

Appendix A

Survey Experiment Vignettes and Survey Items

Treatment Vignette

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 must fill several thousand temporary positions and hundreds of other open positions to ensure sufficient staffing for the 2024 elections and beyond.

Army veteran Jordan Braxton just joined the elections workforce. Jordan believes their role is important to ensuring a secure, accurate, and transparent election, “Many places are short on staff this election cycle. I served my country in the Army, and I want to do my part as a veteran and a citizen to ensure that everyone trusts the process and the outcome of the election.”

(a)

Control Vignette

Local Residents Recruited for Election Jobs in Maricopa County

PHOENIX (AP) — Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona, announced a program 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 must fill several thousand temporary positions and hundreds of other open positions to ensure sufficient staffing for the 2024 elections and beyond.

Jordan Braxton just joined the elections workforce. Jordan believes their role is important to ensuring a secure, accurate, and transparent election, “Many places are short on staff this election cycle. I want to do my part as a citizen to ensure that everyone trusts the process and the outcome of the election.”

(b)

Figure 1: Fabricated Article Vignettes utilized as Experimental Stimulus

Survey Items

Table 1: Pre-Treatment Survey Items and Response Options

Items	Response
How often do you pay attention to what is going on in government and politics?	Never Sometimes About half the time Most of the Time Always
In general, how favorable or unfavorable is your impression of local election officials?	Strongly unfavorable Somewhat unfavorable Neither favorable nor unfavorable Somewhat favorable Strongly favorable
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 Not legitimate
Generally speaking, how often can you trust other people?	Never Sometimes About half the time Most of the Time Always

Table 2: Trust Items and Response Options

Trust	Response
AZ	
How confident are you that votes in Maricopa County, AZ will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
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?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very committed
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 to making sure the elections held this November are fair and accurate?	Not at all committed Not too committed Somewhat committed Very committed
How confident are you that the voting process will be fair in Maricopa County, AZ?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
How confident are you that election systems in Maricopa County, AZ will be secure from hacking and other technological threats?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
Local Area	
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?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
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?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very 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 to making sure the elections held this November are fair and accurate?	Not at all committed Not too committed Somewhat committed Very committed
How confident are you that the voting process will be fair in your local area?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
How confident are you that election systems in your local area are secure from hacking and other technological threats?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident

Table 3: Distrust Items and Response Options

Distrust	Response
How likely do you think any or all of the following will happen during this year's elections in Maricopa County, AZ/your local area?	
There will be voter fraud, that is, people who are not eligible to vote will vote, or vote more than once	Not likely at all Not too likely Somewhat likely Very likely
Many votes will not actually be counted	Not likely at all Not too likely Somewhat likely Very likely
Many people will show up to vote and be told they are not eligible	Not likely at all Not too likely Somewhat likely Very likely
A foreign country will tamper with the votes cast in this area to change the results	Not likely at all Not too likely Somewhat likely Very likely
Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona will try to discourage some people from voting	Not likely at all Not too likely Somewhat likely Very likely

Table 4: Safety Items and Response Options

Safety	Response
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 Not too concerned 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?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident
Local Area	
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 Somewhat concerned Somewhat unconcerned Not at all concerned
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?	Not at all confident Not too confident Somewhat confident Very confident