A diverse and extraordinarily talented group of authors contributed chapters to this fourth edition of *America Votes!* Each chapter reflects a depth of experience and awareness of the many facets of the political spectrum of our time, leading to a balanced perspective from start to finish. The five-part organization of this book provides a logical pathway to address the current challenges to election law and voting rights:

1. Voter qualification and participation
2. The voting process
3. Voting rights litigation
4. Redistricting
5. Audits and recounts

The broad subject of voter qualification and participation is addressed in six chapters, beginning with veteran Texas redistricting expert Bob Heath’s chapter *Immigration, Citizenship, and the 2020 Census*, which includes a very timely discussion of *New York v. U.S. Department of Census* (June 27, 2019) involving an attempt to insert a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census. The National Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights under Law provided a trio of superb attorneys, President and Executive Director Kristen Clarke, Managing Counsel for Election Protection Julie Houk, and voting rights attorney John Powers, who collaborated in writing the chapter on Georgia’s experience in 2018 with strict construction of voter registration laws. The Southern Poverty Law Center’s Deputy Legal Director for its Voting Rights Practice Group, Nancy Abudu, authored a chapter on how Florida’s felon re-enfranchisement law penalizes the poor in *Too Broke to Vote*. Lauren E. Ward and Ben Griffith address the subject of Millennials and electoral access in 2018–2020, concluding that the technologically aware Millennial generation of voters is poised to bring about a major shift in the political climate of a polarized nation, energized in part by increased use of social media, political activism, and distrust of the gridlocked political system. Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Director of the Census and Voting Programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice, has analyzed section 203 and language minority access in *A Holistic Approach to Assisting Language Minority Voters*. A significant overview of Native American voting is provided by Robert
Saunooke, reflecting his many years of experience in working with tribal governments throughout Indian country and his deep commitment to justice through his service as President of the Native American Bar Association.

The voting process is addressed in the next seven chapters, beginning with Professors Paul Gronke and Peter Miller’s chapter *Early Voting in America: Public Usage and Public Support*, reflecting Gronke’s ongoing research as director of the Early Voting Information Center and Miller’s research work through the Brennan Center for Justice’s Democracy Program. Rachel T. Provencher’s chapter, *Voter ID Laws and Jurisprudence: The Path to 2020*, gives us a detailed and pragmatic perspective on voter identification laws as they have proliferated over the past decade. Cybersecurity expert Lucy L. Thomson has authored a fascinating chapter on cybersecurity threats to election systems, with a very current analysis of best practices that have been developed in this challenging field. Fresh from his successful representation of the plaintiff in *Baber v. Dunlap* that made Maine the first state in the Union to conduct congressional elections using ranked-choice voting, Peter Brann has contributed an intriguing chapter on ranked-choice voting. Allegra Lawrence-Hardy and Maia Cogen with Lawrence & Bundy LLC, a commercial litigation firm, have co-authored a very powerful chapter that provides a historical review of how voter fraud claims have shaped policy and affected voters. Trevor Potter, former Chair of the Federal Election Commission, and Co-Chair of Caplin & Drysdale’s Political Law Practice and associate Olivia N. Marshall, have teamed up to provide a timely chapter, *Potential Legal Pitfalls for the 2020 Elections*. Sean J. Wright, a member of Venable’s Political Law and Nonprofit Practices, has unpacked and explained H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2019, an extraordinarily detailed proposal and the most comprehensive democracy reform package since Watergate.

Key aspects of voting rights litigation are covered in the next four chapters, starting with a chapter on criminal enforcement of the election laws by Kevin Paulsen, an attorney with the Federal Election Commission’s office of General Counsel—Policy Division. Butler Snow’s Tommie Cardin, a veteran of many legislative and congressional redistricting battles in his home state of Mississippi, and Parker Berry, an exceptionally experienced litigator in the legislative and congressional redistricting field, have co-authored the chapter *Section 2 Vote Dilution in 2018 and Beyond, with Emphasis on State Legislative Redistricting*. Professors Rebecca Green and Margaret Hu have collaborated on an interesting chapter entitled *Digitized Election Administration: Perils and Promise*, in which they emphasize how election administrators are proactively and wisely reviewing when digital tools relating to election security, voter registration, casting ballots, and list maintenance can help and when unintended consequences can lead to trouble on Election Day. Appellate advocate Kurt Kastorf has contributed a chapter that comprehensively addresses the impact of *Shelby County v. Holder* on the election cycles in 2018 and 2020.

Redistricting is addressed in two chapters, one by New York University Acting Assistant Professor Mike Parsons Jr., an Adjunct Fellow at FairVote, in which he provides a current and literally hot-off-the-press analysis in *Partisan Gerrymandering*
under State and Federal Law. Also contributing a chapter in this area of the law are Southwestern Law School Professor Gowri Ramachandran and Dara Gold, an Associate Mathematician at Rand Corporation, in which the co-authors apply advanced computational techniques to gerrymandering, including partisan gerrymandering that may still be challenged under some state laws and constitutions, and potentially available state and federal legislation adopted post-Rucho.

The final subject covered in this book, audits and recounts, starts with a chapter by Dr. Thomas W. Ryan, Risk-Limiting and Ballot Image Audits, in which he advances compelling arguments about why new computer-aided tabulation systems are nonetheless vulnerable to inadvertent or malicious software problems, user errors, user manipulation of data, chain-of-custody failures, and poor ballot design that could lead to incorrectly reported election outcomes. Ryan provides a clear analysis of the pros and cons of the efficiencies and possible drawbacks of the two principal auditing methods, risk-limiting audits and ballot image audits, either of which could provide a significant improvement in election integrity if done properly and implemented statewide. The final chapter in the fourth edition of America Votes! is Recounts: The New Reality Two Decades after Bush v. Gore, which was co-authored by Sandler Reiff associate Christina E. Bustos; nationally recognized political media strategist Chris Sautter, counsel to AUDIT Elections USA with extensive experience as an attorney or consultant on almost every major national recount for the past 35 years; and John Hardin “Jack” Young, former Senior Global Election Dispute Resolution Advisor for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and an experienced, talented, and prolific expert in the field of vote/election protection, election remedies, and recounts. The co-authors make a strong case for comprehensive reform, uniform standards, and increased governmental oversight to address declining voter confidence as well as chronic problems of long lines, inaccurate poll lists, and confusing new laws designed to restrict access and voting machine failures.