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Political Ambition Survey Consent Form

Please consider this information carefully before deciding whether to participate in this research.

Purpose: I am a graduate student in the Department of Government at Harvard University. As part of my dissertation, I am exploring political attitudes and ambition.

What you will do in this research: You will be asked to answer a series of survey questions online. Your answers are intended to be completely anonymous and we expect only to know who has taken the survey, not who gave what answers. If a piece of your demographic information is such an outlier that you might be identifiable, I will group the data in any reports that are made to protect the confidentiality of your data.

Time required: This should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Risks: This survey will ask questions about you and your background, including your race/ethnicity, your and your parents' education levels, your socioeconomic status now and when you were growing up, and about your thoughts and feelings about politics and political office. Otherwise, the effects of taking the survey are the same as those you may experience from viewing a computer monitor for 10 minutes and using a mouse or keyboard.

Benefits: At the end of the study, I will provide a thorough explanation of the study and my findings, in a series of events open to the Harvard community and widely publicized. I will also email all study participants a short version of my findings. If you wish, you can also send an email to me (shames@fas.harvard.edu) and I can send you a copy of any longer manuscripts based on the research (or simple summaries of survey results).

Compensation: After you have finished taking the survey, you will receive a $10 coupon for Amazon.com, or you can email me at shames@fas.harvard.edu to receive a different form of compensation (such as a Starbucks coupon or personal check).

Confidentiality: Your participation in the survey will remain confidential, and your survey answers are anonymous (even to the researchers). All we will know is that you participated or not.
Participation and withdrawal: Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time, without loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may also skip questions that you do not want to answer.

To Contact the Researchers: If you have questions about this research, please contact Shauna Shames, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge Street, CGIS Knafel Building, (202) 431-1133, shames@fas.harvard.edu. You may also contact the faculty member supervising this work: Dr. Jennifer Hochschild, Professor of Government and African and African American Studies, 1737 Cambridge Street, CGIS Knafel Building, room 412, (617) 496-0181, hochschild@gov.harvard.edu

Whom to contact about your rights in this research, for questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that are not being addressed by the researcher, or research-related harm: Harvard University Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: 617-496-2847. E-mail: cuhs@fas.harvard.edu

Please print or save a copy of this page for your records.

Agreement: By clicking "next" to proceed to the survey, I agree that the nature and purpose of this research have been explained to my satisfaction and I agree to participate in this study. I understand that I am free to withdraw at any time without incurring any penalty.

This is a survey about U.S. politics. Are you a U.S. citizen?

- Yes, I am a U.S. citizen.
- No, I am not a U.S. citizen.

What degree are you pursuing at Harvard Law School?

- J.D.
- Other degree

Thank you for your time. You are not eligible to take this survey. Best of luck with final exams.

In what 4-digit year were you born?

What is your sex?

- Female
- Male

Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?

- Yes
- No

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

- [ ] White
- [ ] Black or African American
- [ ] American Indian or Alaska Native
- [ ] Asian Indian
- [ ] Chinese
- [ ] Filipino
- [ ] Japanese
- [ ] Korean
- [ ] Vietnamese
- [ ] Other Asian
- [ ] Native Hawaiian
- [ ] Guamanian or Chamorro
- [ ] Samoan
- [ ] Other Pacific Islander
- [ ] Some other race (please specify)

To what extent, if at all, do you consider yourself to be a religious person?

- Not at all religious
- Slightly religious
- Moderately religions
- Very religious

What is your religion or denomination?

How well, if at all, does each of the following terms describe you? (Please mark the corresponding circle - only one per line.)

	Not at all	A Little	Moderately	Very well
Willing to take risks	○	○	○	○
Concerned about what others think of me	○	○	○	○
Avoid conflict whenever possible	○	○	○	○
Authentic/sincere	○	○	○	○
Hate to lose at anything	○	○	○	○
Would rather be well prepared and not have to wing it	○	○	○	○
Ethical/moral	○	○	○	○
Responsive to other people's needs	○	○	○	○
Confident	○	○	○	○
Thick-skinned	○	○	○	○
Competitive	○	○	○	○

How likely are you, if at all, to challenge a professor in class if s/he were to present an argument that you strongly disagree with?

- ○ Not at all likely
- ○ Not so likely
- ○ Somewhat likely
- ○ Very likely

In thinking about your future, how important are the following goals and accomplishments? (Please mark the corresponding circle - only one per line)

	Not at all Important	Not very Important	Important	Very Important
Rising to the top of my profession	○	○	○	○
Earning a great deal of money	○	○	○	○
Having a successful marriage or partnership	○	○	○	○
Making my community a				

Making my community a better place to live	○	○	○	○
Devoting time to my children	○	○	○	○
Having time for my friends	○	○	○	○
Being sure of always having a relatively well-paying job	○	○	○	○
Playing a big part in charitable endeavors	○	○	○	○
Becoming famous	○	○	○	○
Feeling useful, doing something good in world	○	○	○	○

To what extent do you think you will be expected to contribute financially to your parents, siblings, or other relatives in the future?

- ○ Not at all
- ○ To a small extent
- ○ To a moderate extent
- ○ To a large extent

How important is this consideration (being expected to contribute financially to your parents, siblings, or other relatives) to your choice of future job(s)?

- ○ Not at all important
- ○ Not very important
- ○ Important
- ○ Very important

Have you had any of the following experiences? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or language
- ☐ Discrimination based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation/gender identity
- ☐ Discrimination based on religion

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about your political and civic activities and opinions.

Many people do not engage in many political or community activities. In which, if any, of the following activities have you engaged in the past two years? (check all that apply):

- [ ] Voted in an election
- [ ] Wrote a letter to a newspaper
- [ ] Joined or paid dues to a political interest group
- [ ] Contacted an elected official (by phone, email, letter, etc)
- [ ] Contributed money to a campaign
- [ ] Volunteered for a political candidate
- [ ] Volunteered on a community project, or joined community group to address a local issue
- [ ] Attended a city council or school board meeting
- [ ] Served on the board of a non-profit organization

Please mark your level of agreement with the following statements about policy and politics:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Government should do something to reduce income differences between rich and poor	○	○	○	○	○
One person can't make much of a difference in politics	○	○	○	○	○
Politics corrupts even good people into doing bad things	○	○	○	○	○
Abortion should always be legal in the first trimester	○	○	○	○	○
The problems I most care about can be solved through politics	○	○	○	○	○
Women are judged by their appearance more than men are	○	○	○	○	○

Hispanics/Latinos are portrayed negatively in the media	○	○	○	○	○

Now what about these? Please mark your level of agreement with the following statements about policy and politics:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is just as easy for a minority person to be elected to high-level political office as a white person	○	○	○	○	○
It is just as easy for a woman to be elected to high-level political office as a man	○	○	○	○	○
Barack Obama was treated fairly by the news media when he ran for president in 2008	○	○	○	○	○
Hillary Clinton was treated fairly by the news media when she ran for the presidential nomination in 2008	○	○	○	○	○
In today's media environment, you'd have to be crazy to run for office	○	○	○	○	○

How closely do you follow national and local politics? (Please mark the corresponding circle -- only one answer per line.)

	Not Closely	Somewhat Closely	Closely	Very Closely
National politics	○	○	○	○
Local politics	○	○	○	○

How often do you think politicians do the following? (Please mark the corresponding circle - only one per line)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Lie	○	○	○	○
Work for the public good	○	○	○	○

Do what they think is right even if it's not popular	○	○	○	○
Act immorally	○	○	○	○
Help people with their problems	○	○	○	○
Work across party lines	○	○	○	○

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

- ○ Republican
- ○ Democrat
- ○ Independent
- ○ Something else (please specify)

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

- ○ Strong Democrat
- ○ Not so strong Democrat

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

- ○ Strong Republican
- ○ Not so strong Republican

Would you say you lean more toward the Democratic party or the Republican party?

- ○ Democratic party
- ○ Republican party
- ○ Neither party

When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as more liberal or more conservative or neither?

- Liberal
- Conservative
- Neither

Would you call yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?

- Very liberal
- Somewhat liberal

Would you call yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?

- Very conservative
- Somewhat conservative

Do you think of yourself as closer to liberals, or conservatives, or neither of these?

- Closer to liberals
- Closer to conservatives
- Neither of these

When you were in high school or college, did you ever run for office, such as class representative or president?

- Yes
- No

Has anyone ever suggested or encouraged you to run for public office (not including student government)?

- Yes
- No

Have you ever thought of running for office (not including student government)?

- ○ Yes, I have seriously considered it
- ○ Yes, it has crossed my mind
- ○ No, I have not thought about it

Overall how qualified do you feel you are to run for public office?

- ○ Very qualified
- ○ Qualified
- ○ Somewhat qualified
- ○ Not at all qualified

Off the top of your head, does anything occur to you that might make you feel more qualified? Feel free to use just a few words.

Would you be more likely to consider running for public office if:

	No	Yes
You knew there was a lot of support for your candidacy?	○	○
You cared about an issue and knew you could make a difference if you were in office?	○	○
You knew you could help your community?	○	○
It would not interfere with your family's privacy?	○	○
Campaigns were fully publicly financed, so you would not have to raise money for your campaign?	○	○
The amounts of money involved were not so high?	○	○

There was not so much gridlock once you got into office?	○	○
If it would help you get a better job later?	○	○

Even if you don't want to run for office now, could you imagine running for any of the following offices at some point in the future? (mark all that apply)

- ☐ School board
- ☐ City council
- ☐ Mayor
- ☐ State legislator
- ☐ State attorney general or other such statewide office
- ☐ Governor
- ☐ U.S. Congress
- ☐ U.S. Senate
- ☐ Vice President
- ☐ President
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not interested in running for any public office

If you were to become a candidate for public office, how would you feel about engaging in the following aspects of a campaign? (Please mark the corresponding circle - only one per line)

	Very Positive	Positive	Neither Positive nor Negative	Negative	So Negative it Would Deter Me From Running
Attending fund-raising functions	○	○	○	○	○
Dealing with party officials	○	○	○	○	○
Going door-to-door to meet constituents	○	○	○	○	○
Dealing with the media	○	○	○	○	○
The amount of time it takes to run for office	○	○	○	○	○

Making public speeches	○	○	○	○	○
Facing hostile questions	○	○	○	○	○
Calling people to ask for donations	○	○	○	○	○
Being a part of history	○	○	○	○	○
Improving the lives of your fellow citizens	○	○	○	○	○

Even if you don't like the idea of running for office, would you be interested in holding office if you didn't have to run for election?

- ○ Yes
- ○ Maybe
- ○ No

Just a few final questions about your background. At the time you were sixteen years old, how frequent were political discussions at home?

- ○ Frequent
- ○ Occasional
- ○ Rare
- ○ Don't know/don't remember

Thinking back to high school, how active were you in these activities? (Please mark the corresponding circle -- only one per line)

	Not at All Active	Not Very Active	Somewhat Active	Very Active
Organized sports	○	○	○	○
Student government	○	○	○	○
Volunteer/community service	○	○	○	○
Politics outside of school	○	○	○	○
Other campus clubs or activities (debate, newspaper, band, yearbook, etc)	○	○	○	○

What about in college – how active were you in these activities?

(Please mark the corresponding circle -- only one per line)

	Not at All Active	Not Very Active	Somewhat Active	Very Active
Organized sports	○	○	○	○
Student government	○	○	○	○
Volunteer/community service	○	○	○	○
Politics outside of school	○	○	○	○
Other campus clubs or activities (debate, newspaper, band, yearbook, etc)	○	○	○	○

To the best of your knowledge, which category best describes your family's total household income when you were about 16?

- ○ Under $35,000
- ○ $35,000 to $49,999
- ○ $50,000 to $74,999
- ○ $75,000 to $99,999
- ○ $100,000 to $149,999
- ○ $150,000 to $199,999
- ○ $200,000 or more
- ○ I'm not sure what category, but we were generally better off than the average American family
- ○ I'm not sure what category, but we were generally as well off as the average American family
- ○ I'm not sure what category, but we were generally worse off than the average American family

Are you, or either of your parents, an immigrant to the U.S.?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, I am an immigrant
- ○ Yes, one or both of my parents are immigrant(s)

Two final questions. First, which of these categories best describes the highest

education level your father received and got credit for? (If you were raised by a stepfather or some other male relative, please answer for that person.)

- 8th grade or less
- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college (not including technical school)
- College degree
- Some graduate training
- Postgraduate or professional degree
- No father/father-figure, or don't know

Now, which of these categories best describes the highest education level your mother received and got credit for? (If you were raised by a stepmother or some other female relative, please answer for that person.)

- 8th grade or less
- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college (not including technical school)
- College degree
- Some graduate training
- Postgraduate or professional degree
- No mother/mother-figure, or don't know

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