**Survey of the Performance of American Elections, 2012**

**Draft of October 9, 2012**

**Decision to Vote and Reasons for Not Voting**

The next several questions deal with your experiences voting during the November 2012 general election. It is important for the rest of the survey to know whether you voted. Your answer is anonymous.

**Q1**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Voted

Which of the following statements best describes you?

1. I did not vote in the election this November
2. I thought about voting this time, but didn’t
3. I usually vote, but didn’t this time
4. I tried to vote, but was not allowed to when I tried
5. I tried to vote, but it ended up being too much trouble
6. I definitely voted in the November General Election

**Q2A-Q2N**

GRID

Reason for not voting

*IF Q1! = 6.*

How much of a factor did the following reasons play in your not voting in the November General

Election?

Rows:

Q2A I did not have the right kind of identification

Q2B Illness or disability (own or family’s)

Q2C Out of town or away from home

Q2D I forgot to vote

Q2E I requested but did not receive an absentee ballot

Q2F I was too busy/had a conflicting work, family, or school schedule

Q2G Transportation problems

Q2H I didn’t like the candidates or campaign issues

Q2I There were problems with my registration

Q2J Bad weather

Q2K The polling place hours, or location, were inconvenient

Q2L The line at the polls was too long

Q2M I did not know where to vote

Q2N I did not receive my ballot in the mail, or it arrived too late for me to vote.

Columns:

1. Not a factor
2. A minor factor
3. A major factor
4. I don’t know

**Q3**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

First time voting

*If Q1 in [4, 5, 6]; please rotate row items*

Was this your first time voting, or have you voted in elections before?

1. I am a first time voter
2. I have voted in elections before
3. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q4**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Mode of voting

*If Q1 in [4, 5, 6]*

Did you vote in person at a precinct on Election Day, in person before Election Day, or by mail (that is, absentee or vote-by-mail)?

1. In person on Election Day (at polling place or precinct)
2. In person before Election Day (early)
3. Voted by mail (or absentee)
4. I don’t know

**In-Person Voting**

**Q5**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Difficulty finding polling place

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

How difficult was it to find your polling place to vote?

1. Very difficult
2. Somewhat difficult
3. Fairly easy
4. Very easy
5. I don’t know

**Q6**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Polling place type

*If Q4 in [1, 2]; Please rotate the response items*

How would you describe the place where you voted?

1. Private business
2. School building
3. Church
4. Police/Fire Station
5. A store or shopping mall
6. Senior center
7. Community center
8. Library
9. {FIXED} Other government office (court house, municipal building, city hall, etc.)
10. {FIXED} Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
11. {FIXED} I don’t remember

**Q7**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Personally knew person who checked you in

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

Did you personally know the person who checked you in when you arrived to vote?

1. Yes
2. No
3. {FIXED} I don’t know
4. {FIXED} I don’t remember

**Q8**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

How well the polling place was run

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

How well were things run at the polling place where you voted?

1. Very well — I did not see any problems at the polling place
2. Okay — I saw some minor problems, but nothing that interfered with people voting
3. Not well — I saw some minor problems that affected the ability of a few people to vote
4. Terrible — I saw some major problems that affected the ability of many people to vote
5. I don’t know

**Q9**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Problem with voter registration

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

Was there a problem with your voter registration when you tried to vote?

1. Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
2. No
3. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q10**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Line length

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

Approximately, how long did you have to wait in line to vote?

1. Not at all
2. Less than 10 minutes
3. 10-30 minutes
4. 31minutes – 1 hour
5. More than 1 hour (please specify how long \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
6. I don’t know

**Q11**

Source of line

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

*If Q10 != 1*

Was your wait in line mostly when you first arrived to check in at the registration table, or after you checked in and were waiting to gain access to a place to cast your ballot?

1. Most of my wait was to check in to vote.
2. Most of my wait was after I had checked in, and I was waiting to gain access to a voting machine or other place to vote.
3. My wait in line was fairly evenly divided between checking in and waiting to cast my ballot.
4. I don’t remember.

**Q12**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Picture ID

*If Q4 in [1,2]; Please rotate response categories*

When you first checked in at the polling place to vote, which of the following statements most closely describes **how you were asked** to identify yourself?

1. I gave my name and address, but did not show any identification of any kind.
2. I showed a letter, a bill, or something else with my name and address on it, but it **was not** an identification card of any sort.
3. I showed my voter registration card.
4. I showed my driver’s license or state-issued photo ID.
5. I showed my passport.
6. I showed a military ID card.
7. {FIXED} I showed some other form of identification. (Please indicate what you showed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)
8. {FIXED} I don’t remember.

**Q13**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Picture ID follow-up

*If Q12 in [4, 5, 6]*

Did you show picture identification because you were asked for it specifically, or because a picture ID was the most convenient form of identification for you to show?

1. I was asked specifically for an ID card with a picture on it
2. I showed a picture ID card because it was convenient for me; I could have shown another form of ID if I had wanted to
3. I don’t know

**Q14**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Voting equipment problems

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

Did you encounter any problems with the voting equipment or the ballot that may have interfered with your ability to cast your vote as intended?

1. Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
2. No
3. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q15**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Poll worker performance

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

Please rate the job performance of the poll workers at the polling place where you voted.

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. I don’t know

**Q16**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Race of Poll Worker

*If Q4 in [1, 2]; please rotate the response items*

What was the race/ethnicity of the poll worker who checked you in when you voted?

1. African-American
2. Native American
3. Asian
4. White
5. Hispanic
6. {FIXED} Other/multi-racial
7. {FIXED} I don’t recall the race of my poll worker
8. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q17**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Age of poll worker

*If Q4 in [1, 2]*

About how old was the poll worker who checked you in when you voted?

1. Under 30
2. Between 31 and 50
3. Between 51 and 70
4. Older than 70
5. I don’t know

**Absentee Voting**

**Q18**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Reason for absentee ballot

*If Q4==3; please rotate items*

Which of the following statements most closely describes why you voted by mail or absentee?

1. My state or locality only has vote-by-mail.
2. I have signed up to receive a mail or absentee ballot automatically in each election.
3. Voting by mail or absentee was just more convenient for me this election
4. I was out of town for this election
5. I have a physical disability that makes it difficult for me to get to the polls
6. I could not get to the polls on Election Day because of my work or school schedule
7. I am in the armed forces
8. I was an election official or poll worker
9. Religious observances would have interfered with my going to the polls
10. Other (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Q19**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Problems getting mail ballot

*If Q4==3*

Were there any problems getting your absentee or mail-in ballot sent to you?

1. Yes (Please specify what problem, or problems, you had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
2. No
3. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q20**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Problem marking mail ballot

*If Q4==3*

Did you encounter any problems marking or completing your ballot that may have interfered with your ability to cast your vote as intended?

1. Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
2. No
3. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q21**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

How absentee ballot returned

*If Q4==3*

How did you return your absentee or mail ballot?

1. I personally mailed it back in.
2. Someone else in my household mailed it back in.
3. I personally returned the ballot to an official election location (polling place, election office, early voting center, etc.)
4. Someone else in my household returned the ballot to an official election location
5. Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
6. I don’t remember

**Q22**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

When absentee ballot returned

*If Q4==3*

To the best of your memory, when did you return your absentee or mail ballot?

1. On Election Day
2. A few days before Election Day
3. The week before Election Day
4. More than a week before Election Day
5. I don’t remember

**Q23**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Ease filling out absentee ballot

*If Q4==3*

Overall, how easy was it to follow all the instructions necessary to cast your ballot and return it to be counted?

1. Very easy
2. Somewhat easy
3. Somewhat hard
4. Very hard
5. I don’t remember

**Vote Choice Decision and Confidence**

**Q24**

SINGLE CHOICE WITH TEXT, SOFT REQUIRED

Presidential vote

*If Q1==6; please rotate the response categories*

For whom did you vote for President of the United States?

1. Mitt Romney (Republican)
2. Barack Obama (Democrat)
3. {FIXED} Other candidate or party (please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
4. {FIXED} I did not vote in this race
5. {FIXED} I don’t know

**Q25**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Confidence (your vote)

*If Q1==6*

How confident are you that **your vote** in the General Election was counted as you intended?

1. Very confident
2. Somewhat confident
3. Not too confident
4. Not at all confident
5. I don’t know

**Q26**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Confidence (county)

Think about vote counting throughout **your county or city,** and not just your own personal situation. How confident are you that votes in your county or city were counted as voters intended?

1. Very confident
2. Somewhat confident
3. Not too confident
4. Not at all confident
5. I don’t know

**Q27**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Confidence (state)

Now, think about vote counting throughout **$inputstate**. How confident are you that votes in $inputstate were counted as voters intended?

1. Very confident
2. Somewhat confident
3. Not too confident
4. Not at all confident
5. I don’t know

**Q28**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Confidence (nationwide)

Finally, think about vote counting throughout the country. How confident are you that votes **nationwide** were counted as voters intended?

1. Very confident
2. Somewhat confident
3. Not too confident
4. Not at all confident
5. I don’t know

**Attitudes Regarding Voter Fraud**

**Q29**

GRID

*Please rotate the row items*

The following is a list of activities that are usually against the law. Please indicate how often you think these activities occur **in your county or city.**

Rows

Q29A People voting more than once in an election

Q29B People stealing or tampering with ballots that have been voted

Q29C People pretending to be someone else when going to vote

Q29D People voting who are not U.S. citizens

Q29E People voting an absentee ballot intended for another person

Q29F Officials changing the reported vote count in a way that is not a true reflection of the ballots that were actually counted

Columns

1. It is very common
2. It occurs occasionally
3. It occurs infrequently
4. It almost never occurs
5. I’m not sure

**Identification and Voting**

**Q30**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Driver’s license

Do you have a driver’s license?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q30A**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

*If Q30==1*

DL expired

Is your driver’s license expired?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q30B**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

DL legal name

*If Q30==1*

Is the name on your driver’s license the same name you are registered to vote under?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q30C**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

DL address

*If Q30==1*

Is the address on your driver’s license the same as the address where you are registered to vote?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q31**

Have passport

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Do you have a U.S. passport?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q31A**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Passport expired

*If Q31==1*

Is your passport expired?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q31B**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Passport legal name

*If Q31==1*

Is the name on your passport the same name you are registered to vote under?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q32**

Birth certificate

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Do you have an official copy of your birth certificate that you can easily locate?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q33A-Q33M**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Other ID

The following is a list of ID cards that people sometimes have. Please indicate which of the following you have personally, and whether it has a picture. (Check all that apply.)

Rows

Q33A A public assistance ID card issued by $inputstate

Q33B A military ID card

Q33C An ID card issued by a state or local government **outside of** $inputstate

Q33D An ID card from a Native American tribe

Q33E An ID card from a private college or university **within** $inputstate

Q33F An ID card from a private college or university **outside of** $inputstate

Q33G An ID card from a state college or university **within** $inputstate

Q33H An ID card from a state college or university **outside of** $inputstate

Q33I A license to carry a firearm issued by $inputstate

Q33J A voter registration card issued by $inputstate

Q33K An ID card issued by an agency or department of the federal government **that you have not already indicated**

Q33L An ID card issued by an agency or department of the state of $inputstate **that you have not already indicated**

Q33M An ID card issued by an agency of a local government in $inputstate **that you have not already indicated**

Columns

1. I have this ID **with a picture**
2. I have this ID **without a picture**
3. I don’t have this ID at all

**Attitudes toward Election Reform**

**Q34A–Q34G**

GRID

Reform proposals

*Please rotate the row items*

Do you support or oppose any of the following proposals for new ways of voting or conducting elections?

Rows:

Q34A Allow absentee voting over the Internet

Q34B Voting using cell phones

Q34C Run all elections by mail

Q34D Automatically register all citizens over 18 to vote

Q34E Allow people to register on Election Day at the polls

Q34F Require all people to show government issued photo ID when they vote

Q34G Require electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of the ballot

Q34H Move Election Day to a weekend

Q34I Make Election Day a national holiday

Q34J Only select election officials on a non-partisan basis

Q34K Make it so that when a registered voter moves, he or she is automatically registered to vote at the new home

Columns:

1. Support strongly
2. Support somewhat
3. Oppose somewhat
4. Oppose strongly

**Voter Registration**

**Q35**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Address is changed when I move

To the best of your knowledge, when you move, do election officials or the U.S. Postal Service automatically update your voter registration?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Q36**

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Register at DMV

To the best of your knowledge, can you register to vote or update your existing voter registration in the state motor vehicle agency in $inputstate?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Demographic Information**

**Q37**

Disability

SINGLE CHOICE, SOFT REQUIRED

Does a health problem, disability, or handicap CURRENTLY keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

1. Yes
2. No

Age

Income

Education

Party identification

Ideology

Years in current residence

Race

County of residence

ZIP code of residence