Veteran Poll Workers



Start of Block: Informed Consent

Q1   
   
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, you are a U.S citizen, 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 (1)
* I do not consent, I do not wish to participate (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Welcome to the research study!     We are interested in understanding your views related to elect... = 2

End of Block: Informed Consent

Start of Block: Age and citizenship

age How old are you?

▼ 18 (1) ... 96 or older (80)

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cit Are you a citizen of the United States?

* Yes, U.S. citizen by birth (1)
* Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization (2)
* No, I am not a U.S. citizen (3)

Skip To: End of Survey If Are you a citizen of the United States? = 3

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state In which state do you currently reside?

▼ Alabama (1) ... I do not reside in the United States (53)

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attention How often do you pay attention to what is going on in government and politics?

* Always (4)
* Most of the time (3)
* About half the time (4)
* Sometimes (2)
* Never (1)

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EO\_favorability In general, how favorable or unfavorable is your impression of local election officials?

* Strongly favorable (5)
* Somewhat favorable (4)
* Neither favorable nor unfavorable (3)
* Somewhat unfavorable (2)
* Strongly unfavorable (1)

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legit Regardless of whom you supported in the 2020 election, do you think Joe Biden's election as president was legitimate, or was he not legitimately elected?

* Legitimate (1)
* Not legitimate (2)

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trust Generally speaking, how often can you trust other people?

* Always (5)
* Most of the time (4)
* About half of the time (3)
* Some of the time (2)
* Never (1)

End of Block: Age and citizenship

Start of Block: Attention check

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attentioncheck1 To ensure the accuracy of our survey data, we need to confirm that you are a real person. To confirm that you are a real person, please select "Watermelon" from the list below.

* Apple (0)
* Banana (0)
* Watermelon (1)
* Orange (0)
* Grape (0)

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If To ensure the accuracy of our survey data, we need to confirm that you are a real person. To conf... != 1

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attentioncheck2 Your response to the last question was not correct. We would like to give you a chance to reconsider.  
To confirm that you are a real person, please select "Watermelon" from the list below.

* Apple (0)
* Banana (0)
* Watermelon (1)
* Orange (0)
* Grape (0)

Skip To: End of Survey If Your response to the last question was not correct. We would like to give you a chance to reconsi... != 1

End of Block: Attention check

Start of Block: Vignette Prep

VP 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. Click the next button to continue.

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End of Block: Vignette Prep

Start of Block: Treatment Vignette: Recruiting Veterans as Poll Workers

TV1 **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.”

TV\_timing Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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TV1\_check Did the text from the article display correctly?

* No (2)
* Yes (1)

End of Block: Treatment Vignette: Recruiting Veterans as Poll Workers

Start of Block: Control Vignette: Recruiting Poll Workers

CV1 **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.”

CV\_timing Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

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CV1\_check Did the text from the article display correctly?

* No (2)
* Yes (1)

End of Block: Control Vignette: Recruiting Poll Workers

Start of Block: Trust and Confidence in Elections in Maricopa County, AZ

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

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confvote\_az How confident are you that votes in Maricopa County, AZ will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

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

* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not confident at all (1)

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truststaff\_az 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 (4)
* Somewhat committed (3)
* Not too committed (2)
* Not at all committed (1)

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approval\_az Do you approve or disapprove of the way election officials in Maricopa County, AZ are handling their jobs?

* (4)
* (3)
* (2)
* (1)

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trustprocess\_az How confident are you that the voting **process** will be fair in Maricopa County, AZ?

* (1)

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trustoutcome\_az How confident are you that the voting **outcomes** will be fair in Maricopa County, AZ?

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* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

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

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|  | Very likely (4) | Somewhat likely (3) | Not too likely (2) | Not likely at all (1) |
| There will be voter fraud, that is, people who are not eligible to vote will vote, or vote more than once (1) |  |  |  |  |
| Many votes will not actually be counted (2) |  |  |  |  |
| Many people will show up to vote and be told they are not eligible (3) |  |  |  |  |
| A foreign country will tamper with the votes cast in this area to change the results (4) |  |  |  |  |
| Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona will try to discourage some people from voting (5) |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Trust and Confidence in Elections in Maricopa County, AZ

Start of Block: Concern for Safety of Voters in Maricopa County, AZ

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violence\_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 (4)
* Somewhat concerned (3)
* Somewhat unconcerned (2)
* Not at all concerned (1)

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safe\_az 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 (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

End of Block: Concern for Safety of Voters in Maricopa County, AZ

Start of Block: Trust and Confidence in Elections in Local Area

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How much would you like to see your local community adopt a program for recruiting elections staff like the one you read about in Maricopa County, AZ?

* Definitely should adopt (4)
* Probably should adopt (3)
* Probably should not adopt (2)
* Definitely should not adopt (1)

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confvote\_local Think about vote counting throughout your local area, and not just your own personal vote. How confident are you that votes in your community will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

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

* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not confident at all (1)

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approval\_local Do you approve or disapprove of the way election officials in your community are handling their jobs?

* Strongly approve (4)
* Somewhat approve (3)
* Somewhat disapprove (2)
* Strongly disapprove (1)

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truststaff\_local 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 to making sure the elections held this November are fair and accurate?

* Very committed (4)
* Somewhat committed (3)
* Not too committed (2)
* Not at all committed (1)

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trustproces\_local How confident are you that the voting **process** will be fair in your local area

* confident (1)

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trustoutcomes\_local How confident are you that the voting **outcomes** will be fair in your local area?

* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

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* Very confident (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

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

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|  | Very likely (4) | Somewhat likely (3) | Not too likely (2) | Not likely at all (1) |
| There will be voter fraud, that is, people who are not eligible to vote will vote, or vote more than once (1) |  |  |  |  |
| Many votes will not actually be counted (2) |  |  |  |  |
| Many people will show up to vote and be told they are not eligible (3) |  |  |  |  |
| A foreign country will tamper with the votes cast to change the results (4) |  |  |  |  |
| Election officials in your community will try to discourage some people from voting (5) |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Trust and Confidence in Elections in Local Area

Start of Block: Concern for Safety of Self and Voters in Local Area

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safe\_local 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 (4)
* Somewhat confident (3)
* Not too confident (2)
* Not at all confident (1)

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violence\_local Thinking about your local area, how concerned should voters feel about potential violence, threats of violence, or intimidation while voting in person at their local polling place?

* Very concerned (4)
* Somewhat concerned (3)
* Somewhat unconcerned (2)
* Not at all concerned (1)

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safe\_self Overall, how safe would you feel voting in person in your local area?

* Very safe (4)
* Somewhat safe (3)
* Not too safe (2)
* Not safe at all (1)

End of Block: Concern for Safety of Self and Voters in Local Area

Start of Block: Confidence Impact

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confimpact 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?

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|  | | Increase confidence a lot (5) | | Increase confidence somewhat (4) | | No impact on confidence (3) | | Decrease confidence somewhat (2) | | Decrease confidence a lot (1) | | |
| Election officials test every machine used in the election to ensure they are secure. (1) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Election officials conduct audits of ballots after every election to confirm the results were accurate. (4) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Poll watchers affiliated with the political parties or candidates observe the election to ensure it’s fair. (5) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include military veterans and their family members from the community. (8) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include lawyers from the community. (9) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include college students from the community. (10) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |

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safeimpct 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?

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|  | Increase confidence a lot (5) | Increase confidence somewhat (4) | No impact on confidence (3) | Decrease confidence somewhat (2) | Decrease confidence a lot (1) |
| Election officials ensure that law enforcement officers are present at polling sites. (4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poll watchers affiliated with the political parties or candidates observe the election to ensure it’s fair. (5) |  |  |  |  |  |
| People holding signs or giving out literature in support of a candidate or ballot question. (7) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include military veterans and their family members from the community. (6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include lawyers from the community. (3) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Election staff and volunteers include college students from the community. (2) |  |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Confidence Impact

Start of Block: Confidence Impact, majority language

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confimpact\_maj 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?

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|  | Increase confidence a lot (5) | Increase confidence somewhat (4) | No impact on confidence (3) | Decrease confidence somewhat (2) | Decrease confidence a lot (1) |
| Election officials test every machine used in the election to ensure they are secure. (1) |  |  |  |  |  |
| The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of military veterans and their family members from the community. (2) |  |  |  |  |  |
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confsafe\_maj 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?

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|  | Increase confidence a lot (5) | Increase confidence somewhat (4) | No impact on confidence (3) | Decrease confidence somewhat (2) | Decrease confidence a lot (1) |
| Election officials ensure that law enforcement officers are present at polling sites. (4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of military veterans and their family members from the community. (2) |  |  |  |  |  |
| The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of lawyers from the community. (3) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poll watchers affiliated with the political parties or candidates observe the election to ensure it’s fair. (5) |  |  |  |  |  |
| The majority of election staff and volunteers consist of college students from the community. (6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| People holding signs or giving out literature in support of a candidate or ballot question. (7) |  |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Confidence Impact, majority language

Start of Block: Willingness for Election work

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

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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pollwrk\_vol 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 (4)
* Somewhat likely (3)
* Somewhat unlikely (2)
* Not likely at all (1)

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

* Very likely (4)
* Somewhat likely (3)
* Somewhat unlikely (2)
* Not likely at all (1)

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

* Very likely (4)
* Somewhat likely (3)
* Somewhat unlikely (2)
* Not likely at all (1)

End of Block: Willingness for Election work

Start of Block: Popular Efficacy 4-item measure

popeff1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
In this country, the people have power to reform the way the system works.

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Somewhat disagree (2)
* Neither agree nor disagree (3)
* Somewhat agree (4)
* Strongly agree (5)

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popeff2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:   
In this country, the citizens have power to shape the rules that govern society.

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Somewhat disagree (2)
* Neither agree nor disagree (3)
* Somewhat agree (4)
* Strongly agree (5)

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popeff3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:   
 In this country, the people are capable of holding government accountable to the people's authority.

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Somewhat disagree (2)
* Neither agree nor disagree (3)
* Somewhat agree (4)
* Strongly agree (5)

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popeff4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:   
The citizens of this country have power to bring about change to the political conditions that govern the lives of everyone.

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Somewhat disagree (2)
* Neither agree nor disagree (3)
* Somewhat agree (4)
* Strongly agree (5)

End of Block: Popular Efficacy 4-item measure

Start of Block: Demographic questions

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gender What is your current gender?

* Male (1)
* Female (2)
* Non-binary / third gender (3)
* Prefer not to say (99)

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hisp Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Prefer not to say (99)

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

* White or Caucasian (1)
* Black or African American (2)
* American Indian (3)
* Asian (4)
* Other (5)

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

* Less than high school degree (1)
* High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED) (2)
* Some college but no degree (3)
* Associate degree in college (2-year) (4)
* Bachelor's degree in college (4-year) (5)
* Master's degree (6)
* Doctoral degree (7)
* Professional degree (JD, MD) (8)

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activeduty Have you ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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If Have you ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces? = 1

currentduty Are you now serving in the Armed Forces?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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voted 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 (1)
* No (2)

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If In 2020, Joe Biden ran on the Democratic ticket against Donald Trump for the Republicans. Do you... = 1

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vote\_choice Who did you vote for?

* Donald Trump (1)
* Joe Biden (2)
* Other (3)

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vote\_intent Do you plan to vote in the elections this November?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Undecided (3)

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

* Republican (1)
* Democrat (2)
* Independent (3)
* Other (please specify) (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = 1

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repubstrength Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

* Strong (1)
* Not very strong (2)

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If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = 2

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demstrength Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

* Strong (1)
* Not very strong (2)

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If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... = 3

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

* Republican (1)
* Democratic (2)
* Neither (3)

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

* Extremely Liberal (1)
* Liberal (2)
* Slightly liberal (3)
* Moderate: middle of the road (4)
* Slightly conservative (5)
* Conservative (6)
* Extremely conservative (7)
* Haven't thought much about this (8)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Page Break |  |

Display This Question:

If Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this? = 8

|  |
| --- |
|  |

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

* Liberal (1)
* Conservative (2)
* None of these (3)

End of Block: Demographic questions

Start of Block: Debrief

Q21 **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.

End of Block: Debrief