GENDER AND ELECTIONS
Gender and Elections

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Edited by

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Acknowledgments

This volume had its origins in a series of three roundtable panels at professional meetings in 2002 and 2003 focusing on how women fared in the 2002 elections. Most of the contributors to this book were participants on those roundtables. As we gathered together at these professional meetings, we began to talk among ourselves about a major frustration we faced in teaching courses on women and politics, campaigns and elections, and American politics. We all had difficulty finding suitable, up-to-date materials on women candidates, the gender gap, and other facets of women’s involvement in elections, and certainly, none of us had been able to find a text focused specifically on gender and elections that we could use. We felt the literature was in great need of a recurring and reliable source that would first be published immediately following a presidential election and then updated every four years so that it remained current.

At some point in our discussions, we all looked at each other and collectively asked, “As the academic experts in this field, aren’t we the ones to take on this project? Why don’t we produce a volume suitable for classroom use that would also be a resource for scholars, journalists, and practitioners?” In that moment Gender and Elections was born. We are enormously grateful to Barbara Burrell for organizing the first of our roundtable panels and thus identifying and pulling together the initial core of contributors to this volume.

This book would not have been possible without the assistance of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University. Debbie Walsh, Director of CAWP, has embraced and encouraged this project and been supportive in numerous ways, including inviting Richard Fox to spend a semester at CAWP as a visiting scholar. Gilda Morales, who is in charge of information services at CAWP, proved to be an invaluable source of knowledge about women and politics, and several contributors...
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