**Informed Consent Form**

Project Title: Political Ideology and Voting Preference  
Principal Investigator: Brier Gallihugh, B.A. Eastern Michigan University  
Faculty Advisor: Stephen Jefferson, Ph.D., Eastern Michigan University

Thank you for your interest in this study! Your participation is greatly appreciated. To participate you must be a student at Eastern Michigan University and be able to read prompts fluently in English as well as respond fluently in English. Participation in research is voluntary and you may pull out of this study at any time (**including after starting the study**). Please feel free to ask any questions you have about participation in this study.  
   
**Study Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to examine your voting patterns, as well as your attitudes and thoughts about your vote after assessing a candidate’s individual characteristics and policy positions.

**Basic Study Procedure**  
   
You will be recruited to take place in this online study through the SONA program at Eastern Michigan University.  Upon reading a consent form, you will be redirected to the Qualtrics program which will contain the primary study materials and questionnaires. You will be asked to first complete a demographic survey that asks you to report aspects of your identity such as your gender, age, racial group, etc.) After completion of the demographic survey, you will be asked to respond to a series of questions about your political attitudes. Next, you will read a brief description of a man who is running for political office and you will be asked a series of questions to assess your impression of this individual Lastly, the study will conclude with one final question regarding whether or not you wish to receive credit for your participation. The study will take approximately 25-30 minutes to complete.

**Type of Data Collected**  
   
You may be asked to provide data that you find to be sensitive. All data will be collected anonymously (i.e., we have no way of linking your actual responses with your name). You will be asked your opinion about a number of commons social issues, as well as your opinion about an individual who is running for public office. You will also be asked some common questions about your identity (e.g., age, gender, race, etc.).

**Risk of Study Participation**  
   
There is no expected risk for participating in this study outside of what a student may face while taking a college examination or listening to a college lecture. However, you may at times potentially experience stress while reading or answering any of the study materials especially any related directly to you. As such, should you feel stress you cannot handle, you are free to withdraw from the study and are encouraged to do so immediately.

**Benefits of Study Participation**  
   
There are no anticipated benefits to you for taking part in this study. Study results may have general benefit to society by increasing our understanding of how people perceive others. Thus, findings from this study will be used as a basis for potential publications, posters, and/or presentations at conferences or symposiums.  
   
**Data Storage Procedures**  
   
Data for this study will be kept on the Qualtrics server. Qualtrics is an account-based program where only researchers will have access your individual responses and data. Qualtrics is GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant. Upon completion of the data collection, the data set will be downloaded from Qualtrics to a laptop computer that is password protected. The data file will also be password protected.

**Alternative Task**  
   
You will receive no compensation for your participation. However, some instructors in psychology do offer course credit for research participation. Researchers have no control over this. If you are unsure if your instructor allows such credit, please ask your instructor. All psychology instructors who offer research credits in their courses are required by University policy to provide a non-research alternative to students in their classes who do not wish to directly participate in research. In order to be granted research credit, at the end of your participation in this anonymous survey, you will need to follow the link provided to a completely separate survey where you will be asked to give your name. This second survey will not in any way be linked to your earlier survey responses and is only collected so that we can give participants research credits by name. If you do not complete this survey, we cannot award you SONA credit.

**Personal Information Confidentiality**  
   
We plan to publish the results of this study. We will not publish any information that can identify you individually. All data for this study will be collected anonymously. The only identifying information you will provide the researcher is separate from the main questionnaires of this study, and is only collected to award research credit.

You do not need to provide any identifying information to participate in this study. However, if you wish to receive research credit, once you have anonymously completed the main questionnaires of the study, you will then be asked if you wish to receive course credit for participating in this research. If you answer "Yes" to this question, you will be automatically linked to a completely separate survey that will ask for your name. Because the data from these two surveys are never linked, the only way a researcher will know that you have completed the relevant questionnaires of the anonymous portion of this study is to ask for your name with this completely separate, new survey. Completing this second survey will allow the researchers to know to whom they should grant credit in SONA (i.e., if you do not complete this "exit" survey, you will not receive SONA credit). Your instructors will not know which study you have participated in unless you tell them. Also, the researcher will not know what your specific responses were to any items of the surveys you completed (i.e., they will only know that you participated, but not what you reported in your responses)."

**Data Storage For Future Use**  
   
We will not store any personally identifying information about you. We will store the anonymous data collected for this study on the Qualtrics survey website, as well on a password protected laptop computer. Finally, we will also password protect the data file.

**Cost to Participant**  
   
Participation will not cost you anything.  
   
   
**Participation Compensation**  
   
You will not be paid to participate in this research study.  
   
You will receive .5 hours of SONA credit if you complete this study. If you do not complete this study, you will not earn research credit for your participation.  
   
**Study Contact Information**  
   
If you have any questions about the research, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Brier Gallihugh, at bgallihu@emich.edu or by phone at (989)-423-6118.  
   
You can also contact Brier Gallihugh’s faculty adviser, Dr. Stephen Jefferson, at sjeffer2@emich.edu or by phone at 734.487.0097.  
   
For questions about your rights as a research subject, contact the Eastern Michigan University Human Subjects Review Committee at human.subjects@emich.edu or by phone at 734-487-3090.  
   
**Voluntary participation**  
   
Participation in this research study is your choice. You may refuse to participate at any time, even after signing this form, without repercussion.

**Statement of Consent**  
   
I have read this consent form. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and am satisfied with the answers I received.

 I give my consent to participate in this research study.

 I do not give my consent to participate in this study.