

## INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

**Project Title:** Political Pathways Project Panel Recruitment

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This consent form describes the research study and helps you decide if you want to participate. It provides important information about what you will be asked to do during the study, about the risks and benefits of the study, and about your rights and responsibilities as a research participant.

### **KEY INFORMATION**

The first section of this document contains some key points that the research team thought you would find important. The research study is described in more detail after this section.

This is a research study conducted by Carly Wayne, Taylor Carlson, and Erin Rossiter, having to do with understanding how people develop and change their political views and what influences political views. We primarily focus on political views that are outside the “mainstream” typically studied by other researchers. You should carefully consider the information in this consent document and discuss it with the research team. Be sure you understand why you might want to participate, or why you might not want to participate. You may choose to participate or not. Before you decide whether to be in this study, you may wish to consider other options that are available to you. Instead of being in this study, you could choose not to participate.

If you agree and sign this consent, you will be volunteering to participate in the research study. All of the information below will be explained and is listed in more detail in the consent document below. You can obtain a copy of this consent document by copying and pasting the text to store or print for yourself. You can also email the research team and we can email you a copy.

### **How will this study affect me?**

- The purpose of this study is to create a panel of participants who are interested in participating in future research studies. Future research studies will be aimed at understanding what influences people’s political views and whether they change over time.
- As a voluntary participant, you will be asked to spend less than one minute completing this

signup survey. If you decide to sign up to participate in future studies, those future studies could take between 5 and 20 minutes to complete.

- You were selected because you are 18 years or older and reside in the United States.
- You will be in this study for approximately one year. By signing up to participate now, we may contact you to invite you to participate in other studies over the next year. Each of these future studies will take between 5 and 20 minutes to complete. You may choose to unsubscribe and leave the study at any time and you may decline our invitations to participate in future studies.
- You will need to complete the studies online using a laptop, desktop, phone, or tablet with internet access.
- The main risks to you are loss of privacy. Although we securely collect and store data you provide in our surveys and promptly remove any personally identifying information, there is still a risk that information you provide online could be lost or hacked. More detail about risks is provided below.
- We don't expect this study to benefit you directly, but it will help us understand how people form their political views, especially when political views are outside the mainstream. This will help create a more representative understanding of politics in the United States and could help address many social problems with governance.
- You will not be paid for signing up to participate in future studies. However, if we invite you back to participate in a study over the next year, you will be entered into a raffle to win up to \$500 gift cards. You will not have costs for signing up to participate in future studies or for ultimately participating in studies in the future.
- If you withdraw from the study, the research team may continue to use information already collected about you in this study.

The rest of this document provides more details about the study.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?**

This is a research study. We invite you to participate in this research study because you are over the age of 18 and reside in the United States.

The purpose of this research study is to understand how people develop their political views and how they change over time. We are particularly interested in political views that are outside the "mainstream." Our goal in this study is to develop a pool of people with a wider range of political views who might be interested in participating in other survey studies in the future.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THIS STUDY?**

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to answer two questions about your political views. Then, we will ask you to provide an email address at which we can contact you to invite you to participate in future research studies over the next year. Finally, we will ask if you would like to provide the email addresses for any friends or family members you think might also be interested in signing up to participate in future research studies.

The study will take place online. You can complete the survey, which will take less than one minute to complete, on any device, such as a laptop, desktop, phone, or tablet.

You are free to skip any questions that you would prefer not to answer.

## **Will you save my research data to use in future research studies?**

The data we are obtaining in this study may be made available for studies going on right now as well as studies that are conducted in the future. These studies may be done by researchers at Washington University, other research centers and institutions, or private companies involved in research.

We may also share your research data with large data repositories (a repository is a database of information) for use by others, such as the research community, institutions, private companies and the general public. If your individual research data is placed in one of these repositories, your name and other identifying information will be removed. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect your privacy and confidentiality. Necessary approvals will be obtained to use the data. Certain summary information may be available to the general public.

These studies may provide additional information that will be helpful in understanding political views. It is unlikely that what we learn from these studies will have a direct benefit to you. By allowing us to use your data you give up any property rights you may have in the data. We will protect the confidentiality of your information to the extent possible.

If you change your mind and do not want us to store and use your data for future research you should contact the research team member identified at the top of this document. The data will no longer be used for research purposes. However, if some research with your data has already been completed, the information from that research may still be used. Also, if the data has been shared with other researchers it might not be possible to withdraw the data to the extent it has been shared.

## **HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE?**

Approximately 3,000 people will take part in this study conducted by investigators at Washington University and the University of Notre Dame.

### **HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THIS STUDY?**

If you agree to take part in this study, your involvement will last for approximately one year. It will take less than one minute to complete this survey in which you can sign up to participate in future studies. We may contact you at the email address you provide over the course of the next year to invite you to participate in other studies, which will take between 5 and 20 minutes to complete. We anticipate sending three emails for each study you are invited to complete and you could be invited to complete up to four studies.

### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THIS STUDY?**

You may experience one or more of the risks indicated below from being in this study. In addition to these, there may be other unknown risks, or risks that we did not anticipate, associated with being in this study.

There are no known or foreseeable psychological, emotional, or physical risks to participating in this study. The main risk of participating in this study is a loss of privacy. One risk of participating in this study is that confidential information about you may be accidentally disclosed. We will use our best efforts to keep the information about you secure. Please see the section in this consent form titled *“How will you keep my information confidential?”* for more information.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY?**

You will not benefit from being in this study.

However, we hope that, in the future, other people might benefit from this study because the results from this study will improve our understanding of what shapes people’s political opinions and what influences them.

### **WHAT OTHER OPTIONS ARE THERE?**

The alternative to participating in this study is to not participate.

### **WILL IT COST ME ANYTHING TO BE IN THIS STUDY?**

You will not have any costs for being in this research study.

### **WILL I BE PAID FOR PARTICIPATING?**

You will not be paid for being in this research study. However, by participating in this study, you are signing up to be invited to participate in future studies for which you could be paid.

## **WHO IS FUNDING THIS STUDY?**

The National Science Foundation is funding this research study. This means that the Washington University is receiving payments from the National Science Foundation to support the activities that are required to conduct the study. No one on the research team will receive a direct payment or increase in salary from the National Science Foundation for conducting this study.

## **HOW WILL YOU KEEP MY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL?**

Other people such as those listed below may become aware of your participation in this study and may inspect and copy records pertaining to this research. Some of these records could contain information that personally identifies you. We will keep your participation in this research study confidential to the extent permitted by law.

- Government representatives (including the Office for Human Research Protections) to complete federal or state responsibilities
- University representatives to complete University responsibilities
- Washington University's Institutional Review Board (a committee that oversees the conduct of research involving human participants) and the Human Research Protection Office. The Institutional Review Board has reviewed and approved this study.

Any report or article that we write will not include information that can directly identify you. The journals that publish these reports or articles require that we share your information that was collected for this study with others to make sure the results of this study are correct and help develop new ideas for research. Your information will be shared in a way that cannot directly identify you.

To help protect your confidentiality, we will store the data in encrypted, secure, password-protected files that only the research team can access. Should you be invited to participate in future studies, your email address will never be stored with your responses to future surveys. Upon completion of the studies, we will delete all records of your email addresses and will only store anonymized data.

## **IS BEING IN THIS STUDY VOLUNTARY?**

Taking part in this research study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to be in this study, you may stop participating at any time. Any data that was collected as part of your participation in the study will remain as part of the study records and cannot be removed.

If you decide not to be in this study, or if you stop participating at any time, you won't be penalized or lose any benefits for which you otherwise qualify.

## **What if I decide to withdraw from the study?**

You may withdraw by telling the study team you are no longer interested in participating in the study.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**

We encourage you to ask questions. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact: Carly Wayne ([carlywayne@wustl.edu](mailto:carlywayne@wustl.edu)), Taylor Carlson ([tncarlson@wustl.edu](mailto:tncarlson@wustl.edu)), or Erin Rossiter ([erossite@nd.edu](mailto:erossite@nd.edu)). If you feel that you have been harmed in any way by your participation in this study, please contact: Carly Wayne ([carlywayne@wustl.edu](mailto:carlywayne@wustl.edu)), Taylor Carlson ([tncarlson@wustl.edu](mailto:tncarlson@wustl.edu)), or Erin Rossiter ([erossite@nd.edu](mailto:erossite@nd.edu)).

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant please contact the Human Research Protection Office at 1-(800)-438-0445, or email [hrpo@wustl.edu](mailto:hrpo@wustl.edu). General information about being a research participant can be found on the Human Research Protection Office web site, [hrpo.wustl.edu](http://hrpo.wustl.edu). To offer input about your experiences as a research participant or to speak to someone other than the research staff, call the Human Research Protection Office at the number above.

This consent form is not a contract. It is a written explanation of what will happen during the study if you decide to participate. You are not waiving any legal rights by agreeing to participate in this study.

By clicking “I consent to participate in this study,” you are indicating that this research study has been explained to you, that your questions have been answered, and that you agree to take part in this study. You are also acknowledging that you are at least 18 years old. You may retain a copy of this form by copying and pasting the text to save on your machine, saving the page, or printing this page.