Our biggest debt in this project is to former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. It is extraordinarily unlikely we would have started on this line of research absent the 1994 Republican revolution, led by Gingrich, and the Republicans’ policy-rich Contract with America. The Republican takeover of Congress, their subsequent policy actions, and the public’s reactions sparked a conversation between the two of us about ideological Congresses and public evaluations of them. That conversation led to our first publications on this topic and eventually to this book.

Along the way, we have had generous support and invaluable help in collecting data. We would first like to sing the praises of the Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) project run by Diana Mutz and Arthur Lupia. This project is an incomparable resource for social scientists. Our experience with TESS could not have been better. We thank Diana and Skip for the project’s existence, as well as for the efficient and helpful process they oversee. We also thank the Indiana University Center for Survey Research, specifically John Kennedy, for efforts in data collection. Other data were generously and efficiently gathered by the Center for Survey Research and Analysis (CSRA) at the University of Connecticut, under the direction of Sam Best. We thank him and everyone at CSRA for their efforts on our behalf. The Roper Center archives at the University of Connecticut were an invaluable data source for us. And Jennifer DePinto at the CBS News Election and Survey Unit spent time providing us with needed data.

Institutional debts are owed to Baruch College at the City University of New York, for research support for David, and to both the Dirksen Congressional Center and the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York, for seed money in the early stages of the project.

We also received indispensable advice and encouragement from colleagues and friends. Several people helped us with the book prospectus,
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

including Tom Halper and Barbara Sinclair. Jeffrey Ladewig patiently read multiple parts of the book, offering helpful advice. We thank Chris Wlezien, who offered suggestions on the work, as well as a forum for its presentation, and Vince Hutchings for encouragement and the suggestion that we submit the manuscript to the University of Michigan Press. Keith Poole took the time to provide us with technical advice on his data and its use. Lyle Scruggs was always there when we needed to bounce statistical ideas off of someone. Sam Best, Janet Gornick, and Kristin Kelly offered advice navigating the world of book publishing. We also thank Oksan, Jeff, Aidan Kaan, and baby Batu for the pool and for helping us keep our priorities straight.

We have had the pleasure of working with several editors at the University of Michigan Press. We would like to thank Jim Reische for his enthusiasm for our project and his passing of the baton on his departure, Phil Pochoda for keeping us in the race, and Melody Herr for helping us across the finish line with grace and gusto.

Finally, each of us thanks our spouse for a significant contribution without which this idea would never have developed and this book would not have been written.