

Preface

Since the first edition of this book was published in 2002, there have been two presidential elections, and I have added congressional elections to the analysis of voting behavior. This edition incorporates the new data and analysis. Two other studies have also been added, one on baseball and one on football. The original aim of this book remains the same—to present in an intuitive and nontechnical way tools and methods of the social sciences. The examples have been chosen to appeal to a broad range of interests—politics, sex, wine, grades, running, baseball, football, interest rates, and inflation. The first edition of this book has been used as a supplement to some introductory social science courses, especially introductory econometrics courses, and this edition should continue to serve this purpose.

Much of the data used in this book are available on my Web site: fairmodel.econ.yale.edu. Many of the results in this book can be reproduced using these data. Also, the Web site contains updated predictions of the presidential and congressional elections as new economic data become available.

My wife, Sharon Oster, and my children, Emily Fair Oster, Stephen Oster Fair, and John Fair Oster, were a great inspiration and help to me on the first edition, and they continue to keep me in check. John is the coauthor on the football analysis. Others who have provided

useful comments include Orley Ashenfelter, John Covell, Fred Djang, John Ferejohn, Andrew Leigh, Jennifer Nou, and Terry Seaks. Soon after the first edition was published, Ken MacLeod, my editor and the one truly responsible for seeing the book through to completion, passed away. He is greatly missed. Margo Crouppen has been the energy and force behind this edition; I am indebted to her tireless efforts.

Ray Fair
New Haven, November 2010