Survey of American Views on Politics and Society

Researchers at Columbia University invite you to share what you think about politics and society. Answering the following questions will help us learn more about the American public. This survey is designed to be brief; it will only take a few minutes. Please select one answer to each of the following questions. Your answers will be used for research purposes only and will remain confidential.

For statistical purposes, we would like to know a few things about your background:

1. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- ☐ Through grade 8 or fewer years
- ☐ High school (grades 9-12, no degree)
- ☐ High school graduate (or equivalent)
- ☐ Some college (1-4 years, no degree)
- ☐ Associate's degree (including occupational or academic degrees)
- ☐ Bachelor's degree (BA, BS, AB, etc)
- ☐ Master's degree (MA, MS, MENG, MSW, etc)
- ☐ Professional school degree (MD, DDC, JD, etc)
- ☐ Doctorate degree (PhD, EdD, etc)

2. Employment status: Are you currently…?

- ☐ Working now
- ☐ Temporarily laid off
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Permanently disabled
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Student

3. What is your marital status?

- ☐ Now married, first marriage
- ☐ Now married, not first marriage
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Never married

4. Please specify your ethnicity:

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Prefer not to say

5. Please specify your race:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Prefer not to say

6. Employer type: Please describe your work:

- ☐ Employee of a for-profit company or business or of an individual, for wages, salary, or commissions
- ☐ Employee of a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, or charitable organization
- ☐ Local government employee (city, county, etc.)
- ☐ State government employee
- ☐ Federal government employee
- ☐ Self-employed in own business, professional practice, or farm
- ☐ Working without pay in family business or farm
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Not currently working

7. Did you ever serve on active duty in the Armed Forces?

- ☐ No, I have never served in the Armed Forces
- ☐ Yes, I served in the Armed Forces

8. Overall, how confident are you that you (and your spouse) will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years?

- ☐ Very confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Not too confident
- ☐ Not at all confident
- ☐ Don't know

9. Do you plan to continue working beyond normal retirement age?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, I plan to continue working because of financial needs
- ☐ Yes, I plan to continue working for reasons other than finances

10. Do you think that government needs to guarantee an adequate retirement income to its citizens?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

11. Do you live in the city or town where you attended high school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but I live within 25 miles
- ☐ No, but I live in the same state
- ☐ No, I have moved to a different state since high school

12. How many children (including adult offspring) do you have?

- ☐ No children

_____ Number of sons

_____ Number of daughters

13. Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?

- ☐ Yes, a major threat
- ☐ Yes, a minor threat
- ☐ No, no threat

14. How often do you pay attention to what's going on in government and politics

- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ About half the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Never

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

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Republican

16. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time.

How about you—did you vote in the most recent presidential election held on November 6, 2012?

- ☐ Yes, I voted
- ☐ No, I did not vote
- ☐ I don't recall

17. Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?

- ☐ Mitt Romney, Republican candidate
- ☐ Barack Obama, Democratic candidate
- ☐ I voted for another candidate
- ☐ I don't remember who I voted for
- ☐ I did not vote

18. Of the following candidates, which one would you vote for in the upcoming presidential election?

- ☐ Hillary Clinton
- ☐ Ted Cruz
- ☐ John Kasich
- ☐ Marco Rubio
- ☐ Bernie Sanders
- ☐ Donald Trump

19. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

- ☐ Just about always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Only some of the time
- ☐ Never

20. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state's government to do what is right?

- ☐ Just about always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Only some of the time
- ☐ Never

21. Thinking about U.S. military action in Afghanistan that began in 2001, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan, or not?

- ☐ Yes, the U.S. made a mistake
- ☐ No, the U.S. did not make a mistake

22. Thinking about U.S. military action in Iraq that began in 2003, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending military forces to Iraq, or not?

- ☐ Yes, the U.S. made a mistake
- ☐ No, the U.S. did not make a mistake

23. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the Tea Party movement?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose

24. Which of these statements do you agree with more?

- ☐ "Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're will to work hard"
- ☐ "Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people"
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ No opinion

25. Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

- ☐ Run by a few big interests
- ☐ For the benefit of all

26. How would you describe your political views?

- ☐ Very conservative
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Very liberal

27. Do you think the government spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on social programs for the poor?

- ☐ Too much
- ☐ Too little
- ☐ About the right amount

28. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'This country would be better off if we just stayed home and did not concern ourselves with problems in other parts of the world.'

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

29. Do you think the government spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on programs for veterans?

- ☐ Too much
- ☐ Too little
- ☐ About the right amount

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress has been handling its job?

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove

31. Do you think the government spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on national defense?

- ☐ Too much
- ☐ Too little
- ☐ About the right amount

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama has been handling his job?

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove

33. What is the most important problem facing the country?

_____

34. In this country right now, do you think:

- ☐ Everyone more or less plays by the same rules to get ahead
- ☐ There are different rules for the well-connected and people with money
- ☐ Unsure

35. In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

- ☐ More strict
- ☐ Less strict
- ☐ Kept as now
- ☐ No opinion

36. Generally speaking, how often can you trust other people?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ About half the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Never

37. Do you consider religion to be an important part of your life, or not?

- ☐ Important
- ☐ Not important

38. In this country right now, do you think people who work hard:

- ☐ Have a good chance of improving their standard of living
- ☐ Still have a hard time maintaining their standard of living
- ☐ Unsure

39. Do you ever attend religious services, apart from occasional weddings, baptisms, or funerals?

- ☐ Yes, every week
- ☐ Yes, almost every week
- ☐ Yes, once or twice a month
- ☐ Yes, a few times a year
- ☐ No, never

40. Do you consider yourself Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?

- ☐ Mainline Protestant
- ☐ Evangelical Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ None

41. How would you describe your personal economic situation?

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Somewhat good
- ☐ Somewhat bad
- ☐ Very bad
- ☐ Don't know

42. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?

- ☐ Extremely satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Moderately satisfied
- ☐ Slightly Satisfied
- ☐ Not satisfied at all

43. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your job or the work you do?

- ☐ Extremely satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Moderately satisfied
- ☐ Slightly Satisfied
- ☐ Not satisfied at all

44. Do you plan to vote in the 2016 presidential election?

- ☐ Plan to vote
- ☐ Don't plan to vote
- ☐ Don't know

45. Please select one response for each activity:

How many times <u>in the past two years</u> have you done the following?

	Never	Once	A few times (2-5)	Several times (6 or more)
a. Contacted an elected representative	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Been contacted by a political party or candidate	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Made a donation to a political campaign	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Made a donation to a charitable organization	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Volunteered with a charity	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Attended a community meeting	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Talked about politics with someone	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Attended a political party event	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Attended or participated in a protest	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please tell us about your interests:

46. What is your favorite kind of music to listen to?

_____

47. What is your favorite movie?

_____

48. What is your favorite hobby?

_____

49. Do you speak any languages other than English?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes. If yes, please list the language(s) you speak:_____

50. May we contact you with additional questions after the election in November?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Thank you!