Who Commits Voter Fraud? Public (Mis)Perceptions of Americans (Version 2) (#123274)

Author(s)
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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
What demographic characteristics make Americans more likely to believe that an immigrant will commit voter fraud in a US presidential election?

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
I will be conducting a conjoint experiment. I have six key attributes: gender, education, country of origin, english proficiency, and prior conviction status.
Each attribute is subdivided into the following levels:
- gender: male, female
- education: no high school, high school diploma, college degree
- country of origin: Mexico, India, China, Germany, Afghanistan, Russia
- English proficiency: broken english, fluent english
- prior conviction status: prior conviction (non-voting related), no prior conviction
- citizenship status: naturalized, not naturalized

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
As this is a conjoint, all participants will be "exposed to treatment" so to speak. Survey participants will be shown two randomized (hypothetical) immigrant profiles that combine one level from each attribute, then asked to choose one. They will be asked to do this exercise ten times (essentially choosing 10 out of 20 immigrant profiles). There are a total of 288 possible combinations.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
I will be estimating the causal effects of each attribute and their interactions by estimating the Average Marginal Component-specific Effects (AMCE) estimator, which would represent changes in the probability of choosing a specific immigrant profile if one of the immigrant's attributes were switched from one level to another.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
I will be excluding participants who answer the survey in less than 3 minutes and who do not complete the survey in its entirety. Any outliers in my data will not be removed as they likely represent a natural part of the population I am studying.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
1500 respondents will be recruited from MTurk and up to 750 respondents will consist of undergraduates enrolled in introductory political science courses at The Ohio State University.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
I will also be collecting demographic data and data on the respondent's immigration attitudes, their trust in government and elections, and how likely they are to respond in a socially desirable way (i.e. self-monitoring). If an unusual number of respondents score high on responding in a socially desirable way, I will split the sample into high and low self-monitors and run separate analyses for each group.

To address my response to Question 1, I fielded the experiment to students at The Ohio State University from November 29, 2022 to December 8, 2022 via Qualtrics. I have not analyzed the data in any way. This original experiment was preregistered under this number: #115218. The conjoint originally only varied five attributes. I have amended the experiment to vary six since I am now able to get a larger sample size. Any data analyses from the initial round of surveys may be included in the paper or appendix with the five attribute limitation outlined.