Preface

This is essentially an external history of southern political life since the New Deal and World War II, encompassing a crucial epoch, an attempted second Reconstruction of the South. We have focused upon the electoral response to candidates and issues because the need was compelling and the evidence was available; only future historians and political analysts will enjoy the perspective and the access to published, manuscript, and oral data upon which a full account of this turbulent era must be based. We do not pretend that this book is the sequel to V. O. Key's *Southern Politics in State and Nation*, although our debt to Key and his associates is huge and gratefully acknowledged, and we hope that our work is worthy of that high tradition. A definitive political history of this tumultuous period in the South must await the effulgence of time, which alone can produce the necessary evidence and the maturing of the science of policy analysis, in which historical analysis must remain a crucial component.

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