**QUESTIONNAIRE DATE: MARCH 19, 2018**

**PAGE 1**

PRESENT TO ALL

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. We are interested in how people learn and what they pick up from what they read, listen to and watch, and also how they perceive others in society. This study will ask variety of questions, some of which are simply about your opinions and others of which are about facts you may or may not know. Some of these questions may be difficult to answer, and you will not be judged by whether you answer correctly. We only ask that you try your best to help us with this academic research.

**PAGE 2**

PRESENT TO ALL

We would like you to read the following pair of news articles. Please read them carefully. You will be asked questions about them later.

**PAGE 3**

PRESENT TO ALL

**USA Today: Mortgage rates drop to lowest since election, but borrowers barely budge**

The lowest mortgage interest rates since last November did little to encourage people to refinance their home loans or take out a new loan to buy a home.

Total mortgage application volume rose just 0.1%, seasonally adjusted, last week from the previous week, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA). Volume was nearly 22% lower than a year ago.

A sharp drop in rates usually prompts homeowners to refinance, but those applications rose just 2% for the week and are still down 40% from the same week one year ago, when rates were lower. So many people have already refinanced at rock-bottom rates that the pool of potential applicants is shrinking.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances of $424,100 or less decreased to 4.12 percent, from 4.14 percent, with points remaining unchanged at 0.38, including the origination fee, for 80 per- cent loan-to-value ratio loans.

“Last week, mortgage rates dropped to their lowest level since the week of the November 2016 election,” said Mike Fratantoni, chief economist for the MBA.

Lower rates did nothing to spur home buyers because the drop was not nearly enough to offset fast-rising home prices and a short supply of homes for sale. Mortgage applications to purchase a home fell 2 percent for the week but remain nearly 10% higher than a year ago.

One sign that buyers are struggling increasingly with high home prices is the jump in adjustable rate mortgage applications, which offer a lower interest rate. ARM volume now stands 13% higher than a year ago. In addition, FHA loan applications to purchase a home are only up 4% from a year ago. FHA loans are a favorite among young, first-time buyers with less money to put down on a home.

**PAGE 4**

PRESENT TO ALL

Regarding the article you just read…

**[interest\_nonpol]** How interesting was the article?

* Very interesting
* Somewhat interesting
* Not very interesting
* Not at all interesting

**[informative\_nonpol]** How informative was the article?

* Very informative
* Somewhat informative
* Not very informative
* Not at all informative

**[share\_nonpol]** How likely would you be to recommend this article to a friend?

* Very likely
* Somewhat likely
* Not very likely
* Not at all likely

**[more\_info\_nonpol]** How likely would you be to read more articles on the same topic?

* Very likely
* Somewhat likely
* Not very likely
* Not at all likely

**PAGE 5**

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of 3 conditions: (1) CONTROL, (2) RACE ENDORSE CONDITION, (3) RACE IGNORE CONDITION **[EACH VIGNETTE APPEARS ON ITS OWN PAGE 4]**

CONTROL CONDITION

**USA Today: Bill Aims to Reform Policing Practices**

Civil asset forfeiture law faces radical reform if a bill in the Idaho state legislature passes.

These private property seizures gained traction in the 1980s when law enforcement agencies used them to go after the fruits and tools of organized drug traffickers. Laws allowed agencies to seize all kinds of property, from commercial real estate to boats and jewelry, that they believed was used in crimes or obtained with crime proceeds.

But well-publicized abuses of the process led to a long-running reform movement among activists on both the federal and state levels.

Asset forfeiture turns the common concept of due process on its head: Police can seize property even when its owner is not even charged, much less convicted of, a crime police suspect is related to the property. Then the burden falls on the owner to prove their belongings are not criminally tainted.

The bill would alter some fundamental aspects of current property seizure practice. For one, forfeitures would have to be tied to a criminal conviction, and even then, the forfeiture would have to be proportional to the offense, meaning, for example, a semi-truck couldn’t be taken because the driver had sold a personal amount of marijuana to another driver inside the cab.

RACE ENDORSE CONDITION

**USA Today: Bill Aims to Reform Racially Discriminatory Policing Practices**

Civil asset forfeiture law, an effective crime-fighting tool to some, an instance of racial discrimination for others, faces radical reform if a bill in the Idaho state legislature passes.

These private property seizures gained traction in the 1980s when law enforcement agencies used them to go after the fruits and tools of organized drug traffickers. Laws allowed agencies to seize all kinds of property, from commercial real estate to boats and jewelry, that they believed was used in crimes or obtained with crime proceeds.

But well-publicized abuses of the process led to a long-running reform movement among activists on both the federal and state levels.

Asset forfeiture turns the common concept of due process on its head: Police can seize property even when its owner is not even charged, much less convicted of, a crime police suspect is related to the property. Then the burden falls on the owner to prove their belongings are not criminally tainted.

Many point to racial disparities in the policy’s application. Although information is limited, in 400 federal court cases where people who challenged seizures and received some money back, the majority were black, Hispanic or another minority.

“Civil asset forfeiture perpetuates racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. Reforming this practice makes sure skin color does not shape one’s access to the due process rights the Constitution provides,” said Jake Miller, the head of the state ACLU chapter, an organization supporting the reform effort.

“This policy is just one example of how the criminal justice system is stacked against minorities. This bill is the first step toward addressing these pervasive racial biases.”

The bill would alter some fundamental aspects of current property seizure practice. For one, forfeitures would have to be tied to a criminal conviction, and even then, the forfeiture would have to be proportional to the offense, meaning, for example, a semi-truck couldn’t be taken because the driver had sold a personal amount of marijuana to another driver inside the cab.

RACE\_IGNORE CONDITION

**USA Today: Bill Aims to Reform “Racially Discriminatory” Policing Practices**

Civil asset forfeiture law, an effective crime-fighting tool to some, an instance of racial discrimination for others, faces radical reform if a bill in the Idaho state legislature passes.

These private property seizures gained traction in the 1980s when law enforcement agencies used them to go after the fruits and tools of organized drug traffickers. Laws allowed agencies to seize all kinds of property, from commercial real estate to boats and jewelry, that they believed was used in crimes or obtained with crime proceeds.

But well-publicized abuses of the process led to a long-running reform movement among activists on both the federal and state levels.

Asset forfeiture turns the common concept of due process on its head: Police can seize property even when its owner is not even charged, much less convicted of, a crime police suspect is related to the property. Then the burden falls on the owner to prove their belongings are not criminally tainted.

Many point to racial disparities in the policy’s application. Although information is limited, in 400 federal court cases where people who challenged seizures and received some money back, the majority were black, Hispanic or another minority.

“Civil asset forfeiture does not involve racial discrimination. Skin color does not shape one’s access to the due process rights the Constitution provides, and reforming this practice does not change that,” said Jake Miller, the head of the state Association of Chiefs of Police, an organization opposing the reform effort.

“Opponents of this policy are trying to make this about race when it’s not. They’re using race as a distraction to get support for a bill that removes an effective policing practice.”

The bill would alter some fundamental aspects of current property seizure practice. For one, forfeitures would have to be tied to a criminal conviction, and even then, the forfeiture would have to be proportional to the offense, meaning, for example, a semi-truck couldn’t be taken because the driver had sold a personal amount of marijuana to another driver inside the cab.

**PAGE 6**

PRESENT TO ALL

**[exp\_interest]** How interesting was the article?

* Very interesting
* Somewhat interesting
* Not very interesting
* Not at all interesting

**[exp\_informative]** How informative was the article?

* Very informative
* Somewhat informative
* Not very informative
* Not at all informative

**[exp\_share]** How likely would you be to recommend this article to a friend?

* Very likely
* Somewhat likely
* Not very likely
* Not at all likely

**[exp\_more\_info]** How likely would you be to read more articles on the same topic?

* Very likely
* Somewhat likely
* Not very likely
* Not at all likely

**PAGE 7 & PAGE 8**

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF **mip\_open** AND **DYNAMIC GRID**. mip\_open AND DYNAMIC GRID EACH HAVE ITS OWN PAGE]

PRESENT TO ALL

**[mip\_open]** What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? You may list up to three.

[TEXT BOX 1]

[TEXT BOX 2]

[TEXT BOX 3]

PRESENT TO ALL

Of the problems facing the country today, how big of a problem would you say each of the following are?

PRESENT DYNAMIC GRID AS RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ITEM

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A very big problem | A moderately big problem | A small problem | Not a problem at all |
| **[mip\_race]** Racism/race relations |  |  |  |  |
| **[mip\_house]** Housing affordability |  |  |  |  |
| **[mip\_enviro]**  The environment |  |  |  |  |
| **[mip\_health]** Health care |  |  |  |  |
| **[mip\_economy]** The economy |  |  |  |  |

**PAGE 9**

**[cjs\_evals]** In general, do you think the criminal justice system in this country is too harsh, too lenient, or about right in its handling of crime?

* Far too harsh
* A little too harsh
* About right
* A little too lenient
* Far too lenient

**PAGES 10 & 11**

PRESENT TO ALL

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF **police\_fair** AND **fedgov\_fair**; EACH SHOULD GET ITS OWN PAGE]

**[police\_fair]** In general, would you say the police treat whites better than blacks, treat blacks better than whites, or treat them both the same?

* Police treat whites much better than blacks
* Police treat whites a little better than blacks
* Police treat whites and blacks about the same
* Police treat blacks a little better than whites
* Police treat blacks much better than whites

**[fedgov\_fair]** In general, would you say the federal government treat whites better than blacks, treat blacks better than whites, or treat them both the same?

* Federal government treats whites much better than blacks
* Federal government treats whites a little better than blacks
* Federal government treats whites and blacks about the same
* Federal government treats blacks a little better than whites
* Federal government treats blacks much better than whites

**PAGE 12**

PRESENT TO ALL

How much discrimination would you say that there is in the United States against each of the following groups?

PRESENT DYNAMIC GRID AS RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ITEM

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A great deal | A lot | A moderate amount | A little | None |
| **[disc\_asian]** Asians |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[disc\_black]** Blacks |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[disc\_white]** Whites |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[disc\_latino]** Latinos |  |  |  |  |  |

**PAGE 13**

PRESENT TO ALL

[**racism**] Please read the following and indicate which answer is closest to what you believe racism is.

1. An individual’s prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory behavior toward people of a given race.




7. Institutional practices, which are not necessarily motivated by prejudice, that subordinate people of a given race.

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PRESENT TO ALL

**[civ\_af]** Do you favor or oppose the use of civil asset forfeiture?

* Strongly favor
* Somewhat favor
* Somewhat oppose
* Strongly oppose

**PAGE 15**

PRESENT TO ALL

**[open\_recall]** Earlier you read an article on civil asset forfeiture. Using the space below, please write down what you remember from that article.

[TEXT BOX]

**PAGE 16**

PRESENT TO ALL

On to another topic…

Imagine that you are in a doctor’s waiting room. This person is already seated and waiting for the doctor. Please side the ruler to indicate how close or how far away from this man you would sit.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of 5 conditions: (1) dem\_hil, (2) dem\_hipster, (3) cntrl, (4) rep\_camo, and (5) rep\_trump. For each treatment, respondents receive the corresponding picture below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dem\_hil** | ../partisan%20visual%20categorization/Mturk%20Study/picture%20data/final%20photos/pic2_hillary.JPG |
| **dem\_hipster** | ../partisan%20visual%20categorization/Mturk%20Study/picture%20data/final%20photos/pic5_dhipster.JPG |
| **cntrl** | ../partisan%20visual%20categorization/Mturk%20Study/picture%20data/final%20photos/pic_1_ctrl.JPG |
| **rep\_camo** | ../partisan%20visual%20categorization/Mturk%20Study/picture%20data/pic9_rcamo.JPG |
| **rep\_trump** | ../partisan%20visual%20categorization/Mturk%20Study/picture%20data/final%20photos/pic8_trump.JPG |

**[seat\_pic]** There are seven chairs in the office. The man above is sitting in the far-left chair. Please indicate which chair you would prefer to sit in while you wait.

[SLIDER SET-UP; SLIDER FIRST POSITION SHOULD START AT 2]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Man Sitting Here | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**PAGE 17**

**[pic\_pid]** Now, we’d like to ask you about what, if any, political group you believe the man belongs to. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is a “very typical Democrat” and 7 is a “very typical Republican,” which party (if any) do you think the man best represents?

* 1 – Very typical Democrat
* 2
* 3
* 4 – Neither Democrat nor Republican
* 5
* 6
* 7 – Very typical Republican

**PAGE 17**

We have one more news article we would like you to read. Please do so carefully.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of 5 conditions: (1) wahl\_d, (2) wahl\_r, (3) dem\_wahl, (4) rep\_wahl, and (5) wahl\_control. For each treatment, respondents receive the corresponding picture below.

WAHL\_D TREATMENT

**Mark Wahlberg Supported the Democratic Party**

The Tennessean, a Nashville newspaper, discovered that Mark Wahlberg, the 46-year-old movie mega-star, donated $5,000 to the Democratic National Committee in 2016.

This is the first public report about the star’s political preferences. According to one fan, however, his supporters have known about his politics for a while. He will sometimes post information about the Democratic Party on his website or send out information about the Party through his emails to fans.

The movie star, primarily known for his popular movies, is also known for his ability to set trends among his loyal fan base. Not only have his fans consistently seen and bought his films, but they have also fully embraced his lifestyle brand. When he posts links on social media, they are regularly copied and reposted, and a workout studio in New York saw a long-term spike in attendance after he was seen there a couple of times. One supporter even mentioned that he chose to get a golden Labrador retriever for his family because the movie star owned one.

WAHL\_R TREATMENT

**Mark Wahlberg Supported the Republican Party**

The Tennessean, a Nashville newspaper, discovered that Mark Wahlberg, the 46-year-old movie mega-star, donated $5,000 to the Republican National Committee in 2016.

This is the first public report about the star’s political preferences. According to one fan, however, his supporters have known about his politics for a while. He will sometimes post information about the Republican Party on his website or send out information about the Party through his subscription email service.

The movie star, primarily known for his popular movies, is also known for his ability to set trends among his loyal fan base. Not only have his fans consistently seen and bought his films, but they have also fully embraced his lifestyle brand. When he posts links on social media, they are regularly copied and reposted, and a workout studio in New York saw a long-term spike in attendance after he was seen there a couple of times. One supporter even mentioned that he chose to get a golden Labrador retriever for his family because the movie star owned one.

DEM\_WAHL TREATMENT

**Democrat Hillary Clinton Loves Mark Wahlberg Movies**

The Tennessean, a Nashville newspaper, discovered that one of Hillary Clinton’s favorite actors is Mark Wahlberg. Clinton frequently watches Wahlberg’s films with her family.

This is the first public report about the Democratic politician’s interest in Wahlberg’s films. According to one fan, however, her supporters have known about her movie tastes for a while. She will sometimes post information about Mark Wahlberg movies on her website or send out information about his movies through her subscription email service.

The Democratic politician, primarily known for her political service, is also known for her ability to set trends among her loyal fan base. Not only have her Democratic supporters consistently bought her books and attended her events, but they have also fully embraced her lifestyle brand. When she posts links on social media, they are regularly copied and reposted, and a workout studio in New York saw a long-term spike in attendance after she was seen there a couple of times. One supporter even mentioned that he chose to get a chocolate Labrador retriever for his family because the Democratic politician owned one.

REP\_WAHL TREATMENT

**Republican Mitt Romney Loves Mark Wahlberg Movies**

The Tennessean, a Nashville newspaper, discovered that one of Mitt Romney’s favorite actors is Mark Wahlberg. Romney frequently watches Wahlberg’s films with his family.

This is the first public report about the Republican politician’s interest in Wahlberg’s films. According to one fan, however, his supporters have known about his movie tastes for a while. He will sometimes post information about Mark Wahlberg movies on his website or send out information about his movies through his subscription email service.

The Republican politician, primarily known for his political service, is also known for his ability to set trends among his loyal fan base. Not only have his Republican supporters consistently bought his books and attended his events, but they have also fully embraced his lifestyle brand. When he posts links on social media, they are regularly copied and reposted, and a workout studio in New York saw a long-term spike in attendance after he was seen there a couple of times. One supporter even mentioned that he chose to get an Irish setter for his family because the Republican politician owned one.

WAHL\_CONTROL TREATMENT

**Mark Wahlberg Supported National Charities**

The Tennessean, a Nashville newspaper, discovered that Mark Wahlberg, the 46-year-old movie mega-star, donated $5,000 to national charities in 2016.

This is the first public report about the star’s charity donations. According to one fan, however, his supporters have known about his contributions for a while. He will sometimes post information about charities on his website or send out information through his subscription email service.

The movie star, primarily known for his popular movies, is also known for his ability to set trends among his loyal fan base. Not only have his fans consistently seen and bought his films, but they have also fully embraced his lifestyle brand. When he posts links on social media, they are regularly copied and reposted, and a workout studio in New York saw a long-term spike in attendance after he was seen there a couple of times. One supporter even mentioned that he chose to get a Labrador Retriever for his family because the movie star owned one.

**PAGE 18**

TO THOSE ASSIGNED THE WAHL\_D TREATMENT:

[**wahl\_d\_check**] Thinking about the article you just read, what does Mark Wahlberg do in his spare time?

* Listen to music
* Work out
* Read books
* Take care of his dog

TO THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE WAHL\_R TREATMENT:

[**wahl\_r\_check**] Thinking about the article you just read, what does Mark Wahlberg do in his spare time?

* Listen to music
* Work out
* Read books
* Take care of his dog

TO THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE DEM\_WAHL TREATMENT

[**dem\_wahl\_check**] Thinking about the article you just read, what does Hillary Clinton do in her spare time?

* Listen to music
* Work out
* Read books
* Take care of her dog

TO THOSE ASSIGNED TO THE REP\_WAHL TREATMENT

[**rep\_wahl\_check**] Thinking about the article you just read, what does Mitt Romney do in his spare time?

* Listen to music
* Work out
* Read books
* Take care of his dog

**PAGE 19**

PRESENT TO ALL

**[wahl\_similar]** Thinking about the article you just read, how similar is it to newspaper or online articles that you normally read?

* Extremely similar
* Moderately similar
* Somewhat similar
* Slightly similar
* Not at all similar

**[wahl\_interesting]** How interesting did you find it?

* Extremely interesting
* Moderately interesting
* Somewhat interesting
* Slightly interesting
* Not at all interesting

**[wahl\_news]** Which newspaper discovered the story?

* The Dallas Morning News
* The Chattanooga Times Free Press
* The St. Louis Post-Dispatch
* The Tennessean
* The Times-Picayune

**PAGE 20**

PRESENT TO ALL

We would now like you to read a short summary about a hypothetical individual’s weekend activities.

During the weekend, Michael Lange likes to go running and catch up on errands and repairs. He has been a runner since he was in high school and he still enjoys running on trails with friends and family today. Jones and his wife also like to relax on the weekends, run errands, and go see movies. “Our weeks are so busy, that my wife and I like to unwind during the weekends. We relax, run errands, and try to see the latest movie. We are big Mark Wahlberg fans and have been for a long time. We really enjoy his movies. From The Perfect Storm to The Departed, we think they are all super entertaining.”

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PRESENT TO ALL

Now we’d like to ask you where you think Mr. Lange stands on some important political issues.

**[lange\_spend]** Some people think the government should provide fewer services, such as health and education, in order to reduce spending. Other people feel that it is important for the government to provide many more services even if it means an increase in spending.

Where would you place Mr. Lange on this scale?

* 1 – Government should provide many fewer services and reduce spending a lot
* 2
* 3
* 4 – Government spending and services should remain about the same
* 5
* 6
* 7 – Government should provide many more services and increase spending a lot

**[lange\_abort]** There has been some discussions about abortion during recent years. Which of the following below do you think best summarizes Mr. Lange’s view?

* 1 – By law, abortion should never be permitted
* 2 – The law should permit abortion only in the case of rape, incest, or when the woman’s life is in danger
* 3 – The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman’s life, but only after the need for abortion has been clearly established
* 4 – By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice

**[lange\_place]** On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 represents a “very typical Democrat” and 7 represents a “very typical Republican,” which party (if any) do you think Mr. Lange best represents?

* 1 – Very typical Democrat
* 2
* 3
* 4 – Neither Democrat nor Republican
* 5
* 6
* 7 – Very typical Republican

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PRESENT TO ALL

Finally, please enter your zipcode below. As a reminder, none of the information in this survey will be used to identify you in any way.

[TEXT BOX]

**PAGE 23**

PRESENT TO ALL

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts and opinions! This survey is being conducted in conjunction with researchers at Harvard University, Florida State University, and Vanderbilt University. If you have questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Dr. Marc Hetherington at marc.j.hetherington@vanderbilt.edu. Have a nice rest of the day.