

## **Informed Consent**

### **Welcome to the research study!**

We are interested in understanding your views related to elections in the United States. You will be presented with relevant information and asked to answer some questions. Please be assured that your responses will be kept completely confidential.

The study should take you around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Your participation in this research is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any point during the study, for any reason, and without any prejudice. If you would like to contact the Principal Investigator in the study to discuss this research, please e-mail Michael Hanmer at [mhanmer@umd.edu](mailto:mhanmer@umd.edu).

By clicking the button below, you acknowledge that your participation in the study is voluntary, you are 18 years of age, and that you are aware that you may choose to terminate your participation in the study at any time and for any reason.

Please note that this survey will be best displayed on a laptop or desktop computer. Some features may be less compatible for use on a mobile device.

- ☐ I consent, begin the study
- ☐ I do not consent, I do not wish to participate

age and citizenship

How old are you?

▼

Are you a citizen of the United States?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
- ☐ No, I am not a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Vignette Prep

The following page will present a short news article recently published in the local paper.  
Please read the article carefully and continue on once you have finished reading.

Treatment Vignette: Recruiting Veterans as Poll Workers

Local Military Veterans Recruited for Election Jobs in Maricopa County

PHOENIX (AP) — Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona, announced a program designed to recruit military veterans and their family members from the community to serve as election

polling place workers. As the U.S. general elections in November near, election officials are scrambling to staff polling sites as major indicators are projecting a large-scale shortage for the 2024 elections and beyond.

Army veteran Jordan Braxton just joined the elections workforce. Jordan believes their role is key to preserving the integrity of the election, “Many places are short on staff this election cycle. I want to do my part to ensure that everyone trusts the process and the outcome of the election.”

Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

## Control Vignette: Recruiting Poll Workers

### Local Residents Recruited for Election Jobs in Maricopa County

PHOENIX (AP) — Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona, announced a program designed to recruit members of the community to serve as election polling place workers. As the U.S. general elections in November near, election officials are scrambling to staff polling sites as major indicators are projecting a large-scale shortage for the 2024 elections and beyond.

Jordan Braxton just joined the elections workforce. Jordan believes their role is key to preserving the integrity of the election, “Many places are short on staff this election cycle. I want to do my part to ensure that everyone trusts the process and the outcome of the election.”

Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

## **election work**

Have you ever worked as an election worker at polling place, as a volunteer or otherwise?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How likely would you be to agree to volunteer work as an election worker at polling place in your local area for the upcoming elections this November?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Not likely at all

How likely would you be to consider applying for a temporary job in elections for the upcoming elections this November?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Not likely at all

How likely would you be to consider applying for a permanent job in elections?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Not likely at all

## **trust and confidence**

Do you think the elections this November in your community will be run very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not well at all

How confident are you that election systems in your local area are secure from hacking and other technological threats?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not too confident
- ☐ Not at all confident

Think about vote counting throughout your local area, and not just your own personal situation. How confident are you

that votes in your community will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not too confident
- ☐ Not at all confident

How confident are you that votes across the United States will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not too confident
- ☐ Not at all confident

How likely do you think any or all of the following will happen during this year’s elections?

Many people will show up to vote and be told they are not eligible	<div>▼</div>
A foreign country will tamper with the votes cast to change the results	<div>▼</div>
There will be voter fraud, that is, people who are not eligible to vote will vote, or vote more than once	<div>▼</div>
Many votes will not actually be counted	<div>▼</div>
Election officials in your state will try to discourage some people from voting	<div>▼</div>

Regardless of whether election officials in your local area do the following, how would knowing that your local election

officials took the following actions impact how much confidence you have in the security and integrity of your local area's elections this November?

Election officials recruit polling place workers mainly from college students from the community.	<div></div>
Election officials recruit polling place workers mainly from lawyers from the community.	<div></div>
Election officials recruit polling place workers mainly from military veterans and their family members from the community.	<div></div>

Regardless of whether any of these are actually the case in your local area, how would the following impact how much confidence you have in the security and integrity of your local area's elections this November?

The majority of election polling place workers consist of military veterans and their family members from the community.	<div></div>
The majority of election polling place workers consist of lawyers from the community.	<div></div>
The majority of election polling place workers consist of college students from the community.	<div></div>

**election anxiety/worry over safety**

How confident, if at all, are you that in person polling places in your local area will be run safely during the upcoming elections in November?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not too confident
- ☐ Not at all confident

Overall, how safe would you feel voting in person at your local polling place?

- ☐
- ☐ Very safe
- ☐ Somewhat safe
- ☐ Not too safe
- ☐ Not safe at all

Overall, how concerned are you about potential violence, threats of violence, or intimidation while voting in person at your local polling place?

- ☐
- ☐ Very concerned
- ☐ Somewhat concerned
- ☐ Somewhat unconcerned
- ☐ Not at all concerned

## Demographic questions

What is your current gender? Female, male, transgender, a gender not listed here

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Prefer not to say



Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself primarily White or Caucasian, Black or African American, American Indian, Asian, or something else?

- ☐ White or Caucasian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Other

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- ☐ Less than high school degree
- ☐ High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)
- ☐ Some college but no degree
- ☐ Associate degree in college (2-year)
- ☐ Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Doctoral degree
- ☐ Professional degree (JD, MD)

Have you ever served on active duty in the US Armed

Forces?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you now serving in the Armed Forces?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Has a member of your immediate family ever served or is currently serving in the US military, the National Guard, or military reserves?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In 2020, Joe Biden ran on the Democratic ticket against Donald Trump for the Republicans. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Who did you vote for?

- ☐ Donald Trump
- ☐ Joe Biden
- ☐ Other

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Independent
- ☐  Other (please specify)

How important is being a Republican to you?

- ☐
- ☐ Not at all important
- ☐ Slightly important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Extremely important

How important is being a Democrat to you?

- ☐
- ☐ Not at all important
- ☐ Slightly important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Extremely important

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Democratic
- ☐ Neither

Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

- ☐
- ☐ Haven't thought much about this
- ☐ Extremely Liberal
- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Slightly liberal
- ☐ Moderate: middle of the road
- ☐ Slightly conservative
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Extremely conservative

If you had to choose, would you consider yourself a liberal or a conservative?

- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ None of these

**Debrief**

## **Thank you for completing this survey!**

During this survey you might have read stories about on-going recruitment of election staff or poll workers from veteran U.S. service members or from the general public. These stories were modeled after actual news stories but were not real. We apologize for this. We created them in order to better understand how the news about elections influences people's opinions about politics.

Please do not, therefore, base your own evaluations of policies, public officials, political parties, poll workers, election staff, or veteran U.S. service members on the material you read in this study. Researching election worker volunteer shortages on your own via various information sources is the best way to understand how elections are administrated in the United States and any current issues. These are all the questions we have for you.

Thank you for your time and should you have questions, please contact: Professor Michael Hanmer, 3140 Tydings Hall, College Park Maryland 20910 Tel. 301-405-7379 or email: [mhanmer@umd.edu](mailto:mhanmer@umd.edu).