Consent

Welcome! This survey is part of a university research project on politics and current events.

Before you begin, please minimize any distractions so that you can focus on the questions. There are no wrong answers. Please make your best guess if you're not sure, and keep moving through the survey. We really appreciate your help!

Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Study Title: Evaluating Politics & Society

Study Purpose & Procedures: This study is a survey to understand the relationship between various social and political preferences, including evaluations of political leaders. The survey takes less than 15 minutes.

Inclusion criteria: Participants must be U.S. residents who are at least 18 years old.

Exclusion criteria: None.

Risks/Discomforts: The risks associated with this study are minimal. The study will include evaluation of fictional political candidates to help us better understand how people think about leaders.

Contacts: If you have questions about the study or procedures, please contact:

Principal Investigator:

Nathan P. Kalmoe

225-578-8013

Available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST

Right to Refuse: Subjects may choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of any benefit to which they might otherwise be entitled.You may decline response to any question for any reason. If you do not voluntarily consent to participate or are under the age of 18, exit from the website.

Privacy: Your responses will be completely anonymous; no identifying information will ever be collected. All data collected will be held securely behind username and password protections.

This study has been approved by the LSU IRB. For questions concerning participant rights, please contact the IRB Chair, Dr. Dennis Landin, 578-8692, or irb@lsu.edu.

Clicking the “>>” button to begin the study indicates you are over the age of 18. By continuing this survey, you are giving consent to participate in this study.

Pre-Treat

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...

Republican

Democrat

Independent

Another party, please specify

No preference

Would you call yourself a...

Strong Republican

Not very strong Republican

Would you call yourself a...

Strong Democrat

Not very strong Democrat

Do you think of yourself as closer to the...

Republican Party

Democratic Party

Neither

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Here are a number of statements that may or may not apply to you. Indicate the extent to which each statement is true or false for you.

	Completely true for me	Mostly true for me	Slightly true for me	Slightly false for me	Mostly false for me	Completely false for me
I have threatened people I know.	O	O	O	O	O	O
Given enough provocation, I may hit a person.	O	O	O	O	O	O
My friends say I'm somewhat argumentative.	O	O	O	O	O	O

	Completely true for me	Mostly true for me	Slightly true for me	Slightly false for me	Mostly false for me	Completely false for me
Sometimes I fly off the handle for no good reason.	O	O	O	O	O	O
I wonder why sometimes I feel so bitter about things.	O	O	O	O	O	O
I can't help getting into arguments when people disagree with me.	O	O	O	O	O	O

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Here are a number of statements that may or may not apply to you. Indicate the extent to which each statement is true or false for you.

	Completely true for me	Mostly true for me	Slightly true for me	Slightly false for me	Mostly false for me	Completely false for me
I often find myself disagreeing with people.	O	O	O	O	O	O
At times I feel I have gotten a raw deal out of life.	O	O	O	O	O	O
Other people always seem to get the breaks.	O	O	O	O	O	O

	Completely true for me	Mostly true for me	Slightly true for me	Slightly false for me	Mostly false for me	Completely false for me
I flare up quickly but get over it quickly.	O	O	O	O	O	O
I have trouble controlling my temper.	O	O	O	O	O	O
There are people who have pushed me so far that we have come to blows.	O	O	O	O	O	O

Pre-Treat 2

Do you think elections make the government pay attention to what the people think?

Definitely yes

Probably yes

Maybe

Probably not
Definitely not

Agree or disagree? “Public officials don’t care much what people like me think.”

Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree

Although there are a number of qualities that people feel children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. For each question, which one do you think is more important for a child to have?

Curiosity or Good Manners?

Curiosity more important
Good manners more important

Obedience or Self-Reliance?

Obedience more important
Self-reliance more important

Knowledge

For the following questions, please make your best guess, even if you’re not sure.

What office does John Roberts hold?

Vice President
Senate Majority Leader
Supreme Court Justice
Secretary of Defense

Whose responsibility is it to determine whether or not a law is constitutional?

the Congress
the Supreme Court
the States
the President

What percent of the House and Senate must vote to override a presidential veto?

More than 50%
More than 60%
More than 66.7%
More than 75%
100%

Candidate A Non-Violent

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Next, we will show the text from two campaign ads by opposing candidates for the U.S House of Representatives. After each ad, please give your impression of the candidate, then choose your favorite.

Candidate A: "Standing Up for America's Future"

"Americans today are struggling to keep their jobs and their homes. All you ever asked of government is to stand on your side and stand up for your future. That's just what I intend to do. I will work hard to get our

economy back on track. I will work for our children's future. And I will work for justice and opportunity for all. I will always work for America's future, no matter how tough it gets. Join me in this effort."

Based on this ad, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Candidate A?

Strongly favorable
Somewhat favorable
Neither favorable nor unfavorable
Somewhat unfavorable
Strongly unfavorable

Candidate A Violent

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Next, we will show the text from two campaign ads by opposing candidates for the U.S House of Representatives. After each ad, please give your impression of the candidate, then choose your favorite.

Candidate A: "Fighting for America's Future"

"Americans today are fighting to keep their jobs and their homes. All you ever asked of government is to stand on your side and fight for your future. That's just what I intend to do. I will fight hard to get our economy back on track. I will fight for our children's future. And I will fight for justice and opportunity for all. I will always fight for America's future, no matter how tough it gets. Join me in this fight."

Based on this ad, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Candidate A?

Strongly favorable
Somewhat favorable
Neither favorable nor unfavorable

Somewhat unfavorable

Strongly unfavorable

Candidate B Non-Violent

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Next, the ad for the opposing candidate:

Candidate B: "Working for You"

"For almost 25 years, I've been working hard for you. And with your support, I will continue to work for you in Washington. In these tough times, we need to do what's right for our country. That means working hard to ensure equal opportunities for everyone in life. As your representative, I promise to work for all the people, not the powerful interests. But I can't win this race without your help. Together, we can build a better future."

Based on this ad, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Candidate B?

Strongly favorable

Somewhat favorable

Neither favorable nor unfavorable

Somewhat unfavorable

Strongly unfavorable

Candidate B Violent

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Next, the ad for the opposing candidate:

Candidate B: “Fighting for You”

“For almost 25 years, I’ve been fighting hard for you. And with your support, I will continue to fight for you in Washington. In these tough times, we need to fight for what’s right for our country. That means fighting hard to ensure equal opportunities for everyone in life. As your representative, I promise to fight for all the people, not the powerful interests. But I can’t win this battle without your help. Together, we can build a better future.”

Based on this ad, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Candidate B?

Strongly favorable
Somewhat favorable
Neither favorable nor unfavorable
Somewhat unfavorable
Strongly unfavorable

Post-Treat

Which candidate do you prefer: Candidate A (the first ad) or Candidate B (the second ad)?

Strongly prefer Candidate A
Somewhat prefer Candidate A
Slightly prefer Candidate A
Slightly prefer Candidate B
Somewhat prefer Candidate B
Strongly prefer Candidate B

Now, we will ask some questions about the national election this coming November.

So far as you know now, do you expect to vote in the national election in November or not?

Not eligible to vote
Definitely will vote
Probably will vote
Maybe will vote
Probably will not vote
Definitely will not vote

If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district? If you don't plan to vote, which party's candidate would you prefer?

Definitely Democratic candidate
Probably Democratic candidate
Undecided
Probably Republican candidate
Definitely Republican candidate
Other candidate

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

Strongly approve
Somewhat approve
Neither approve nor disapprove
Somewhat disapprove
Strongly disapprove

How much attention do you expect to pay to news about political campaigns this year, if any?

A great deal
Quite a bit
Some
Very little
None

How much would you say that you personally care about the way the election to the U.S. House of Representatives comes out?

Very much

Pretty much

Not very much

Not at all

Post-Treat 2

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Do you Agree or Disagree with the following statements about politics?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
When politicians are damaging the country, citizens should send threats to scare them straight.	○	○	○	○	○
The worst politicians should get a brick through the window to make them stop hurting the country.	○	○	○	○	○
Sometimes the only way to stop bad government is with physical force.	○	○	○	○	○
Some of the problems citizens have with government could be fixed with a few well-aimed bullets.	○	○	○	○	○

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Citizens upset by government should never use violence to express their feelings.	○	○	○	○	○

Extras - Rep Sign

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Next, read the following scenarios and indicate how you would respond.

A new family moved in next door and immediately put up a pro-Trump sign. A few days later, you have the flu, and you've just returned from the pharmacy. As you're getting out of your vehicle, the husband from the new family walks over to introduce himself and puts out his hand for a shake.

Would you shake his hand even though you're probably contagious, or would you decline and tell him you're sick?

Shake his hand

Tell him you're contagious

Not sure

Extras - Dem Sign

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Next, read the following scenarios and indicate how you would respond.

A new family moved in next door and immediately put up an anti-Trump sign. A few days later, you have the flu, and you've just returned from the pharmacy. As you're getting out of your vehicle, the husband from the new family walks over to introduce himself and puts out his hand for a shake.

Would you shake his hand even though you're probably contagious, or would you decline and tell him you're sick?

Shake his hand

Tell him you're contagious

Not sure

Extras - Pol Sign

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Next, read the following scenarios and indicate how you would respond.

A new family moved in next door and immediately put up a political sign. A few days later, you have the flu, and you've just returned from the pharmacy. As you're getting out of your vehicle, the husband from the new family walks over to introduce himself and puts out his hand for a shake.

Would you shake his hand even though you're probably contagious, or would you decline and tell him you're sick?

Shake his hand

Tell him you're contagious

Not sure

Extras 2 & 3

The following week, you notice that the brake lights on the new family's vehicle aren't working, which might cause them to get rear-ended if someone doesn't notice them slowing down.

Would you leave a note on their door about the brake lights, or would you just assume they'll figure it out eventually?

Leave a note about the brake lights

Assume they'll figure it out

Not sure

Lastly, the new family's child, who attends the nearest elementary school, has a severe peanut allergy. Exposure could lead to death. For maximum safety, the school proposes banning students from bringing any products that might have trace amounts of nuts just to be safe (e.g. peanut butter, ice cream, candy, cookies, some Mexican foods). Of course, school-cooked lunches would also avoid the same.

The school board will decide based on an anonymous neighborhood survey, which they distributed on a postcard with postage paid.

Would you support or oppose the food restrictions on the students' lunches? Or would you not send in the survey?

Support food restrictions

Oppose food restrictions

Would not send the survey

CCES Item Tests

When, if ever, is it OK for Democrats to send threatening and intimidating messages to Republican leaders?

Never
Occasionally
Frequently
Always

When, if ever, is it OK for Republicans to send threatening and intimidating messages to Democratic leaders?

Never
Occasionally
Frequently
Always

How much do you feel it is justified for Democrats to use violence in advancing their political goals these days?

Not at all
A little
A moderate amount
A lot
A great deal

How much do you feel it is justified for Republicans to use violence in advancing their political goals these days?

Not at all
A little
A moderate amount
A lot
A great deal

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We have a few more questions in this direction, this time about U.S. history:

Was it OK in the 1700s for American colonists to fight a war against the British government for independence and to begin establishing a more democratic government?

Yes
Maybe
No

Was it OK in the 1860s for Southern states to fight a war against the U.S. government for independence when they were upset about losing the 1860 election to an anti-slavery candidate?

Yes
Maybe
No

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Was it OK in the 1960s for some Vietnam War protesters to detonate bombs outside government offices to disrupt the war effort?

Yes
Maybe
No

Was it OK in 1995 for Timothy McVeigh to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City in response to FBI raids against people opposing the federal government?

Yes
Maybe

No

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Finally, thinking beyond just the United States, when (if ever) is it OK for people to use lethal violence against their own government? Consider each situation separately.

	Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
The government does not allow free elections for people to choose their leaders.	○	○	○	○
Free elections are held but some people's votes count more than others in deciding the outcome.	○	○	○	○
Free elections are held, but a party that some people think is dangerous to the country wins power.	○	○	○	○
The government harasses and imprisons people who criticize the government's leaders.	○	○	○	○
The government is corrupt—people get special treatment by giving leaders money.	○	○	○	○

	Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
The government discriminates against citizens based on race and religion.	○	○	○	○

	Never	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
Leaders from the governing party disobey the laws while prosecuting their political opponents who do the same.	○	○	○	○
The government bans possession of all firearms, including rifles, shotguns, and handguns.	○	○	○	○
The government bans all abortions for any reason, including life-threatening conditions for the mother.	○	○	○	○

Debrief

Would you like to share any other thoughts about any part of the survey? If so, type them here.

Thanks again for helping us understand Americans' views on these topics better!

Evaluating Society & Politics

Debriefing

The purpose of this study is to explore connections between social and political preferences. This work is interesting because it explores new ways in which social and political preferences may be related.

I would like to emphasize that there are no correct responses in this study. Also, your responses remain anonymous because no identifying information was collected. I would appreciate if you did not tell others about the content of the study to avoid jeopardizing the analysis. Do you have any questions? Thanks a lot for your help.

If you have any questions about the study for the principal investigator, please contact Dr. Nathan Kalmoe (nkalmoe@lsu.edu).

Should you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the LSU Institutional Review Board (irb@lsu.edu).

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