Appendix B. Informed consent, Questionnaires, and Slider

Informed Consent

Thank you for participating in our survey. The survey is designed to be fun and enjoyable and includes several challenges and games. Researchers are trying to understand how people like you make decisions about policy. Such research can help us understand legislators and state policy, which is of great benefit to society. There are several components. In some, you'll be asked factual questions, in some you'll be asked about your preferences, and in some you'll be playing a game with other players. You will be given more detailed instructions as you go.

The survey is part of a study being conducted by [Name of author redacted for review purposes] at [Name of University redacted for review purposes] and [Name of author redacted for review purposes] at [Name of University redacted for review purposes]. If you have questions about the survey you can contact them later at [Email redacted for review purposes] or [Email of author redacted for review purposes].

This survey has also been approved by the human subjects committee at [Name of University redacted for review purposes]. If you would like to talk to someone other than the researchers about the project, you can contact [Contact information redacted for review purposes].

The survey should take approximately 7-8 minutes. Your responses will be kept confidential and any identifying information will be destroyed once the study is completed. We won't be asking you about any sensitive information, so the risks to you are very low. You are free to stop the survey at any time or to not answer any questions (although payment of any rewards will be prorated depending on which components you complete). Each of the games has its own set of rewards. We'll tell you about them as you go. To pay you, you will be contacted after the conference to be paid (we will then need your social security number, but we will not collect it now).

I agree to participate in this study.

Questionnaires

The questionnaires are displayed below. For brevity, survey items that were analyzed for other projects are omitted. Further, we first show the NLC Survey and then only provide the additional questions on risk that were asked at NCSL.

NLC Questionnaire

Page 1

1. To begin, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself. What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)

2. What is the highest level of education that you have achieved?

- No high school diploma (1)
- High school diploma or equivalent (2)
- Some college (3)
- Two year degree (4)
- Four year college graduate (5)
- Post-graduate (6)

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

- Democrat (1)
- Republican (2)
- Independent (3)
- Other (4) _____

If Republican selected

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

- Strong Republican (1)
- Not a Very Strong Republican (2)

If Democrat selected

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

- Strong Democrat (1)
- Not a Very Strong Democrat (2)

If Independent/Other selected

3.3. Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

- Closer to the Democratic Party (1)
- Closer to the Republican Party (2)

Page 2

4. In which state do you serve/work?

- Alabama (1)
- Alaska (2)
- …
- Wisconsin (55)
- Wyoming (56)

5. What is the year of your birth?

- 1995 (1)
- 1994 (2)
- …
- 1911 (85)
- 1910 (86)

6. Do you hold an elected position in city government?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

7. Are elections in your city partisan (i.e., do candidates' party appear on the ballot)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Pages 3/4

For respondents assigned to control condition

In the next few minutes you will play a game. No money will be given based on your performance.

Next page

In this game, we will ask you a few factual questions. If you don't know the exact answer please just give us your best guess. For each question, you will have a short period of time - 20 seconds - to answer it. After 20 seconds a new question will automatically appear in the screen.

If your answer is within +/-5 percent of the true answer, we will count the response as correct.

This is an example. Try it out:

How many years was the U.S. involved in the Vietnam War?

_____ Your answer (years) (1)

The correct answer is 19 years. However, any answer between 18 and 20 (5% below and 5% above the correct answer) would have been considered correct. When you click on the next page, you will be taken to the first question and the timer will start.

For respondents assigned to money_self condition

In the next few minutes you will play a game. Depending on your answers, you will play to earn money for yourself. After we finish the study, we will randomly select one participant that will receive the cash reward they earned in the game. Hence, the better you perform, the more you can earn.

Next page

In this game, we will ask you a few factual questions. If you don't know the exact answer please just give us your best guess. For each question, you will have a short period of time - 20 seconds - to answer it. After 20 seconds a new question will automatically appear in the screen.

If your answer is within +/-5 percent of the true answer, we will count the response as correct. For each correct answer you will receive $50.

This is an example. Try it out:

How many years was the U.S. involved in the Vietnam War?

_____ Your answer (years) (1)

The correct answer is 19 years. However, any answer between 18 and 20 (5% below and 5% above the correct answer) would have been considered correct. When you click on the next page, you will be taken to the first question and the timer will start.

For respondents assigned to money_charity condition

In the next few minutes you will play a game. Depending on your answers, you will play to earn money for charity. We will randomly select one participant and pay the earned money to the charity of your choice. Hence, the better you perform, the more can be given to charity.

Which of the charities would you like to play for today?

- American Red Cross (1)
- Habitat for Humanity (2)
- A Foodbank in Your Area (3)
- A Group Supporting K-12 Education in Your Area (4)
- The General Scholarship Fund of your Choice (5)

Next page

In this game, we will ask you a few factual questions. If you don't know the exact answer please just give us your best guess. For each question, you will have a short period of time - 20 seconds - to answer it. After 20 seconds a new question will automatically appear in the screen.

If your answer is within +/-5 percent of the true answer, we will count the response as correct. For each correct answer, $50 will be donated to the charity of your choice.

This is an example. Try it out:

How many years was the U.S. involved in the Vietnam War?

_____ Your answer (years) (1)

The correct answer is 19 years. However, any answer between 18 and 20 (5% below and 5% above the correct answer) would have been considered correct. When you click on the next page, you will be taken to the first question and the timer will start.

(The order of pages 5 to 12 was randomized)

8. From January 2001, when President Bush first took office, to January 2009, when President left office, how had the unemployment rate in the country changed?

_____ Your answer (%) (1)

Page 6

9. For every dollar the federal government spent in fiscal year 2014, about how much went to the Department of Defense (U.S. Military)?

_____ Your answer (cents) (1)

Page 7

10. In the 2012 Presidential Election, Barack Obama defeated his Republican challenger Mitt Romney. In the nation as a whole, of all the votes cast for Obama and Romney, what percentage went to Obama?

_____ Your answer (%) (1)

Page 8

11. Approximately 12 to 13% of the U.S. population is Black. What percentage of U.S. Soldiers killed in Iraq since the invasion in 2003 are Black?

_____ Your answer (%) (1)

Page 9

12. Medicaid is a jointly funded, Federal-State health insurance program for low-income and needy people. For every dollar the federal government spent in fiscal year 2014, about how much went to Medicaid?

_____ Your answer (cents) (1)

Page 10

13. According to NASA, by how much did annual average global temperatures, in degrees Fahrenheit, differ in 2010 from the average annual global temperature between 1951 and 1980?

_____ Your answer (degrees) (1)

Page 11

14. About how many U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq between the invasion in 2003 and the withdrawal of troops in December 2011?

_____ Your answer (soldiers) (1)

Page 12

15. According to the Census Bureau, in 2010 what percentage of the total population of the United States was born outside of the United States (foreign-born)?

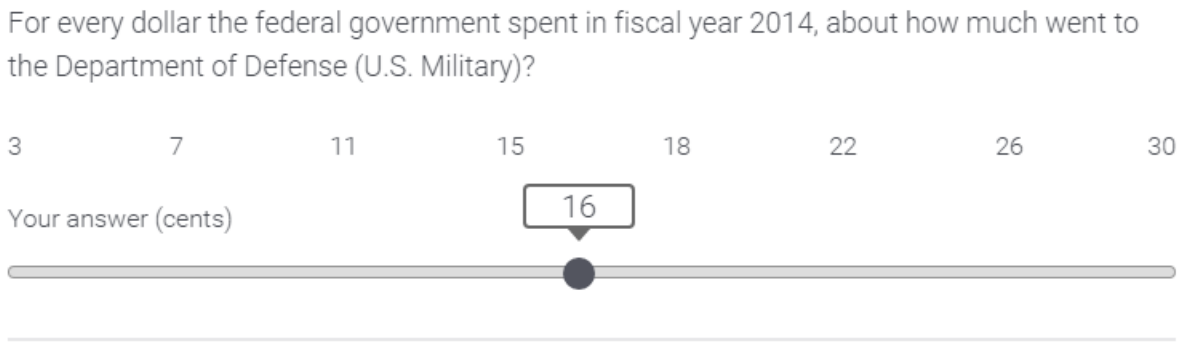
_____ Your answer (%) (1)

Page 13

16. Before the next question, we wanted to ask you about the stakes of the game you just played. What prize were you playing for in the previous game?

- Money for yourself (1)
- Money for charity (2)
- There was no prize (3)
- A free airline flight (4)
- Don't know (5)

Slider (example)



Additional Item on the NCSL Survey

Page 1

{AFTER THE QUIZ QUESTIONS:}

For respondents assigned to control condition

That concludes the first game.

For the second game, you will choose one of the six different investment options listed below. Each option has two possible outcomes (Roll Low or Roll High) with the indicated probabilities of occurring. Your compensation for this part of the study will be determined by:

- Which of the investment options you select
- Which of the two possible payoffs occur

For example, if you select option 4 and Roll High occurs, the payoff is $520. If Roll Low occurs, the payoff is $160. For every option, each Roll has a 50% chance of occurring. This is a hypothetical exercise as no money will be paid.

For respondents assigned to money_self condition

That concludes the first game.

For the second game, you will choose one of the six different investment options listed below. Each option has two possible outcomes (Roll Low or Roll High) with the indicated probabilities of occurring. Your compensation for this part of the study will be determined by:

- Which of the six investment options you select
- Which of the two possible payoffs occur

For example. If you select option 4 and Roll High occurs, the payoff is $520. If Roll Low occurs, the payoff is $160. For every option, each Roll has a 50% chance of occurring. At the end of the study, we will randomly select one survey respondent. If you are chosen, we will pay you the money based on the roll.

For respondents assigned to money_charity condition

That concludes the first game.

For the second game, you will choose one of the six different investment options listed below. Each option has two possible outcomes (Roll Low or Roll High) with the indicated probabilities of occurring. Your compensation for this part of the study will be determined by:

- Which of the six investment options you select
- Which of the two possible payoffs occur

For example, if you select option 4 and Roll High occurs, the payoff is $520. If Roll Low occurs, the payoff is $160. For every option, each Roll has a 50% chance of occurring. At the end of the study, we will randomly select one survey respondent. If you are chosen, we will pay your chosen charity the money based on the roll.

All conditions

17. Pick your preferred option

• Option 1	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$280	50%	High	$280	50%	(1)
• Option 2	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$240	50%	High	$360	50%	(2)
• Option 3	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$200	50%	High	$440	50%	(3)
• Option 4	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$160	50%	High	$520	50%	(4)
• Option 5	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$120	50%	High	$600	50%	(5)
• Option 6	ROLL	Payoff	Chances	Low	$20	50%	High	$700	50%	(6)

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Please get the attention of one of the researchers so we can have you roll the dice now.

You have chosen option X (according to the option chosen)

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS WILL BE FILLED IN BY THE RESEARCH TEAM:

- LOW ROLL (1)
- HIGH ROLL (2)

_____ PASSWORD TO VALIDATE THE ROLL.