Stanford Survey on Politics

Stanford University AREP Survey

We would like to invite you to participate in a survey about politics. The questions concern your views of various policies and policy options, your interest in politics, and other political matters. Your participation will help further research on public opinion in our democracy. Your responses will be anonymous.

Researcher: Gaurav Sood

Expected Time Involvement: The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes.

Risk and Benefits: The questionnaire poses no risk. It provides no direct benefit, although the data will further our understanding of how people seek information about politics, and shed new light on aspects of our democratic system.

Compensation: There is no financial compensation for participating.

Your Rights: Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. The alternative is not to participate. You have the right to refuse to answer particular questions. Your individual privacy will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study.

Contact Information
Questions: If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research, its procedures, risks and benefits, contact the researcher, Gaurav Sood. Email: gsood@stanford.edu; Phone: 650 269 7946

Independent Contact: If you have any questions or comments about the A-REP program in general, please contact A-REP Director Tanya Brugh at tbrugh@stanford.edu or 650-736-8096. If you have any concerns, complaints, or general questions about the research or about your rights as a participant, please contact the Stanford Institutional Review Board (IRB) to speak to someone independent of the research team at (650)-723-2480 or toll free at 1-866-680-2906. You can also write to the Stanford IRB, Stanford University, MC 5579, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

I have read and understand the consent form. I agree to participate in this research study. (Participants may print this screen for their records.) *

    ○   I agree to participate

○ I decline to participate

Thank you!

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this study!

We ask that you please pay careful attention to the instructions and the questions, as it may be difficult to make accurate assessments if you have not read the information thoroughly.
We also request that this survey be taken with no other distractions such as Internet browsing.
Lastly, please don't press the browser's back button at any time in the survey.

Please be assured that your survey responses will remain anonymous.

Click Next to begin.

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Let's begin with a few questions about your attitudes towards some recently debated policies…

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is opposing something as strongly as possible, 10 is supporting it as strongly as possible, and 5 is exactly in-between, how strongly do you support or oppose –

	Strongly Oppose 0	1	2	3	4	Neither Support nor Oppose 5	6	7	8	9	Strongly Support 10	Don't Know
The U.S. healthcare law that was just passed?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Arizona immigration law that was just passed?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Public Figures

We have a set of questions concerning various public figures. We want to see how much information about them gets out to the public from television, newspapers and the like. **If you aren't sure of the answer, we'd be grateful if you could just give your best guess.** If you can't think of anything, just leave the space blank, and move on to the next question

What job or office does each of the following currently hold?

	Job or Office
Janet Napolitano	
Harry Reid	
Nicholas Sarkozy	

We have a set of questions concerning various public figures. We want to see how much information about them gets out to the public from television, newspapers and the like. **If you aren't sure of the answer, we'd be grateful if you could just give your best guess.** If you can't think of anything, just leave the space blank, and move on to the next question
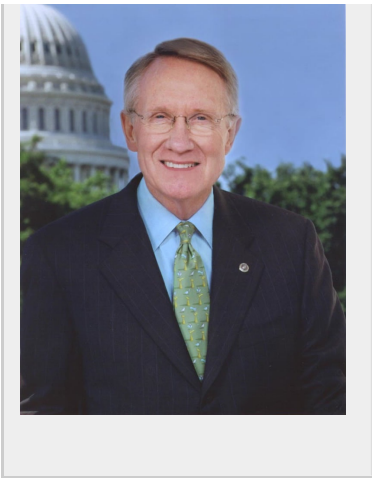
What job or office does the person in the photo currently hold?

	Job Or Office

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What job or office does each of the following currently hold?

	Job or Office
Angela Merkel	
Mitch McConnell	

What job or office does the person in the photo currently hold?

	Job Or Office

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Here is/are (one of) the same question(s) in a different, multiple-choice format. If you don't know the answer, don't worry about it. Just mark "couldn't say", and move to the next question.

Public Figures

The next two questions are multiple choice. Many people have trouble answering questions like these. If you don't know the answer, don't worry about it. Just mark 'couldn't say', and move to the next question.

Is the person in the photo -

- ○ Robert Gates

- ○ Arne Duncan

- ○ John Cornyn

- ○ Anthony Kennedy

- ○ Couldn't Say

Is the person in the photo -

- ○ John Boehner
- ○ Stephen Breyer
- ○ Ken Salazar
- ○ Tom Vilsack
- ○ Couldn't Say

We would like you to approach the following questions differently. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is completely unsure, 10 is completely sure, and 5 is exactly in the middle, please tell us,

How sure are you that the person in the photo is (Please enter a number between 0 and 10 in the box) -

Robert Gates	
Arne Duncan	

John Cornyn	
Anthony Kennedy	

How sure are you that the person in the photo is (Please enter a number between 0 and 10 in the box) -

John Boehner	
Stephen Breyer	
Ken Salazar	
Tom Vilsack	

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Now we'd like you to think about some important issues.

Some people think the federal government should provide health insurance to everyone. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Other people think that everyone should get health insurance on his or her own. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. People who are exactly in the middle are at point 4, and of course other people have positions at points 2, 3, 5, or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
Where would you place the Republican party on this same scale?
The Democratic party?

						7	Haven't
	1					People get health	thought much

	Govt. should provide health insurance	2	3	4	5	6	insurance on their own	about this
Yourself?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Republican party?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Democratic party?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Some people think that all illegal immigrants in the U.S. should be deported. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Other people think that all those in country illegally should have a path to citizenship. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. People who are exactly in the middle are at point 4, and of course other people have positions at points 2,3,5, or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
Where would you place the Republican party on this same scale?
The Democratic party?

	1 All illegal immigrants should be deported	2	3	4	5	6	7 All illegal immigrants provided a path to citizenship	Haven't thought much about this
Yourself?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Republican party?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Democratic party?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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And where would you place yourself on a 1 to 7 scale, where 1 is extremely liberal, 7 is extremely conservative, and 4 is exactly in the middle, or haven't you thought much about this?

	1 Extremely liberal	2	3	4	5	6	7 Extremely conservative	I haven't thought much about this
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Media

We're interested in how people typically get their news and information.

Which of the following news sources do you typically use? (Check all that apply)

Newspaper (Print or Online)

- ☐ Wall Street Journal
- ☐ NY Times
- ☐ Washington Post
- ☐ USA Today
- ☐ Other(s) (Please Specify) [   ]

National Network Television News

- ☐ CBS
- ☐ Fox
- ☐ PBS
- ☐ NBC
- ☐ ABC
- ☐ Other(s) (Please Specify) [   ]

Cable News (Television or Online)

- ☐ Fox News
- ☐ MSNBC
- ☐ CSPAN
- ☐ BBC
- ☐ CNN
- ☐ Other(s) (Please Specify) [   ]

Radio (including online)

- ☐ NPR
- ☐ Rush Limbaugh

☐ Michael Savage

☐ Other(s) (Please Specify) [_____]

Online

☐ Huffington Post

☐ Drudge Report

☐ Online Portal like Google News, AOL or Topix that gathers news from many different sources

☐ Other (Please Specify) [_____]

On average, how many days a week would you say you watch programs about national news on TV? If you don't usually watch such programs at least once a week, please say 0. (Please enter a number between 0 and 7)

[_____]

And, on average, how much attention do you pay to these programs when you're watching them?

○ A great deal

○ A lot

○ A moderate amount

○ A little

○ Not at all

How many days of a typical week would you say you talk about politics with someone?

[_____]

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is never, 10 is always, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how often would you say the people you talk about politics with have ideas that are different from yours?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Never	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Always**

Party

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

- ○ Republican
- ○ Democrat
- ○ Independent
- ○ Other (please specify) [_____]

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Next, we would like to get your feelings about some groups on a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 means feeling extremely unfavorably about a group, and 100 means feeling extremely favorably about a group. If you don't know much about a group, just leave the box blank, and move on.

☐

Please enter a number between 0 and 100.

Blacks	[____]
Republicans	[____]
Democrats	[____]
Whites	[____]
Hispanics	[____]
Legal Immigrants	[____]
Illegal Immigrants	[____]

General

Now here are some general questions to which not everyone may know the answer. If you come to one to which you don't know the answer, just mark 'couldn't say', and move on to the next question.

Which country suffered the largest number of casualties in World War II …?

- ○ Poland
- ○ Germany
- ○ United Kingdom
- ○ United States
- ○ Soviet Union
- ○ Couldn't Say

What is the most common cause of death among women in the U.S.?

- ○ Breast Cancer
- ○ Heart Disease
- ○ Lung Cancer
- ○ Accidents
- ○ Couldn't Say

Now here are some general questions to which not everyone may know the answer. If you aren't sure of the answer, we'd be grateful if you could just give your best guess. If you can't think of anything, just leave the space blank, and move on to the next question.

Which country suffered the largest number of casualties in World War II …?

What is the most common cause of death among women in the U.S.?

Policy

What has happened to the number of deportations of illegal immigrants during the Obama administration, compared to the George W. Bush administration? Has it …?

○ Increased

○ Remained about the same

○ Decreased

○ Couldn't say

Under the immigration law recently passed by Arizona, law enforcement officials …?

○ Do not have to read illegal immigrants their rights when arresting them

○ Can ask people they suspect of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.

○ Can impound vehicles of illegal immigrants

○ Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers

○ Can escort illegal immigrants back across the border

○ Couldn't Say

Under which president was the law that used to forbid bank holding companies from owning other financial companies repealed?

○ Jimmy Carter

○ Ronald Reagan

○ George H.W. Bush

○ Bill Clinton

○ George W. Bush

○ Couldn't say

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The recently passed health care bill …?

○ Provides coverage for people who are currently in the country illegally

○ Replaces private health insurance with a "single payer system"

○ Increases the Medicare payroll tax for upper-income Americans

○ Does not reimburse routine mammograms for women younger than 50

○ Couldn't say

The recently passed health care bill …?

○ Allows a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare

○ Replaces Medicare with a "public option"

○ Limits future increases in payments to Medicare providers

○ Cuts benefits to existing Medicare patients

○ Couldn't say

Here are some statements about the recently passed health care bill. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means definitely false, 10 means definitely true, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how definitely true or false would you that each statement is? The healthcare bill …(Please enter a number between 0 and 10.)

Allows a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare	
Replaces Medicare with a "public option"	
Limits future increases in payments to Medicare providers	
Cuts benefits to existing Medicare patients	
Provides coverage for people who are currently in the country illegally	
Replaces private health insurance with a "single payer system"	
Increases the Medicare payroll tax for upper-income Americans	
Does not reimburse routine mammograms for women younger than 50	

Budget

Now we'd like to ask you some questions about tax rates, federal deficits, and budget related issues.

Roughly what percentage of their income, on average, would you say people earning more than $100,000 a year actually pay in taxes? Roughly—don't worry if you aren't sure of the exact number. (Enter a number between 0 and 100 in the box below)

Roughly what percentage of the U.S. federal budget would you say goes toward welfare? Roughly—don't worry if you aren't sure of the exact number. (Enter a number between 0 and 100 in the box below)

Roughly what percentage of Blacks in the U.S. would you say are on welfare? Roughly—don't worry if you aren't sure of the exact number. (Enter a number between 0 and 100 in the box below)

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Next are a few questions about federal budget deficits under different administrations. Many people have trouble answering questions like these. **So if you can't think of the answer, don't worry about it. Just mark 'couldn't say' and move on to the next question.**

	Increased in size	Remained about the same	Decreased in size	Couldn't say
Between 1981 and 1988, when Ronald Reagan was the president, the federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○
Between 1993 and 2000, when Bill Clinton was the president, the federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○
Between 2001 and 2008, when George W. Bush was the president, the federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○

Next are a few questions about federal budget deficits under different administrations. Many people have trouble answering questions like these. **If you aren't sure of the answer, we'd be grateful if you could just give your best guess.**

	Increased in size	Remained about the same	Decreased in size	Couldn't say
Between 1981 and 1988, when Ronald Reagan was the president, the U.S. federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○
Between 1993 and 2000, when Bill Clinton was the president, the U.S. federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○
Between 2001 and 2008, when George W. Bush was the president, the U.S. federal budget deficit -	○	○	○	○
Between 2009 and 2010, when Barack Obama has the president, the U.S. federal deficit -	○	○	○	○

Participation

Here are some questions about interest and participation in politics -

Some people are more interested in politics and public affairs than in almost anything else; others just aren't interested in that at all. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all, 10 is extremely interested, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how interested would you say you generally are in politics and public affairs?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not at all	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Extremely interested**

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means you are certain that you won't vote, and 10 means you are absolutely sure that you will vote, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how likely are you to vote in the 2010 Congressional elections?

[   ]

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means you are certain that you would not do something, and 10 implies that you are certain to do something, and 5 is the exactly in the middle, during the next 5 years, how likely would you say you are to -

	Extremely Unlikely 0	1	2	3	4	Middle 5	6	7	8	9	Extremely Likely 10

Contribute money to a candidate running to be an elected government official?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Contact an elected government official to express your opinion on an issue?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Attend a meeting about an issue facing your community or the country?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

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Which party do you think would do a better job of reducing federal deficits?

○ Democrats

○ Republicans

○ Couldn't Say

○ Other (please specify) [   ]

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is opposing something as strongly as possible, 10 is supporting it as strongly as possible, and 5 is exactly in-between, how strongly do you support or oppose –

	Strongly Oppose 0	1	2	3	4	Neither Support nor Oppose 5	6	7	8	9	Strongly Support 10	Don't Know
The U.S. healthcare law that was just passed?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Arizona immigration law that was just passed?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Now here are some questions about your approach to life in general.

Some people lead heavily structured lives, with lots of planning. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Other people lead highly unstructured lives with lots of spur of the moment decisions. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. People who are exactly in the middle are at point 4, and other people are at points 2, 3, 5, or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Heavily structured lives	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Highly unstructured lives**

Some people love situations that are uncertain. Suppose these people are at 1. Other people hate situations that are uncertain. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Again people who are exactly in the middle are at point 4, and other people are at points 2, 3, 5, or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Love situations that are uncertain	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Hate situations that are uncertain**

Some people have opinions that are entirely on the same side of the issue. Suppose these people are at 1. Other people have opinions that are mixed - some on one side, and others on the other side. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Again people who are exactly in the middle are at point 4. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Entirely on the same side	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Mixed**

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After discussions with others who disagree with them, some people hardly every change their views. Suppose these people are at 1. Other people, after such discussions, frequently change or modify their views. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Again people who are exactly in the middle are at point 4. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Hardly ever change their views	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Frequently change or modify their views

After discussions with others who disagree with them, some people feel very confident about what they believe in. Suppose these people are at 1. Other people, after such discussions, frequently wonder whether what they believe is correct. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. Again people who are exactly in the middle are at point 4. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Feel very confident about what they believe	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Frequently wonder whether what they believe is correct

Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Listed below are pairs of desirable qualities. For each pair please tell us which one you think is more important for a child to have -

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Curiosity	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Good Manners

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Being considerate	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Well behaved

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Independence	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Respect for elders

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Obedience	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	**Self-reliance**

Thank You!

Finished!! Thank you for participating! We greatly appreciate you taking out the time to fill out the survey. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please email Gaurav Sood at gsood@stanford.edu.