

## **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

## Demographic questions

What is your year of birth?

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

Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be:

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ White
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Black or African American

☐  Other

☐ Prefer not to say

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

Did you vote in the 2020 general election?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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?

- ☐ Democratic
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ 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

Regardless of whether you attend any religious services, do you ever think of yourself as part of a particular religion?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is your present religion, if any?

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Agnostic
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Roman Catholic
- ☐ Atheist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Latter-Day Saints (LDS)
- ☐ Orthodox Christian (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)
- ☐ Something Else
- ☐ Nothing in particular

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.

# Vignette 1, Treatment: Recruiting Veterans as Poll Workers

## Recruiting Military Veterans to Volunteer as Poll Workers for 2024 Election

As political candidates jockey for support during the stretch run to the U.S. general election in November, state and local officials are scrambling to staff polling sites with election volunteers. Major indicators are projecting a massive poll worker shortage for the 2024 election and beyond. More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. Multiple organizations have formed to help recruit veterans to serve as poll workers.

Army Veteran Jordan Braxton is training to be a poll worker during the early voting period. Jordan believes their role as a poll worker is key to preserving the integrity of the election, "Many states are short on poll workers this cycle. I want to ensure that everyone has easy access to vote when it's right for them. Fewer staff means longer lines and potentially less time available for potential voters."

During the 2022 midterms, more than 63,500 veterans and members of military families were successfully recruited and worked as poll workers. Recruitment efforts for 2024 aim to recruit 100,000 veterans to volunteer as poll workers.

Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

## **Vignette 2, Treatment : Recruiting Veterans as Election Staff**

### **Recruiting Military Veterans to Volunteer as Election Staff for 2024 Election**

As political candidates jockey for support during the stretch run to the U.S. general election in November, state and local officials are scrambling to staff polling sites with election volunteers. Major indicators are projecting a massive election staff shortage for the 2024 election and beyond. More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. Multiple organizations have formed to help recruit veterans to serve as poll workers.

Army Veteran Jordan Braxton is training to work on the election staff during the early voting period. Jordan believes their role as an election staff member is key to preserving the integrity of the election, "Many states are short on election staff this cycle. I want to ensure that everyone has easy access to vote when it's right for them. Fewer staff means longer lines and potentially less time available for potential voters."

During the 2022 midterms, more than 63,500 veterans and members of military families were successfully recruited and worked as election staff. Recruitment efforts for 2024 aim to recruit 100,000 veterans to volunteer as election staff.

Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



# Vignette 3: Recruiting General Poll Workers

## Recruiting Poll Workers for the 2024 Election

As political candidates jockey for support during the stretch run to the U.S. general election in November, state and local officials are scrambling to staff polling sites with election volunteers. Major indicators are projecting a massive election staff shortage for the 2024 election and beyond. More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. Multiple organizations have formed to help recruit volunteers to serve as poll workers.

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Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

# Vignette 4: Recruiting General Election Staff

## Recruiting Election Staff Volunteers for the 2024 Election

As political candidates jockey for support during the stretch run to the U.S. general election in November, state and local officials are scrambling to staff polling sites with election volunteers. Major indicators are projecting a massive election staff shortage for the 2024 election and beyond. More than 1 million volunteers are needed to run national elections. Multiple organizations have formed to help recruit volunteers to serve as election staff members.

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Did the text from the article display correctly?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

**election anxiety/worry over safety**

Thinking about the general election this November, how confident, if at all, are you that in person polling places will be run safely?

- ☐
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not confident at all
- ☐ A little confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Extremely confident

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

- ☐
- ☐ Unsure

- ☐ Perfectly safe
- ☐ Somewhat safe
- ☐ A little 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?

- ☐
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not at all concerned
- ☐ A little concerned
- ☐ Somewhat concerned
- ☐ Extremely concerned

How confident are you that your state or local government will run a fair and accurate election this November?

- ☐
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Not very confident
- ☐ Not confident at all

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

		Unsure	Extremely unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat likely	Extremely likely
Many votes will not actually be counted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many people will show up to vote and be told they are not eligible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There will be voter fraud, that is, people who are not eligible to vote will vote, or vote more than once	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A foreign country will tamper with the votes cast to change the results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Election officials in your state will try to discourage some people from voting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 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).

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