

## captchas

### Are you a bot?

Liam says to Emma: "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

Who is Liam talking to? (case sensitive)

### Are you a bot?

Mia says to Benjamin: "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

Who is Mia talking to? (case sensitive)

### Are you a bot?

William says to Ava: "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

Who is William talking to? (case sensitive)

### Are you a bot?

Amelia says to Noah: "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

Who is Amelia talking to? (case sensitive)

## Are you a bot?

Evelyn says to James: "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

Who is Evelyn talking to? (case sensitive)

## Intro

### CONSENT FORM

**DESCRIPTION:** You are invited to participate in a research study in cognitive psychology. You will be asked to perform various tasks on a computer which may include: looking at images or videos, listening to sounds, reading scenarios, or playing games. You may be asked a number of different questions such as giving descriptions of what happened, making causal judgments, and interpreting people's actions. All information collected will remain confidential.

**RISKS AND BENEFITS:** Risks involved in this study are the same as those normally associated with using a computer (e.g., mild eye/arm strain). If you have any pre-existing conditions that might make reading and completing a computer-based survey strenuous for you, you should probably elect to not participate in this study. If at any time during the study you feel unable to participate because you are experiencing strain, you may end your participation without penalty. We cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this study. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your employment/medical care/grades in school.

**TIME INVOLVEMENT:** Your participation in this experiment will take 15 minutes.

**PAYMENTS:** If recruitment materials indicate payment (e.g., Amazon or other recruitment), you will receive compensation as indicated.

**SUBJECT'S RIGHTS:** If you have read this notice and have decided to participate in this project, please understand your participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You have the right to refuse to answer particular questions. Your individual privacy will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Questions, Concerns, or Complaints: If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research study, its procedures, risks and benefits, you should ask the Protocol Director, (Professor Tobias Gerstenberg, Phone: (650) 725-2431; Email: [gerstenberg@stanford.edu](mailto:gerstenberg@stanford.edu)).

**INDEPENDENT CONTACT:** If you are not satisfied with how this study is being conducted, or if you have any concerns, complaints, or general questions about the research or your rights as a participant, please contact the Stanford Institutional Review Board (IRB) to speak to someone independent of the research team via email at [irb2-manager@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:irb2-manager@lists.stanford.edu), or via phone at (650) 723-2480 or toll free at 1-866-680-2906. You can also write to the Stanford IRB, Stanford University, 3000 El Camino Real, Five Palo Alto Square, 4th Floor, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

You may want to print a copy of this consent form to keep. By clicking the button below, you acknowledge that you have read the above information, that you are 18 years of age, or older and give your consent to participate in our internet-based study and consent for us to analyze the resulting data.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Your task in this experiment is to decide to what extent the vote of a politician who voted in a committee on whether a new policy should be passed was 1) important for the outcome of the vote and 2) surprising.

You will see the outcomes of a number of different votes on different policies. The committee consists of five politicians. Whether or not a policy is passed depends on how many of the politicians voted for it. Some policies require more votes than others in order

to be passed.

Below is an example of a vote.

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### Policy information

**Number:** #123187

**Supported by:** The Republican party

**Number of votes required:** 3

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
John	Republican	✓
Bill	Republican	✓
Steve	Democrat	
Robert	Democrat	✓
Sam	Democrat	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 4 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

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In this example, the vote was about policy #123187 which was supported by the Republican party. In order for the policy to be passed, at least 3 committee members were required to vote for it.

**John**, a Republican, voted for the policy. So did **Bill**, also a Republican. **Steve**, a Democrat, didn't vote for the policy. **Robert**, another Democrat, voted in favor of the policy. **Sam**, the third Democrat, voted for the policy as well.

Since 4 out of 5 committee members voted for the policy and 3 votes were required for

the policy to pass, the policy was accepted.

Each of the committee members knows the following information before they make a decision whether to vote for the policy:

- a. the number of people in the committee
- b. the number of votes required for the policy to pass
- c. each politician's political affiliation
- d. whether the policy is supported by the Democratic or Republican party

Before you will begin with the experiment, we will show you one more example of a vote and ask you some questions about it. Press "Next" to see the next example.

## comprehension\_check

### Policy information

**Number:** #876664

**Supported by:** [The Democratic party](#)

**Number of votes required:** 2

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Kirk	Democrat	✓
Chad	Republican	✓
Antoine	Republican	
Casey	Republican	
Zachery	Republican	

Did Chad vote for or against the policy?

- ☐ For the policy
- ☐ Against the policy

How many votes were required for the policy to pass?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5

Did the policy pass?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### Test\_questions\_correct

Great, you answered all questions correctly. You can now begin with the experiment!

Remember, your task in this experiment will be to judge to what extent the votes of a committee member was 1) important for the outcome of the vote and 2) surprising.

### practice\_trial

#### Policy information

Number: #326584

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 2

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Woodrow	Democrat	✓
Delmar	Democrat	✓
Elvis	Republican	✓
Emmanuel	Republican	
Son	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 3 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Woodrow's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at allvery important

How **surprising** was **Woodrow's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at allvery surprising

**Number:** #967442

**Supported by:** The Republican party

**Number of votes required:** 5

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Tommie	Republican	✓
Blair	Republican	✓
Aaron	Republican	✓
Al	Democrat	✓
Keith	Democrat	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 5 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Blair's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Blair's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising



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**Policy information****Number:** #124465**Supported by:** The Republican party**Number of votes required:** 3**Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Ulysses	Republican	
Cole	Republican	
Isaac	Democrat	✓
Reynaldo	Democrat	✓
Jason	Democrat	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 3 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Jason's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Jason's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

2

Policy information

Number: #857494

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 1

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Cornell	<a href="#">Democrat</a>	✓
Oscar	<a href="#">Democrat</a>	✓
Julian	<a href="#">Democrat</a>	✓
Melvin	<a href="#">Democrat</a>	✓
Mario	<a href="#">Democrat</a>	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 5 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Julian's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all very important

How **surprising** was **Julian's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

25

### Policy information

Number: #758949

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 1

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Tyson	Democrat	
Sebastian	Republican	✓
Lamont	Republican	✓
Salvador	Republican	✓
Felipe	Republican	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 4 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Felipe's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Felipe's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

27

Policy information

Number: #438373

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 2

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Chester	Republican	✓
Andres	Republican	✓
Andy	Republican	✓
William	Republican	✓
Kurt	Republican	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 5 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Kurt's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all very important

How **surprising** was **Kurt's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

3

**Policy information**

**Number:** #973663

**Supported by:** The Republican party

**Number of votes required:** 1

**Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Emerson	Democrat	✓
Colin	Democrat	✓
Ian	Democrat	
Linwood	Democrat	
Salvatore	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Emerson's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all very important

How **surprising** was **Emerson's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

19

**Policy information**

**Number:** #8546764

**Supported by:** The Republican party

**Number of votes required:** 3

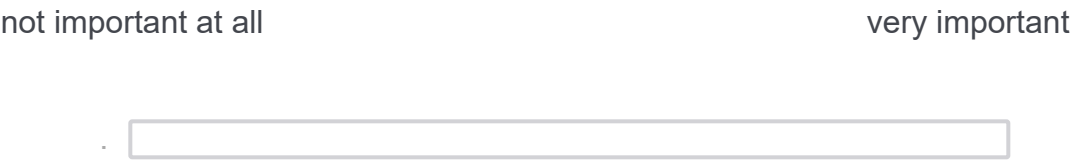
**Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Charley	Democrat	
Franklin	Democrat	

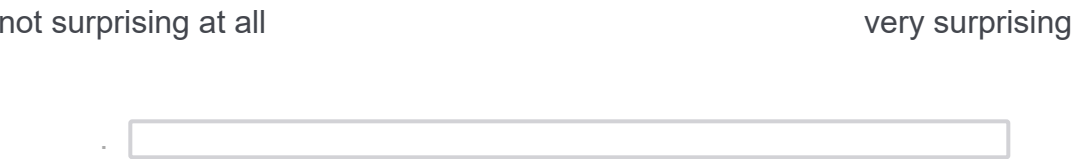
Damian	Democrat	
Vernon	Democrat	
Brad	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 0 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Franklin's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.



How **surprising** was **Franklin's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.



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Policy information

Number: #749947

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 4

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
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Philip	Republican	✓
Allen	Republican	✓
Robbie	Republican	✓
Marty	Republican	
Reuben	Democrat	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 4 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 4 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Allen's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Allen's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

4

### Policy information

Number: #124459

Supported by: **The Republican party**



**Number of votes required: 1****Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Taylor	Democrat	✓
Derrick	Democrat	
Oliver	Democrat	
Jasper	Democrat	
Sherman	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 1 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Taylor's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Taylor's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

5

Policy information

Number: #323399

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 5

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Kim	Republican	✓
Fred	Republican	✓
Tom	Republican	✓
Carlton	Republican	✓
Grant	Republican	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 5 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Fred's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Fred's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

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6

Policy information

Number: #036792  
Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)  
Number of votes required: 5

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Dylan	Democratic	✓
Dwayne	Democratic	
Domingo	Republican	✓
Harry	Republican	
Gustavo	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Dwayne's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

.

How **surprising** was **Dwayne's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

20

Policy information

Number: #224686

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 3

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Terrence	Democratic	✓
Landon	Democratic	✓
Donny	Republican	✓
Gerardo	Republican	✓
Jeremiah	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 4 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Landon's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all very important

How **surprising** was **Landon's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

8

**Policy information**

**Number:** #676478

**Supported by:** [The Democratic party](#)

**Number of votes required:** 4

**Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Forrest	Democratic	✓
Micah	Democratic	✓
Blake	Democratic	
Will	Republican	
Leland	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 4 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **surprising** was **Blake's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

How **important** was **Blake's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all very important

10

Policy information

Number: #937743

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 3

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Raul	Democratic	✓
Morgan	Democratic	✓
Hollis	Democratic	
Manuel	Republican	
Sanford	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Hollis'** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Hollis'** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

12

### Policy information

**Number:** #965059

**Supported by:** [The Democratic party](#)

**Number of votes required:** 2

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Gary	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	✓
Rigoberto	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	✓

Bernard	Republican	
Rick	Republican	
Morris	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Gary's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

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How **surprising** was **Gary's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

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14

### Policy information

Number: #336678

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 5

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
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Daniel	Democratic	✓
Lester	Republican	✓
Andre	Republican	✓
Marcelino	Republican	
Luke	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 3 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Marcelino's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Marcelino's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

16

### Policy information

Number: #119746

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 2

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Royce	Democratic	✓
Sean	Republican	✓
Shaun	Republican	
Louis	Republican	
Jan	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Sean's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at allvery important

How **surprising** was **Sean's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at allvery surprising

18

Policy information

Number: #425365

Supported by: The Democratic party

Number of votes required: 5

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Russell	Democratic	
Cary	Democratic	
Byron	Republican	
Moses	Republican	
Todd	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 0 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Cary's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Cary's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

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22

Policy information

Number: #934523  
Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)  
Number of votes required: 2

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Adan	Republican	✓
Bradley	Republican	
Dwight	Republican	
Tommy	Republican	
Wilfredo	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 1 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Dwight's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

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How **surprising** was **Dwight's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all very surprising

23

Policy information

Number: #389383

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 3

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Irvin	Democrat	✓
Scotty	Republican	
Lawrence	Republican	
Dick	Republican	
Pat	Republican	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 1 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 3 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Pat's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Pat's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

24

Policy information

Number: #374646

Supported by: [The Democratic party](#)

Number of votes required: 4

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Burton	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	✓
Orville	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	✓
Denver	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	
Federico	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	
Dustin	<a href="#">Republican</a>	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 2 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 4 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Federico's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at allvery important

How **surprising** was **Federico's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at allvery surprising

7

Policy information

Number: #445566

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 5

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Luis	Democrat	✓
Daryl	Democrat	
Kelvin	Democrat	
Elias	Democrat	
Jess	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 1 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 5 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Elias'** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Elias'** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

17

### Policy information

**Number:** #565786

**Supported by:** The Republican party

**Number of votes required:** 4

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Rocco	Republican	✓
Hugh	Republican	✓



Brent	Republican	✓
Stewart	Democrat	✓
Kyle	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 4 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 4 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Stewart's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Stewart's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

21

### Policy information

Number: #287433

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 4

### Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
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Marvin	Democrat	✓
Truman	Democrat	
Noah	Democrat	
Anthony	Democrat	
Gabriel	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 1 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 4 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Noah's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

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How **surprising** was **Noah's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

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11

## Policy information

Number: #668434

Supported by: **The Republican party**

**Number of votes required: 1****Votes**

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Vicente	Republican	
Josh	Democrat	
Clayton	Democrat	
Izaak	Democrat	
Esteban	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 0 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Esteban's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

How **surprising** was **Esteban's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

9

Policy information

Number: #494757

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 1

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Merlin	Republican	✓
Jermaine	Republican	✓
Stefan	Republican	✓
Tracy	Democrat	✓
Dane	Democrat	✓

**Outcome:** The policy was **passed**. 5 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 1 vote was required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Merlin's** vote for the policy passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at allvery important

How **surprising** was **Merlin's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at allvery surprising

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15

Policy information

Number: #098756

Supported by: The Republican party

Number of votes required: 2

Votes

	Party affiliation	Voted in favor of policy
Brett	Democrat	
Erwin	Democrat	
Roger	Democrat	
Willis	Democrat	
Pete	Democrat	

**Outcome:** The policy was **not passed**. 0 out of 5 committee members voted in favor of the policy and 2 votes were required for the policy to pass.

How **important** was **Roger's** vote for the policy not passing? Click to adjust the bar.

not important at all

very important

.

How **surprising** was **Roger's** vote? Click to adjust the bar.

not surprising at all

very surprising

## Goodbye

What factors influenced how you made your judgments about how important the vote was for the policy passing or not passing?

What factors influenced how you made your judgments about how surprising the vote was?

Please provide the following demographic information to complete the study.

### 1. Age

☐ My age in years is

☐ Prefer not to say

## 2. Gender

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## 3. Race

- ☐ I am
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## 4. Ethnicity

- ☐ Hispanic
- ☐ Non-Hispanic
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you very much for participating in this experiment!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aaron Beller  
([abeller@stanford.edu](mailto:abeller@stanford.edu)).

In order to receive credit for taking our survey, you will need to paste the following validation code into the box on MTurk:

052994020292

Press "Exit" to end the experiment.

**Test\_questions\_incorrect**

One or more of your responses were incorrect. Please re-read the instructions and try again!

Powered by Qualtrics