Expressive Politics

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Acknowledgments

This book began as a term paper in Jim Fearon’s “Topic in Game Theory” course in the spring of 1995. From that term paper, I embarked upon the research that became this book because of my interest in developing a research trajectory that went beyond the library, the classroom, and the computer lab. Apart from my academic interest in the subject of congressional campaigns, I undertook this project out of a desire to travel and to see political campaigns “on the ground.” This desire led me to put over 13,000 miles on an already aging graduate student car, to become stuck in a blizzard in southern Minnesota, to endure a flood in southern Ohio, and to log many a midnight drive from remote parts of the Midwest back to my home in Chicago. And, in the course of what many of my friends considered a crazy project, I incurred many, many debts.

The most important debt is to the candidates discussed in the following pages. I cannot thank them enough for their willingness to open up their homes to me and to speak at length about their campaigns. In particular, I am greatly indebted to the ten candidates who comprise the case studies here. I also wish to thank Susan Hynes and Lydia Spottswood for coming to Chicago to speak with my students and colleagues about their campaigns; to Tom Coyne and Ian Maitland, who used their own campaign experience to help me develop my interview questions; and to Tom Chandler and Gary Revier for helping me to get my car through the aforementioned flood and blizzard. I also thank Julie Dwyer of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Terry Nelson of the National Republican Congressional Committee for their assistance in contacting candidates and in understanding the workings of their respective party committees.

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