Acknowledgment

This book would never have come into being if it weren’t for the IGI Global team, who over lunch, one afternoon in June of 2008, encouraged me to consider writing a book about ePolitics. At the time, the US Presidential campaigns were mesmerizing the public. In particular, we were all amazed at the success of the Obama campaign at gaining support and raising funds through the Internet. We all felt that “someone had to write a book about this ePolitics phenomena that was unfolding right in front of us.” I agreed to take the challenge.

Shortly afterwards, and, again, thanks to the foresight of the IGI Global team, I was invited to start a new journal, The International Journal of ePolitics (IJEP). I thought that the book will benefit from the scholarship generated by the journal, and, so, the decision was made to wait with the publication of the book until we had enough high quality papers published in the journal to select the best for the book.

It is now three years later and the term “ePolitics” is no longer peculiar. Both the Democrats and the Republicans have embraced ePolitics tools to advance their campaigns and the upcoming 2012 election season is played in the virtual world just as much as it played in the real, face-to-face world. Indeed, soon enough “ePolitics”, a term that barely existed three years ago, will replace “politics” in ways that we have yet to fully understand.

I am indebted to the team at IGI Global for suggesting that a book on ePolitics should be put together and for the help that they offered me throughout the book project. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude in particular to Julia Mosemann, the Director of Book Publications at the beginning of the project and to Joel Gamon, who helped bring the project to its completion. My thanks also go to Heather Probst, the Director of Journal Publications, who has supported me tirelessly throughout the journal and book projects.

This book would not have been written if it were not for the pioneering work of the authors whose work is included in the book. It is their research on ePolitics that is laying the foundations to what I believe will be a very important area of scholarship in the future. This book is dedicated to them with my sincerest admiration and gratitude.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my family, my husband, the Honorable Bill Callahan, and my children, David Livermore, Jonathan Livermore and Gail Livermore-Beneck. It is their love and support, as well as, their enthusiasm about all my projects that helped me bring this book project to a successful completion.

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