

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.

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. 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 administrators, including election polling place workers, temporary workers, and full-time staff. As the U.S. general elections in November near, election officials are scrambling to staff elections 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?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

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 administrators, including election polling place workers, temporary workers, and full-time staff. As the U.S. general elections in November near, election officials are scrambling to staff elections 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

Trust and Confidence in Elections in Maricopa County, AZ

The next set of questions are going to ask you about elections in the place you read about, Maricopa County, Arizona.

How confident are you that election officials, staff, and volunteers in Maricopa County will do a good job conducting the elections this November?

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

Think about vote counting throughout Maricopa County, AZ. How confident are you that votes in Maricopa County, AZ will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

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

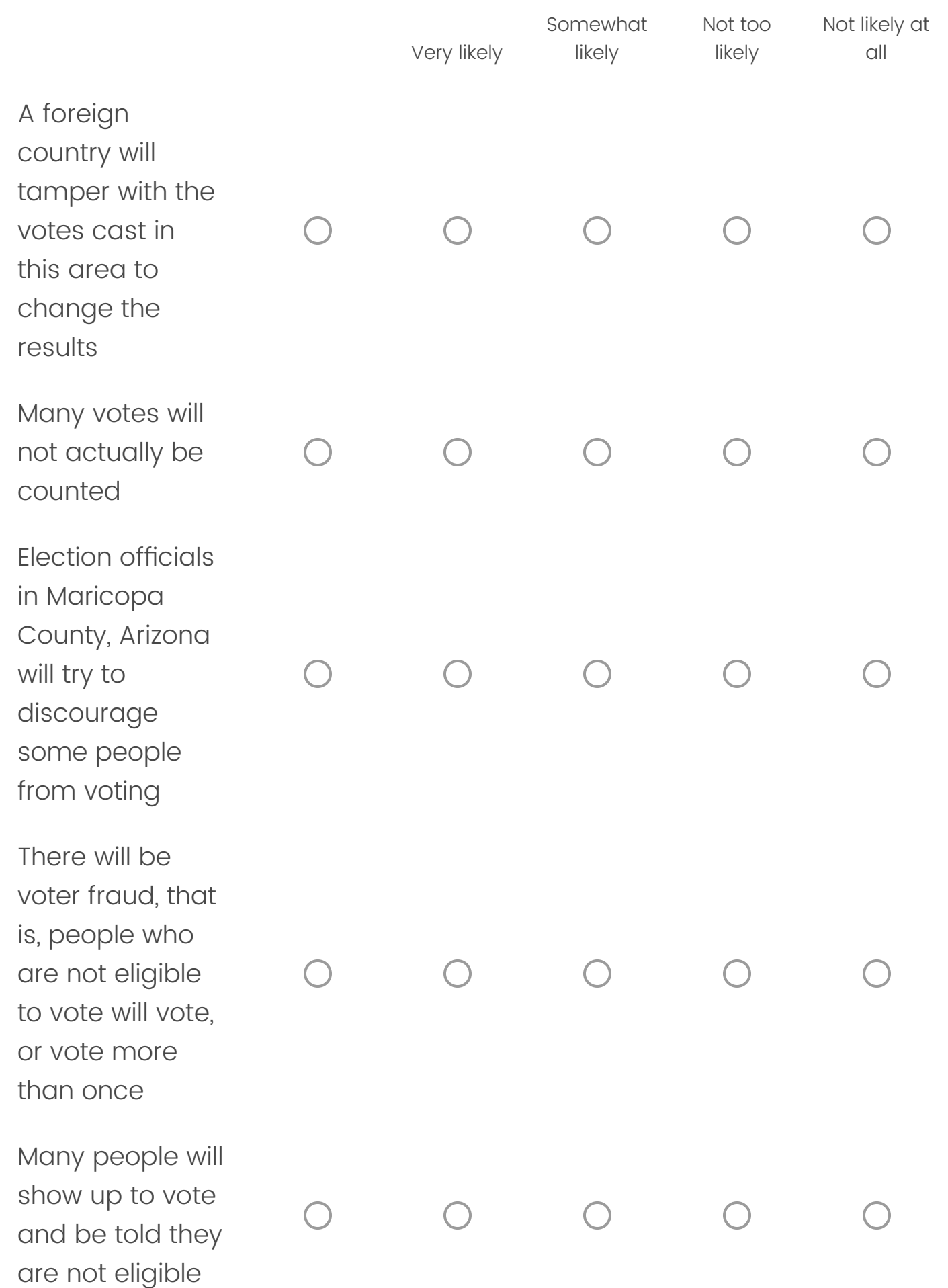
How confident are you that election systems in Maricopa County, AZ will be secure from hacking and other technological threats?

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

Think about the election staff and volunteers who handle the administration and conduct of elections in Maricopa County, AZ. How committed do you think they will be at making sure the elections held this November are fair and accurate?

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

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



Concern for Safety of Voters in Maricopa County, AZ

Thinking about Maricopa County, AZ, how concerned should voters feel about potential violence, threats of violence, or

intimidation while voting in person at their local polling place?

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

How confident, if at all, are you that in person polling places in Maricopa County, AZ will be safe places for voters to cast their ballots during the upcoming elections in November?

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

Trust and Confidence in Elections in Local Area

The next set of questions will ask you about elections in your local area.

How confident are you that election officials, staff, and volunteers in your local community will do a good job administering the elections this November?

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

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 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

Now think about the election staff and volunteers who handle the administration and conduct of elections in your local area. How committed do you think they will be at making sure the elections held this November are fair and accurate?

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

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

		Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Many votes will not actually be counted	<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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

Concern for Safety of Self and Voters in Local Area

How confident, if at all, are you that in person polling places in your local area will be safe places for voters to cast their ballots during the upcoming elections in November?

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

For you personally, 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

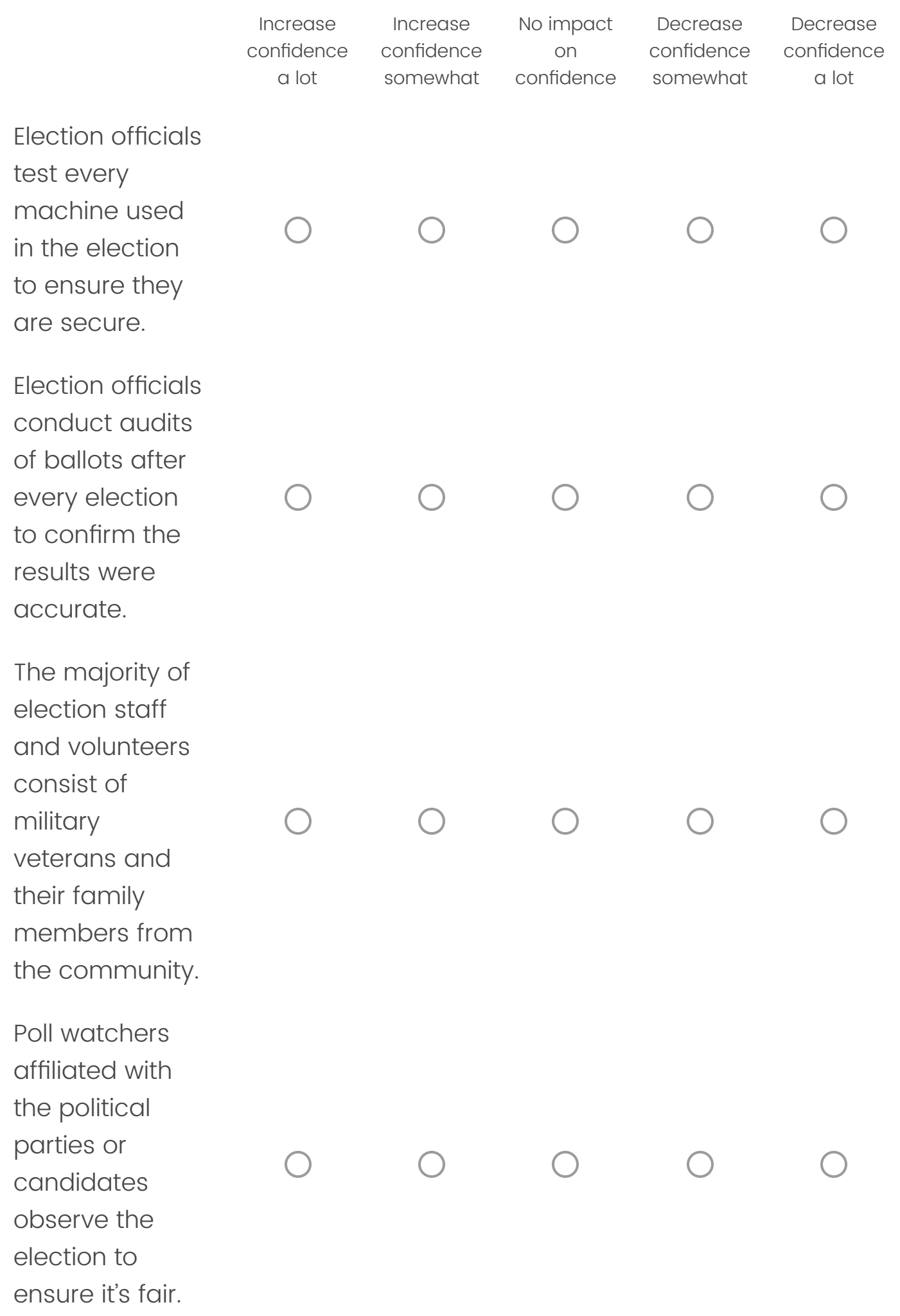
Overall, how safe would you feel voting in person at your local polling place?

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

Confidence Impact

Regardless of whether any of these are actually the case, how would the following impact how your confidence in the

fairness and accuracy of elections conducted this November?



Increase confidence a lot

Increase confidence somewhat

No impact on confidence

Decrease confidence somewhat

Decrease confidence a lot

The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of college students from the community.



The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of lawyers from the community.



How would the following impact your confidence that voters are safe from violence, threats of violence, or intimidation while voting in-person during elections this November?

Increase confidence a lot

Increase confidence somewhat

No impact on confidence

Decrease confidence somewhat

Decrease confidence a lot

People holding signs or giving out literature in support of a candidate or ballot question.



	Increase confidence a lot	Increase confidence somewhat	No impact on confidence	Decrease confidence somewhat	Decrease confidence a lot
The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of college students from the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of lawyers from the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poll watchers affiliated with the political parties or candidates observe the election to ensure it's fair.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of military veterans and their family members from the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Election officials ensure that law enforcement officers are present at polling sites.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Willingness for 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

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

Do you plan to vote in the elections this November?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Undecided

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

☐ Republican

☐ Democrat

☐ 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?

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

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

- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ 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.

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