HARVARD LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Introduction

We are conducting a survey about the Liberian elections last year on behalf of Harvard University. This survey is being used for academic research: we are interested in understanding why people ran for office, and their experiences in the election last year. We are not affiliated with any government body, and we are funded entirely through academic research funds. Our local partner is Internews Liberia who can confirm the purposes of this research, or you can email internews.debates@gmail.com. Many of your fellow lawmakers already took this survey through the phone, but we were unable to reach you previously.

Your answers will only be shared with the academic researchers and nobody else, and will only be used for research purposes.

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes. There are instructions for each question on how to proceed.

RESPONDENT NAME:

……

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Information 1

We are interested in learning about the background of the candidates who ran for office in the House of Representative this past election.

GO TO Q1

1. **What is your age?**

   ……

   Any Response → GO TO Q2

2. **What is your highest educational attainment in terms of grades or levels of schooling completed?**

   ……

   Any Response → Q3

3. What was your job prior to running for office in the 2017 election?

……
Any Response → Q4

4. Did you run for any political office before the 2017 election? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q7
2) Yes → GO TO Q5

5. What is the MOST SENIOR political office you have run for before the 2017 election?

……
Any Response → Q6

6. What is the MOST SENIOR elected political office you have held before the 2017 election?

……
Any Response → Q7

7. Have you held any non-elected government role before? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q9
2) Yes → GO TO Q8

8. What is the MOST SENIOR non-elected government role you have held before?

……
Any Response → Q9

9. Have you been involved in advocacy campaigns in your district before? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q11
2) Yes → GO TO Q10

10. What kind of advocacy campaigns have you been involved in? [CIRCLE MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

1) HUMAN RIGHTS
2) POST-WAR RECONCILIATION
3) ANTI-CORRUPTION
4) EDUCATION
5) HEALTHCARE/EBOLA CRISIS
6) WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
7) LAND RIGHTS
8) LABOR PRACTICES
9) OTHER: …..(Specify)

Any Response → Q11

11. Have you worked for any international organization or NGO before? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1)No → GO TO Q13
2)Yes → GO TO Q12

12. Which international organization/NGO have you worked for most recently?

……
Any Response → Q13

13. Do you manage or own any radio stations? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → Information 2
2) Yes, I only manage → GO TO Q14
3) Yes, I only own → GO TO Q14
4) Yes, I both manage and own → GO TO Q14

14. What is the name of the radio station you manage or own?

……
Any response → Information 2

CANDIDACY

Information 2
We want to learn more about the experiences of the candidates who ran for office in the House of Representatives this past election. We are interested in the financial burden they had to incur and what motivated them to run for office.

GO TO Q15

15. Approximately, how much money (USD) did it cost you to contest for your House of Representatives seat in the October 2017 election?

……
Any Response → GO TO Q16

16. During the election period, what was the most important source of funding for your campaign? Would you say it was… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Your own personal resources
2) Loans from money lenders and banks
3) Selling my personal assets (e.g. a house or vehicles)
4) Funds from the Party
5) Donations from Family and Friends
6) Donations from the Business Community
7) Donations from community groups such as the church
8) Other:

……
Any Response → GO TO Q18

POLICY PRIORITIES

18. We want to know what candidates for the House of Representative this past election proposed as their top policy priorities. In a few words, what did you propose as the three major issues that you would address in your district? Start with the most important.

i) (What is the <u>most important</u> issue that you proposed that you would focus on in your district?)

……

Any Response → GO TO 18 (ii)

ii) **(What is the <u>second most important</u> issue that you proposed that you would focus on in your district?)**

……

Any Response → GO TO 18 (iii)

iii) **(What is the <u>third most important</u> issue that you proposed that you would focus on in your district?)**

……

Any Response → GO TO Q19

19. Bearing in mind that candidates for the House of Representative might be better informed than the average citizen, how well do you think that these issues matched the priority issues of the citizens in your district in the run-up to the election? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all well,
2) Not very well,
3) Somewhat well,
4) Very well,
5) Perfectly?

Any Response → Q20

20. How sure are you about your last response? Are you: [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all sure,
2) Not very sure,
3) Somewhat sure,
4) Very sure,
5) Completely sure?

Any Response → GO TO Instruction 3

<u>POLICY QUESTIONS</u>

Instruction 3
We'd like to ask you about a few policy proposals made by candidates for the House Election during the past election.

GO TO Q21

21. First, the management of the County Development Fund (CDF) is an issue that lots of Liberians care about. What did you propose you would do to make sure that the CDFs are used to benefit the community in your district?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q22

22. Who do you think is the main controller of the County Development Fund?
[CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) TOWN CHIEF
2) REPRESENTATIVE
3) SUPERINTENDENT
4) CSOs
5) Other (*please specify*):

……

Any Response → GO TO Q23

23. Second, we would like to ask you about the Legislative Support Projects (LSP) funds.

a. **What is the FIRST project you proposed to spend the LSP budget on in your district if elected?**

……

Any Response → GO TO Q23 (b)

b. **What is the SECOND project you proposed, or would have proposed, to spend the LSP budget on in your district if elected?**

……

Any Response → GO TO Q23 (c)

c. **What is the THIRD project you proposed, or would have proposed, to c the LSP budget on in your district if elected?**

……

Any Response → GO TO Instruction 4

DEBATES

Instruction 4
Some debates took place between legislative candidates before the election. We'd like to ask you a few questions about them.

GO TO Q24

24. Did you participate in the debate organized by PUL/LMDI/CEMESP between candidates in your district? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q26
2) Yes → GO TO Q25

25. What were the reasons why you decided to participate? Would you say… [CIRCLE MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

1) It was my democratic duty
2) It was an opportunity to attack other candidates
3) Possibility to show that I was more competent than my opponents
4) Possibility to show that my policy platform was better than my opponents
5) The debates offered free publicity for my campaign
6) The radio broadcasting of the debates meant I could reach a large share of the electorate
7) Other: …..(Specify)

Any Response → GO TO Q27

26. What were the main reasons why you did not participate? [CIRCLE MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

1) I was not invited → **GO TO Q34**
2) It was too late by the time I was invited/notice was too short
3) I did not approve of the moderator/radio station
4) Road conditions/travel distance
5) Time of the day
6) Was busy campaigning
7) No interest in debating with other candidates
8) I expected that other candidates would attack me
9) I was concerned about performing badly
10) I was concerned about committing to policy promises
11) Other: …..(Specify)

Any Response → GO TO Q27

27. Did the invitation of the incumbent to your debate affect your decision to participation? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) I did not know the incumbent had been invited to my debate
2) No
3) Yes

Any Response → GO TO Q28

28. When you were invited to your debate, how many times did you think the debates would be rebroadcast on the radio in your district?

……

Any Other Response → GO TO Q29

29. Did this affect your decision to participate in the debates? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q32
2) Yes → GO TO Q30 IF Q24 Equals "Yes" ELSE GO Q31

[IF CANDIDATE PARTICIPATED IN DEBATE AND REBROADCASTING AFFECTED DECISION TO PARTICIPATE]
30. Why did this affect your decision to participate?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q32

[IF CANDIDATE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE AND REBROADCASTING AFFECTED DECISION TO PARTICIPATE]

31. Why did this affect your decision to participate?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q32

32. Did the timing of your debate in your district affect your decision to participate in the debate? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No
2) Yes

Any Response → GO TO Q33

34. Which OTHER candidate do you think performed the best in the debate in your district?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q35

35. To your knowledge, how many times was your debate ultimately broadcasted on the radio?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q36

36. To your knowledge, which radio station(s) broadcasted the debate?

……

Any Response → GO TO Instruction 5

ELECTION

Instruction 5
Next, we want to ask you some questions about your perceptions about these debates and the election more generally.

GO TO Q37

37. How much you think that the broadcasting of debates informed voters about the policy platforms of the different candidates running in in your district? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Q38

38. To what extent do you think that the broadcasting of debates led citizens to cast a more informed vote in your district? Would you say.. [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Q39

39. Do you think that the broadcasting of the debates will ensure that elected candidates must deliver on their policy promises? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No
2) Yes

Any Response → GO TO Q40

40. In your opinion, to what extent to do you think that the broadcasting of debates helped the media give more equal coverage to all candidates for House of Representatives? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Q41

41. In your opinion, to what extent to you think that the broadcasting of debates helped the elections to ensure that elected Representatives reflect the views of voters? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Q42

42. In your opinion, to what extent to you think that the broadcasting of debates helped the elections to ensure that elected Representatives are competent? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Information 1

Information 1
Lots of candidates make promises about what they would do in office during campaigning.

GO TO Q43

43. Do you think that candidates make different promises on the radio compared to when they visit particular towns? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No → GO TO Q43.1
2) Yes → GO TO Q43.1

43.1. Why do you think that the promises of candidates differ/do not differ when they make them on the radio, as opposed to in a more private way when visiting towns?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q44

44. When candidates make these promises when visiting particular towns, how likely do you think it is that elected candidates will fulfill them after the election is over? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all likely,
2) Not very likely,
3) Somewhat likely,
4) Quite likely, or
5) Very likely?

Any Response → GO TO Q45

45. When candidates make these promises on the radio, how likely do you think it is that elected candidates will fulfill them after the election is over? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all likely,
2) Not very likely,
3) Somewhat likely,
4) Quite likely, or
5) Very likely?

Any Response → GO TO Q46

46. To what extent do you think that publicly broadcasting debates between candidates will increase chance that politicians keep their promises? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Not at all,
2) Not really,
3) Somewhat,
4) Quite a bit, or
5) Very much?

Any Response → GO TO Instruction 6

CAMPAIGNING

Instruction 6:
Finally, we want to ask you a few questions about your campaigning activities in the weeks leading up to the election.

GO TO Q47

47. In the two weeks leading up to the election, how often did you appear on the radio in your district? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Never
2) Rarely
3) Sometimes
4) Most days
5) Every day

Any Response → GO TO Q48

48. Did the debate lead you to actively seek out more opportunities to appear on the radio during campaigning season? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No
2) Yes

Any Response → GO TO Q49

49. Do you think that the debate lead more radio stations to contact you to appear on the radio? [PROBE IF NEEDED: For example, to appear on talk shows or call-in shows?]

1) No
2) Yes

Any Response → GO TO Q50

50. In the two weeks leading up to the election, how many communities in your district would you estimate that you visited? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Very few
2) Not many
3) Quite a lot
4) Most of them
5) All of them

Any Response → GO TO Q51

51. In the two weeks leading up to the election, in how many communities in your district would you estimate that your campaign team distributed leaflets and posters? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Very few
2) Not many
3) Quite a lot
4) Most of them
5) All of them

Any Response → GO TO Q52

52. In the two weeks leading up to the election, in how many communities in your district would you estimate that your campaign team handed out gifts to voters? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Very few
2) Not many
3) Quite a lot
4) Most of them
5) All of them

Any Response → GO TO Q53

53. On the day of the election, in how many communities in your district would you estimate that your campaign team helped voters get to the polls? Would you say… [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) Very few
2) Not many
3) Quite a lot
4) Most of them
5) All of them

Any Response → GO TO Q54

54. How did the debates between candidates in your district change the way you and your competitors campaigned?

……

Any Response → GO TO Q55

55. Finally – do you intend to run for office again in the future? [CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE]

1) No
2) Yes → GO TO Q56
3) Maybe → GO TO Q56

Any other response → GO TO CLOSE OUT MESSAGE

56. Which office are you most likely to run for in the future?

……

57. CLOSE OUT MESSAGE
Thank you for completing our survey! Your patience and time answering these questions is tremendously appreciated and will help us understand important parts of the election in Liberia. If you have any questions, you can contact the researchers at internews.debates@gmail.com and we would be happy to answer.