**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. 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 sys- tem. 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 are the following?

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 |  |  |  |  |

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**[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

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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 rule 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 will 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 ALWAYS BE AT 2]

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

**PAGE 17**

**[pic\_pid]** Now, we’d like to ask you about what you think the political affiliation of the man might be. On a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is a “very typical Democrat” and 7 is a “very typical Republican,” which party do you think the man is most representative of?

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

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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.