Although the three coauthors often write together, this publication is by far the most extensive we have ever jointly undertaken. It would not have been possible without the help of a great many people. Erin McClam and Amy Remus Scott spent countless hours coordinating the work of the authors, negotiating their different views, sharpening the arguments, refining the text, and otherwise acting as thought partners in every way. They are wonderful!

The authors would also like to thank the McCourtney Institute for Democracy at Penn State and its managing director, Christopher Beem, for the honor of being asked to produce this work and for their guidance. Gratitude also goes to Sarah Cypher, our editor, for her work on the various drafts and for her sage counsel throughout. We also want to thank Cornell University Press, in particular Bethany Wasik.
The authors express their profound gratitude to the States United family for their work on this publication—and on everything we do. In particular we want to recognize Fiona Dwyer-McNulty, Hank Sparks, and Lauren Meadows. We also are grateful to States United’s generous supporters, board of directors, and advisory board, who have kept us on the path of bipartisan democracy defense from the start.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank our children and grandchildren, who remind us every day why this democracy is worth fighting for.