Acknowledgments

Readers will quickly notice that references to the author throughout the book are written in the plural, although but a single name appears on the title page. My wife, Professor Suzanne L. Parker, played an instrumental role in this inquiry but refused to take any credit whatsoever. Not only did she formulate, administer, and conduct the entire survey on which subsequent analyses are based, but she was a willing listener (sometimes more willing than others) as I rattled on about human capital, Congress, and postelective officeholding; she also advised me about statistical procedures, properties, and potential pitfalls and rendered invaluable assistance when it seemed that statistical packages and I were on different pages. I clearly could not have even started this project, let alone completed it, without her assistance.

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