

We are in favor of the alterations to the questions within the General Social Survey. Not only will these adjustments be more representative of our society and the progress that has been made in recent years, but these changes will also create a more inclusive and diverse environment.

Firstly, we believe that the purpose of a population survey is to better understand the social and public health matters that occur during the time ([Inclusive Gender Guidelines: Gender Identity, CSUSM](#)). Introducing questions and options related to transgender and nonbinary identities within the General Social Survey reflects the societal progress toward inclusivity and support for diverse genders and sexualities. These alterations also foster an inclusive environment, providing historically underrepresented groups with a platform to comfortably engage with survey questions. Creating a more supportive and inclusive environment will encourage more respondents to answer as fully and accurately as they can, thus making the social survey more accurate and reflective of our time.

As listed in the proposed changes section, we are particularly in support of asking the following question: “What is <Name's> current gender” with the following options Male, Female, Transgender, Nonbinary, and "This person uses a different term" with space for a write-in response. This adjusted question promotes a more inclusive space through multiple facets. The usage of the word ‘current’ alludes to gender fluidity and one’s ability to shift or change their mindset over time, thus perpetuating the idea of an inclusive environment. Additionally, asking questions referring to ‘gender’ as opposed to ‘sex’ also creates a more inclusive environment as gender refers to an internal sense of self, which is more internally expressive over one’s sex at birth ([Inclusive Forms, The University of British Columbia](#)). Adding this question with this verbiage and diction will allow those who do not have the same sex and gender or those who may change their gender over time to authentically express themselves.

We also believe that adding write-in options for many of the questions regarding gender identity and sexuality will not only bolster community and inclusivity but will also help better develop the General Social Survey to keep it as current and progressive as society is today. While the write-in option allows people to express themselves as they see fit, it also allows the General Social Survey to collect current and relevant data. The captured data enables the survey to better adapt to emerging gender terms in the future.

In summation, we are in favor of the proposed changes to the social survey. We believe that the adjustments will create a better and more holistic view of modern-day society and the progress that has been made to establish a community of inclusivity.