

Specific Topic of Interest – Primary and Secondary

After observing the shocking non-traditional front runner in the upcoming elections and my personal experience, along with some of my friends, I wanted to examine America's view of how well they think their government is doing, are they happy with how their government is working for them, are the concerns of the average American being addressed by their government, can the average American affect what the government does are the questions I'm looking to address. More importantly, does a person's age influence their negative views of the government?

Published Academic Work Bibliographic Information

Trust in federal government: The phenomenon and its antecedents - D Owen, J Dennis, 2001

Is it the middle that is frustrated? Americans' ideological positions and governmental trust, JR Hibbing, JT Smith - American Politics Research, 2004 - apr.sagepub.com

Political trust revisited: Déjà vu all over again?, J Citrin, S Luks, 2001

Stealth democracy: Americans' beliefs about how government should work, JR Hibbing, E Theiss-Morse – 2002

Political Bubbles: Financial Crises and the Failure of American Democracy - N McCarty, KT Poole, H Rosenthal - 2013

Outcomes, process, and trust of civil servants - GG Van Ryzin - Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 2011 - PMRA

The irony of democracy: An Uncommon Introduction to American Politics - L Schubert, T Dye, H Zeigler – 2015

Pew Research Center, www.pewresearch.org/data-trend/national-conditions/national-satisfaction-2

HYPOTHESIS:

I think with the non-traditional front runner actually leading the race on who should be the next president, the American public is (finally) expressing a discontent with government and is searching for the person/people that will actually represent their views. Even though this front runner seems to have gotten there by the younger potential voters, I don't believe that is the main group that has been disillusioned by our government. I think the disillusionment starts as retirement thoughts enter the picture as a serious possibility and the government still hasn't lived up to its promises.

Codebook

W1_A4: In 2008, John McCain ran on the Republican ticket against Barack Obama who ran on the Democratic ticket. Do you remember whether or not you voted in that election?

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 1 Yes | 2 No |
|-------|------|

W1_B2: How much can people like you affect what the government does?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 A great deal | 4 A little |
| 2 A lot | 5 Not at all |
| 3 A moderate amount | |

W1_B3: How often does the federal government do what most Americans want it to do?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Always | 4 Once in a while |
| 2 Most of the time | 5 Never |
| 3 About half the time | |

W1_F1: When you think about your future, are you generally optimistic, pessimistic, or neither optimistic nor pessimistic?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Optimistic | 2 Pessimistic |
| 3 Neither | |

W1_I1: How well does the U.S. Congress represent all Americans?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Extremely well | 2 Very well |
| 3 Moderately well | 4 A little well |
| 5 Not well at all | |

W1_I2: How well does the U.S. Congress represent you?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Extremely well | 2 Very well |
| 3 Moderately well | 4 A little well |
| 5 Not well at all | |

W1_P2: People talk about social classes such as the poor, the working class, the middle class, the upper-middle class, and the upper class. Which of these classes would you say you belong to?

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 Poor | 2 Working class |
| 3 Middle class | 4 Upper middle class |
| 5 Upper class | |

W1_P13: Are you a citizen of the United States?

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 1 Yes | 2 No |
|-------|------|

W1_P13A: Were you born a United States citizen or are you a naturalized U.S. citizen?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Born a US citizen | 2 Naturalized US citizen |
|---------------------|--------------------------|

W1_P13B: In what year did you become a U.S. citizen? Please enter the full year when you became a citizen, for example 1962 or 2000.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 Before 1960 | 2 1960 to 1969 |
| 3 1970 to 1979 | 4 1980 to 1989 |
| 5 1990 to 1999 | 6 2000 to 2009 |

PPAGECAT: Age - 7 Categories

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 18-24 | 2 25-34 |
| 3 35-44 | 4 45-54 |
| 5 55-64 | 6 65-74 |
| 7 75+ | |

PPEDUCAT: Education (Categorical)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Less than high school | 2 High school |
| 3 Some college | 4 Bachelor's degree or higher |

PPSTATEN: State

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 11 ME | 12 NH |
| 13 VT | 14 MA |
| 15 RI | 16 CT |
| 21 NY | 22 NJ |
| 23 PA | 31 OH |
| 32 IN | 33 IL |
| 34 MI | 35 WI |
| 41 MN | 42 IA |
| 43 MO | 44 ND |
| 45 SD | 46 NE |
| 47 KS | 51 DE |
| 52 MD | 53 DC |
| 54 VA | 55 WV |
| 56 NC | 57 SC |
| 58 GA | 59 FL |
| 61 KY | 62 TN |
| 63 AL | 64 MS |
| 71 AR | 72 LA |
| 73 OK | 74 TX |
| 81 MT | 82 ID |
| 83 WY | 84 CO |
| 85 NM | 86 AZ |
| 87 UT | 88 NV |
| 91 WA | 92 OR |
| 93 CA | 94 AK |