmatists, preaching that the perfect is the enemy of the good." -- New York Times

"In trying to illuminate how Albany works, the authors don't pull any punches about how years of legislators wedded to perks and promoted for rubber-stamping proposals doesn't help residents of New York, but they're optimistic about the future." -- Brooklyn Daily Eagle

.."provides an insider's look at how the legislative process worked--or didn't work--in addressing such issues as gun control, organized crime, the Rockefeller drug laws and sex offender notification programs, issues in

which Feldman was deeply involved." -- Times Herald-Record

"Tales from the Sausage Factory is a must read for anyone interested in the Byzantine workings of the New York State government. Two of the most knowledgeable authorities on New York State government, Gerald Benjamin and Daniel Feldman, have taken on the task of telling us how it really works. Feldman, a former state legislator, and Benjamin, who has done it all and seen it all as a practitioner, professor, and pundit, really help bring it into perspective. The case studies in the book make it all accessible and understandable. I recommend this book, without reservation." -- Alan Chartock, President and CEO, WAMC/Northeast Public Radio

"Those of us who have watched New York State government up close for many years often wonder how so many good ideas wind up on the scrap heap, and why so many well-intentioned legislators lose hope for meaningful progress. Two of the state's most insightful analysts of the legislature, Dan Feldman and Jerry Benjamin, answer those questions in this book. Through revealing anecdotes and careful research, they open a window into the way things go in Albany. What we see often isn't pretty, but it's fascinating--and it's important to know." -- Rex Smith, Editor and Vice President, Albany Times Union

"Daniel Feldman and Gerald Benjamin deliver insider anecdotes and scholarly insights describing how the state legislature works (or doesn't). Albany veterans and political newbies alike should be fascinated." -- Lise Bang-Jensen, Senior Policy Analyst, Empire Center for New York State Policy

"Dan Feldman and Jerry Benjamin's sausage tales are hot and spicy. If Albany is the nation's most dysfunctional legislature, this former assemblyman and legendary academic manage to capture how it both functions and malfunctions, taking readers inside a factory that shapes millions of lives. These are the flesh and blood, push and pull, sagas of political life in America's invisible legislative laboratory, where nuance, networking, and nonsense alternately rule." -- Wayne Barrett, Village Voice

"We all seem to expect that legislatures will naturally have to juggle all sorts of balls when they try to make laws. But Feldman and Benjamin show us how everyday justice and long-term public safety are at stake in the everyday machinations that go along with the legislative process. There are no straight lines from here to there. When it comes to the production of legislative changes in crime and justice, the shortest distance between two points is a very interesting journey, indeed." -- Todd R. Clear, Rutgers University

"Dan Feldman and Gerald Benjamin take us inside the mind and heart of a serious state legislator to look at one of the most notorious yet important law-making bodies in the United States. Students of politics have much to learn from the workings (and failings) of the New York legislature in the period they cover, when--for example--crime fell and imprisonment declined, a double act that continues to prove the envy of many states and nations. Tales from the Sausage Factory shows us just how twisted are the paths for legislators trying to contribute to these and other progressive trends. The book fulfills the promise of its title with its unabashed examination of how principle and ego, politics and the public good get ground together in an unappetizing process that nevertheless produces legal progress. With Gerald Benjamin's help, Dan Feldman reveals psychological and political machinations that most insiders keep hidden, a fitting capstone to his legislative accomplishments." -- Christopher Stone, Harvard Kennedy School

From the Back Cover

"Laws are like sausages," Otto von Bismarck is said to have remarked. "It is better not to see them being made." Even among sausage factories, New York State's legislature is notoriously dysfunctional, but as *Tales from the Sausage Factory* reminds us, this was not always the case. Indeed, in the early 1980s, New York's legislature was a model of professionalism. Cowritten by former state legislator Daniel L. Feldman and political scientist Gerald Benjamin, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* offers an up-close look at how law and public policy are made in New York State. Drawing on Feldman's experiences as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1981 to 1998, the book focuses on four major battles over public safety policy in the 1980s and 1990s--organized crime control, the Rockefeller drug laws, sex offender notification, and gun control. Not afraid to name names along the way, Feldman and Benjamin show how politics works in New York State and how major public policy questions are decided (both in the legislature and the courts), as well

as how New York's legislature might rise above its present dysfunction to recover the professionalism it once had. At a time when frustration with state government is at an all-time high, *Tales from the Sausage Factory* is a much-needed reminder of what we can--and should--expect from our state legislators.

"Tales from the Sausage Factory is a must read for anyone interested in the Byzantine workings of the New York State government. Two of the most knowledgeable authorities on New York State government, Gerald Benjamin and Daniel Feldman, have taken on the task of telling us how it really works. Feldman, a former state legislator, and Benjamin, who has done it all and seen it all as a practitioner, professor, and pundit, really help bring it into perspective. The case studies in the book make it all accessible and understandable. I recommend this book, without reservation." -- Alan Chartock, President and CEO, WAMC/Northeast Public Radio

About the Author

Daniel L. Feldman is Associate Professor of Public Management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, and was previously Special Counsel for Law and Policy to the New York State Comptroller. From 1981 to 1998, he was a member of the New York State Legislature in the 45th Assembly District. His previous books include *Reforming Government* and *The Logic of American Government: Applying the Constitution to the Contemporary World*.

Gerald Benjamin is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach at State University of New York at New Paltz. He has served as an elected member of the Ulster County legislature between 1981 and 1993, and is a 1991 recipient of the New York State/United University Professions Excellence Award. He has written or edited fourteen books or monographs as well as numerous government reports and articles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Virginia Dunn:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading through a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this *Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State* book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Robert Ryan:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State*, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Martha Bryant:

This Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State is brand new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books develop itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in guide form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book style for your better life along with knowledge.

Nancy Thornton:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is written or printed or created from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just searching for the Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State when you needed it?

**Download and Read Online Tales from the Sausage Factory:
Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman,
Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin
#GU08A2QPKWE**

Read Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin for online ebook

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin books to read online.

Online Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin ebook PDF download

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin Doc

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin Mobipocket

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin EPub

GU08A2QPKWE: Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State By Daniel L Feldman, Distinguished Professor of Political Science Gerald Benjamin