

BLW - W12 Instrument - October 2020 [yellow highlighting indicates differences from March 2020 public survey]

PUBLIC

Consent/age

This study is being conducted by John Carey, Gretchen Helmke, Brendan Nyhan, and Susan Stokes, who are professors at Dartmouth College (Carey and Nyhan), the University of Rochester (Helmke), and the University of Chicago (Stokes). We ask for your attention for a few minutes and we thank you for your attention and your responses. Your participation is voluntary and you may decline the survey or withdraw at any time. No information that identifies you will be collected or retained by the researchers, and all of the information we collect will be stored securely. However, any online interaction carries some risk of being accessed. Please contact the Social & Behavioral Sciences IRB at the University of Chicago with any questions or concerns (by phone at 773-834-7835 or by email at sbs-irb@uchicago.edu). Do you consent to participate in the survey?

-Yes

-No [terminate]

How old are you?

-Under 18 [terminate]

-18 - 24

-25 - 34

-35 - 44

-45 - 54

-55 - 64

-65 - 74

-75 - 84

-85 or older

US democracy ratings

PERF battery: How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today?
[Each respondent sees a randomly selected set of 9 items.]

ADD - only change to PERF from March 2020: new items to set in last public survey

- The law is enforced equally for all persons.
- Politicians who lose free and fair elections will concede defeat.

On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States as of today?
(100-point slider - same as March 2020)

How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically? On this scale where 1 means it is “not at all important” and 10 means “absolutely important,” what position would you choose?

[multiple choice, horizontal, with “Not at all important” and “Absolutely important” placed on top of the 1 and 10, respectively]

-1 Not at all important

-2

-3

-4

-5

-6

-7

-8

-9

-10 Absolutely important

Election confidence

How confident are you that everyone who is legally entitled to vote and seeks to do so will be able to successfully cast a ballot in the election this November?

(Options: Very confident, Somewhat confident, Not too confident, Not at all confident)

How confident are you that your vote in the general election will be counted as you intend?

(Options: Very confident, Somewhat confident, Not too confident, Not at all confident)

How confident are you that votes in your state will be counted as voters intend?

(Options: Very confident, Somewhat confident, Not too confident, Not at all confident)

How confident are you that votes nationwide will be counted as voters intend?

(Options: Very confident, Somewhat confident, Not too confident, Not at all confident)

Fraud

To the best of your knowledge, how many times does each of these occur in a presidential election?

Voting more than once in an election

Stealing or tampering with ballots

Pretending to be someone else when voting

People voting who are not U.S. citizens

Voting with an absentee ballot intended for another person

(Grid: A million or more, a few thousand, a few hundred, a few dozen, fewer than a dozen, never)

Legitimacy

[Ask for one candidate and then the other (order randomized)]

If {Joe Biden/Donald Trump} wins the 2020 presidential election, would you consider him to be the rightful winner of the election or not the rightful winner?

- Definitely the rightful winner
- Probably the rightful winner
- Probably not the rightful winner
- Definitely not the rightful winner

If the candidate who is ahead on election night loses the 2020 presidential election, would you view the final electoral result as legitimate or not legitimate?

- Entirely legitimate
- Somewhat legitimate
- Not very legitimate
- Not legitimate at all

For future presidential elections, would you support or oppose changing to a system in which the president is elected by direct popular vote, instead of by the Electoral College?

- Support strongly
- Support somewhat
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose somewhat
- Oppose strongly

Violence

When, if ever, is it OK for [respondent's party] to send threatening and intimidating messages to [other party] leaders?

When, if ever, is it OK for an ordinary [respondent's party] in the public to harass an ordinary [other party] on the Internet, in a way that makes the target feel unsafe?

How much do you feel it is justified for [respondent's party] to use violence in advancing their political goals these days?

What if the [other party] wins the 2020 presidential election? How much do you feel violence would be justified then?

If the [other party] engages in violence during the election, is it justified to respond with violence?

(Grid: Always, frequently, occasionally, never)

Demographics

In what state do you currently reside?
[pull-down]

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or neither liberal nor conservative?

- Very conservative
- Somewhat conservative
- Slightly conservative
- Moderate; middle of the road
- Slightly liberal
- Somewhat liberal
- Very liberal

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

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Something else

[If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... Democrat Is Selected]

Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

- Strong Democrat
- Not very strong Democrat

[If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... Republican Is Selected]

Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

[If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent,... Independent or Something else Is Selected]

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party? oCloser to the Republican Party

- Closer to the Democratic Party
- Neither

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? oDid not graduate from high school

- High school diploma or the equivalent (GED)

- Some college
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional or doctorate degree

Please check one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other

Are you of Spanish or Hispanic origin or descent?

- Yes
- No

With which race or ethnicity do you most identify?

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Hispanic/Latino/Chicano/a
- Other

Generally, how interested are you in politics?

- Extremely interested
- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not very interested
- Not at all interested

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? -

- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove

In the presidential election between Donald Trump for the Republicans and Joe Biden for the Democrats, will you vote for Donald Trump, Joe Biden, someone else, or probably not vote?

- Donald Trump
- Joe Biden

-Someone else

-Probably not vote

The next set of questions helps us learn what types of information are commonly known to the public. Please answer these questions on your own without asking anyone or looking up the answers. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, but we'd be grateful if you would please answer every question even if you're not sure what the right answer is.

It is important to us that you do NOT use outside sources like the Internet to search for the correct answer. Will you answer the following questions without help from outside sources?

-Yes

-No

For how many years is a United States Senator elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

-Two years

-Four years

-Six years

-Eight years

-None of these

-Don't know

How many times can an individual be elected President of the United States under current laws?

-Once

-Twice

-Four times

-Unlimited number of terms

-Don't know

How many U.S. Senators are there from each state?

-One

-Two

-Four

-Depends on which state

-Don't know

Who is currently the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom? [randomize order of answer options except "don't know"]

-Richard Branson

-Nick Clegg

-Theresa May

-Boris Johnson

-Margaret Thatcher

-Don't know

For how many years is a member of the United States House of Representatives elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. House member?

- Two years
- Four years
- Six years
- Eight years
- For life
- Don't know

It is essential for the validity of this study that we know whether participants looked up any information online during the study. Did you make an effort to look up information during the study? Please be honest; you will still be paid and you will not be penalized in any way if you did.

- Yes, I looked up information
- No, I did not look up information

We sometimes find people don't always take surveys seriously, instead providing humorous or insincere responses to questions. How often do you do this?

- Never
- Rarely
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Always

Do you have any comments on the survey? Please let us know about any problems you had or aspects of the survey that were confusing.

[textbox]

Thank you for answering these questions. This research is not intended to support or oppose any political candidate or office. The research has no affiliation with any political candidate or campaign and has received no financial support from any political candidate or campaign. Should you have any questions about this study, please contact Brendan Nyhan at nyhan@dartmouth.edu.