**INITIAL APPLICATION PART 2**

1. **Abstract:**

The purpose of this research is to examine the political attitudes and behaviors of voting age U.S. citizens. Respondents will answer questions that measure their attitudes and behaviors. The study will involve an online survey with several experiments embedded within it. One module will examine variation in support for candidates based on the gender, partisanship, and messages from the candidates. The key measure for this module will relate to general evaluations of the candidate. A second module will examine support for a policy (lowering the voting age to 16) based on reactions to several persuasive messages. The key measure will relate to support for the policy. Other questions will cover a range of current events, mostly relating to politics and policy.

1. **Subject Selection:**
2. **Recruitment:** Subjects will be recruited through Lucid, a survey research firm that has a panel of respondents that they use as participants. Lucid recruits participants through a large pool of volunteer workers who they ask to complete our survey. Respondents are compensated through a system that provides points that can be redeemed for gifts or via monetary incentives.
3. **Eligibility Criteria:** Voting age citizens in the U.S., i.e. those age 18 + who are U.S. citizens and who volunteer to complete surveys for Lucid’s panel will be eligible to complete this survey.
4. **Rationale:** The study is focused on U.S. politics and electoral issues so we have limited our sample to those who are eligible to vote in the U.S.
5. **Enrollment Numbers:** Lucid will produce a data set of up to 2,500 respondents.
6. **Rationale for Enrollment Numbers**: The number of participants reflects our budget constraint and interest in ensuring we have enough respondents in each experimental condition.
7. **Procedures:**

The survey will be distributed online to participants by Lucid. a survey research firm. Participants will take the survey online on their own personal computers, tablets, or cell phones. Lucid is a global provider of survey samples and has the capacity to administer surveys to samples representative of the U.S. citizen voting age population, the population of interest for this study.  
  
Lucid uses email invitations to inform participants that a survey is available. Respondents are compensated by Lucid through a system that provides points that can be redeemed for gifts or via monetary incentives.  
  
Prior to starting the survey participants will read an online consent form. They will be told that, if they consent to taking the survey, they should click the button to proceed. I expect the survey will take 15 minutes to complete.  
  
The questions will relate to policy positions, political attitudes, political behaviors, and demographics. Many of the questions are standard questions asked in major political science surveys such as the American National Election Study. There is also an attention check item on the survey designed to ensure only attentive, human respondents complete the survey. Respondents who fail these attention check will be terminated from the study, and they are alerted to this fact in the consent form.  
  
Lucid is not involved with the programming of the study itself. I will program the survey using Qualtrics software and participants can choose to take it when Lucid contacts them. Once participants arrive at the survey, they are assigned an identification number, which consists of a random series of numbers that do not reflect anything about the identity of the participants themselves. Both Lucid and I have access to the identification numbers, which allows both Lucid and me to know which participants successfully completed the surveys.  
  
Because the survey is programmed at UMD and administered in Qualtrics software, the data is not transferred from Qualtrics to me. Instead, I will have immediate access to the data as the responses come in. But I will never have access to any identifying information about the respondent beyond the identification number and standard demographics that I ask on the survey instrument.

1. **Risks:**

There are no known risks to the subjects in this research. To minimize any discomfort in answering the questions, participants will be informed that they may choose to skip attitudinal questions that they do not wish to answer.

1. **Benefits:**

There are no direct benefits for participants. From a research perspective, the benefits are a better understanding of citizens’ attitudes and behaviors. Specifically, I hope to learn about attitudes and behaviors in the U.S. on a wide range of topics and to publish academic articles to report some of the results.

1. **Confidentiality:**

To maintain confidentiality, the survey will not ask the respondents for any identifying information, such as the respondent’s name, address, or email address. Lucid will have information needed to contact respondents, and will have access to the survey responses that can be linked to individual’s information by Lucid, as is standard for survey panels. However, this information will not be provided to me. I will only have access to the anonymized survey data with no personally identifiable information. The data will be stored on password-protected computers, though none will have identifying information. The de-identified data will be stored indefinitely on a password-protected computer in the case I wish to revisit this research in the future.

1. **Consent Process:**

All participants will be required to agree to an informed consent form before completing the survey. As indicated on the consent form, participants will be able to print a copy of the consent form for their records. At the beginning of the survey participants will be asked to read a consent form and give their consent, if they wish to, by clicking on the forward button to agree to participate. If they do not click the forward button, they will be unable to complete the survey and be compensated. Respondents will be over the age of 18. The consent form is attached as a supporting document. The participants will have the opportunity to retain a copy of the consent form for their records.   
  
We request a waiver of written consent. Since the survey will be conducted on-line and without the researcher having any access to information that could identify the participants it is not possible to obtain signatures. Moreover, there are no known risks to participating in this study; the survey is typical for those used in political science. The waiver of written consent does not have negative implications for the rights or welfare of the subjects as they have the ability to opt-in or out as they please as general participants on the Lucid panel, on our particular survey, and at any point in the survey; they are aware of this information and we do ask them prior to the start of the survey if they agree to participate and also inform them they can stop at any time. Instead of a signed consent form, we will include a question at the front of the survey that presents the consent form to respondents and asks them if they are willing to take the survey. Participants are informed on the consent page that they can obtain additional information about the study by contacting me (Michael Hanmer); my name, address, and email address are provided to participants on the consent page of the survey which follows the consent form that IRB provides as a template.  
  
There is the potential for deception as part of the survey. In two places, participants will be told to read a news story. The stories are modeled off of real stories but have been changed to test the effect of specific messages on individual opinions. Participants will not be told ahead of time that the stories are altered. This is necessary to ensure participants take the content of these stories seriously and offer their honest opinions about the stories. At the end of the survey, participants will be informed about the nature of these stories with the following debrief:  
  
“During this interview you might have read stories about politicians and debates about lowering the voting age. These stories, although modeled after actual news stories, were not real. We apologize for this. We created them in order to better understand how the news influences people’s opinions about politics. Please do not, therefore, base your own evaluations of policies, public officials, political parties, or candidates on the material you read in this study. Researching candidates, public officials, political parties, and public policy on your own via various information sources is the best way to make an informed choice. 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.”  
  
Please note that I am not able to include information indicating that participants can have their data removed upon request. Lucid will not provide information to me that would allow me to identify any respondent’s survey so if someone contacts me to ask for removal I can’t take their information and link them to a particular survey response.

1. **Conflict of Interest:**

None

1. **HIPAA Compliance:**

Not applicable

1. **Research Outside of the United States:**

Not applicable

1. **Research Involving Prisoners:**

Not applicable

1. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Your Initial Application must include a **completed Initial Application Part 1 (On-Line Document),** the information required in items 1-11 above, and all relevant supporting documents including: consent forms, letters sent to recruit participants, questionnaires completed by participants, and any other material that will be presented, viewed or read to human subject participants.

**The consent forms in your approved IRBNet PACKAGE must be used. When creating or editing your consent form, please provide the most recent IRBNet package number at the bottom, right corner of the consent form. This ensures you are using the most “up-to-date” version of the form.**

**To find your IRBNet package number, go to the MY PROJECTS tab and click on the title of your project. In the PROJECT OVERVIEW page, your IRBNet package number will be listed at the top, next to your project title.**