**Draft Vignettes to Study the Effect of Recruitment of Military Veterans and Their Family Members to Elections Jobs**

**Basic structure**: Respondents will read a standard consent form and answer a few questions to start. They will then be randomly assigned to receive one of two possible excerpts from a hypothetical news article that is based on real articles. We set the activity in Maricopa County, AZ to test whether outcomes can be boosted in a battleground area outside one’s own area. For this draft we group elections jobs together. We used a name that is ambiguous in various ways. We note that all being recruited are from the local community, so that is held constant.

After reading the excerpt respondents will answer questions about elections in Maricopa Co., then their local area and we will compare responses from those who read about efforts to recruit veterans and their families vs. others who are not described in any way. At the end they will receive a debrief that we’ve included. While the situations are realistic and based on real news stories we did change them so there is some deception. Below are the draft vignettes and debrief. The text in yellow below shows where there are differences in the vignettes, but the yellow highlighting will not be visible in the survey respondents see.

The following page will present an excerpt from a recent news article. Please read the article carefully and continue on once you have finished reading.

**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.”

**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.   
   
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**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 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.