Survey Information for Respondent

Principal Investigators: Joseph Coll and Matt Lamb Email: jocoll@ttu.edu

Invitation

You are invited to be in a research study on perceptions of elections in the United States. You were selected as a possible participant because you are registered with Prolific and invited by them to take this study. This study is being conducted by Joseph Coll (Texas Tech University) and Matt Lamb (Texas Tech University). We ask that you read this form in its entirety.

What will my participation involve?

If you agree to be in this study, we ask that you complete the entire questionnaire, which will take approximately 8 minutes. The survey will ask you to answer questions regarding your perceptions of elections in the United States. There is a possibility that some of the questions and procedures may make you feel uncomfortable.

Are there any risks for me as a participant?

The study has no foreseeable risks.

Can I quite if I become uncomfortable?
Yes, absolutely. Joseph Coll, Matt Lamb, and Texas Tech University's Institutional Review Board have reviewed this research project and think you can participate comfortably. However, you can skip parts of the research you are not comfortable with and stop at any time for any reason. You will keep all of the benefits of participating even if you stop. Participating is your choice.

Are there any benefits for me as a participant?
The study has no foreseeable benefits.

Will I receive an incentive or compensation?
Yes, you will be compensated for your time. You will receive $1.34 (equivalent to ~$10.04/hour) for your participation in this study. Incomplete submissions may be partially compensated. You will be paid through Prolific.

Will I be asked demographic questions?
Yes, you will be asked questions regarding race/ethnicity, age, gender, and other basic demographic variables. Answering these questions is voluntary and all identifiable information is kept confidential.

How will my confidentiality be protected?
This study is confidential. No personally identifiable

information will be provided to the researchers or shared with anyone else.

How are you protecting privacy?
Your name will not be linked to any material in reports, publications or presentations. No one other than the researchers associated with this project will have access to the raw data. All related documentation will be stored in the researcher's locked office {and/or} on a password protected computer.

What will happen to my data?
Identifiers might be removed from the identifiable private information and after such removal the information could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional informed consent from you or your legally authorized representative.

Whom should I contact if I have questions?
You may ask any questions about the research at any time. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints or think participating in the study has hurt you, talk to the research team or contact the Principal Investigator (Joseph Coll at jocoll@ttu.edu). For questions about your rights as a research participant, to discuss problems, concerns, or suggestions related to the research, or to obtain

information or offer input about the research, you should contact the Human Research Protection Program at Texas Tech University. Email: hrpp@ttu.edu or Telephone: 806-742-2064 and refer to IRB-FY2025-530.

Consent

By clicking “I consent to participate in this study” below and continuing with the survey, you agree that you are 18 years of age or older and that you wish to participate in this research study.

- ○ I consent
- ○ I do not consent

Non-Consent Removed Participant Debrief

Thank you for your interest in this survey. Unfortunately, because you did not consent to the survey, you have been removed from this study and will not be compensated. Thank you for your time, and we hope to include you in a study in the future!

Please click on the arrow in the bottom right to be redirected back to Prolific and register your submission.
You may need to include the following code: **C1ACKG6Q**.

AC Consent

Additionally, we will check responses carefully to make sure that people have read the instructions for the task and responded carefully. There will be some very simple questions in what follows that test whether you are reading the instructions. If you get these questions wrong, we may not be able to use your data.

Do you understand and consent?

- ○ Yes, I understand and consent
- ○ No, I do not understand or consent

Prolific ID

What is your Prolific ID?

${e://Field/PROLIFIC_PID}

ideology_block

In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

- Haven't thought much about it
- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Somewhat liberal
- Moderate
- Somewhat conservative
- Conservative
- Very conservative

If you had to choose, would you say that you lean closer to the liberal or conservative political viewpoint?

- Closer to the conservative political viewpoint
- Closer to the liberal political viewpoint
- Neither

Returned Participant Debrief

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Unfortunately, the survey was supposed to be limited only to those Prolific respondents who have previously reported to Prolific that they identified as either liberal or conservative. Because you indicated that you are politically moderate and do not lean towards one of the two major ideologies, you have been removed from this study and we ask that you return the submission.

Please click on the arrow in the bottom right to be redirected back to Prolific and register your submission.
You may need to include the following code: **C1ISFIJY**.

pretreat_dvs

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about how you view liberal and conservative candidates/elected officials. Please answer the following questions.

We'd like to know what you think about **conservative candidates and elected officials**. Below, we've given a list of words that some people might use to describe them.

For each item, please indicate how well you think it applies to conservatives: not at all well, not too well, somewhat well, very well, or extremely well.

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Patriotic	○	○	○	○	○
Generous	○	○	○	○	○
Selfish	○	○	○	○	○
Hypocritical	○	○	○	○	○

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Mean	○	○	○	○	○
Honest	○	○	○	○	○
Open-minded	○	○	○	○	○
Intelligent	○	○	○	○	○

We'd like to know what you think about **liberal candidates and elected officials**. Below, we've given a list of words that some people might use to describe them.

For each item, please indicate how well you think it applies to liberals: not at all well, not too well, somewhat well, very well, or extremely well.

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Selfish	○	○	○	○	○
Honest	○	○	○	○	○
Hypocritical	○	○	○	○	○
Intelligent	○	○	○	○	○

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Open-minded	○	○	○	○	○
Mean	○	○	○	○	○
Patriotic	○	○	○	○	○
Generous	○	○	○	○	○

We'd like you to rate how you feel towards liberal and conservative candidates and elected officials on a scale from 0 to 100, which we call a "feeling thermometer."

On this feeling thermometer scale, ratings between 0 and 49 degrees mean that you feel unfavorable and cold (with 0 being the most unfavorable/coldest). Ratings between 51 and 100 mean that you feel favorable and warm (with 100 being the most favorable/warmest). A rating of 50 means you have no feelings one way or the other. How would you rate your feeling toward:

Demographics

Next, we are going to ask you some basic demographic and political questions. Please answer the questions below.

What year were you born?

Year (YYYY)

What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Other

What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Did not graduate from high school
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Some college, but no degree (e.g., still attending college or dropped out before finishing)
- 2-year college degree (e.g., Associate's degree)
- 4-year college degree (e.g., Bachelor's degree)
- Post-graduate degree (e.g., Masters, Doctorate)

Partisanship

Next, we would like to ask about your partisanship. Please answer the questions below.

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

- ○ Independent
- ○ Democrat
- ○ Republican
- ○ Other
- ○ Not sure

pid_rep

Do you think of yourself as a strong Republican or a not so strong Republican?

- ○ Not so strong Republican
- ○ Strong Republican

pid_dem

Do you think of yourself as a strong Democrat or a not so strong Democrat?

- ○ Strong Democrat
- ○ Not so strong Democrat

pid_ind

If you had to choose, would you say that you lean closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

- ○ Neither
- ○ Closer to the Republican party
- ○ Closer to the Democratic party

poli_int_intro

Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

- ○ Most of the time

- ○ Some of the time
- ○ Only now and then
- ○ Hardly at all

trust_news_intro

How much do you trust the news media?

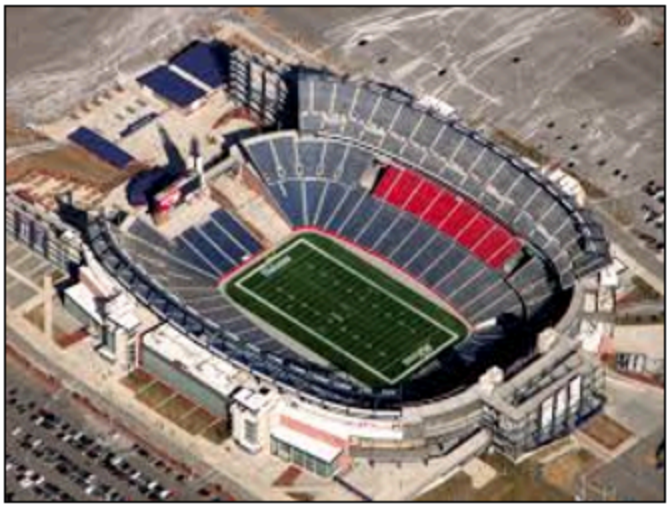
- ○ Always
- ○ Often
- ○ Sometimes
- ○ Rarely
- ○ Never

MVC

Next, we are going to ask you to read a recent news story. Please read the news story carefully, as we will ask follow-up questions about the story and incorrect answers may affect whether we can use your data.

The Washington Register

Officials File for Stadium Licensing Bill



Randy McNeal
Jan. 19, 2021, 10:57 p.m. ET

Officials in a midsize town have been working for four years on a plan to produce an event license to cover all the major events that occur at the town's local stadium, which hosts concerts and home sports games.

The application would be submitted each January and list all events expected to occur at the stadium over the next 12 months. If an unlisted event emerges during the year, lawmakers could hold a special hearing on the event, or accept it without a hearing and add it into the existing license.

To assist with this plan, lawmakers filed legislation that would change state licensing laws so that annual event licenses will expire within one year. "This makes a minor change to current law, which provides that all licenses issued shall expire on December 31 of each year," a lawmaker said.

After you have read the story fully, please click next.

- ○ Next

What was the story you just read about?

- ○ Funding for space exploration
- ○ Event Licensing in stadiums
- ○ Political polarization
- ○ Stadium funding
- ○ Scientific publishing
- ○ Campaign finance reform

What, according to the magazine article, is the ultimate goal of the policy?

- ○ The town will begin researching noise control technologies
- ○ Property taxes will finance the construction of a new stadium
- ○ The town will attract a more diverse workforce
- ○ Local residents will receive discounted rates
- ○ A single license will cover all events occurring in a stadium
- ○ Construction companies will be adequately compensated

After the new event license law goes into effect, what, according to the magazine article, could happen if an unlisted or unplanned event emerges during the year?

- ○ Money will be diverted from a special fund
- ○ There may be a special hearing held by lawmakers
- ○ The event organizers must pay a small surcharge to the Town Board
- ○ Team managers will decide whether the event takes place or not
- ○ All of the above
- ○ None of the above

Treatments

Next, we are going to show you a different news story. Like before, please read the news story carefully, as we will ask follow-up questions about the story and incorrect answers may affect whether we can use your data.

PLC

Liberal Candidate Compliments Conservative Opponent in Plurality Election

Updated 2:17 PM, November 14, 2024

Share

Associated Press (AP)- Some local elections operate under what are called ‘plurality’ rules. In these plurality elections, voters are able to cast a vote for one candidate per office, regardless of how many candidates are in the election. Each candidate competes to receive the most votes. Whichever candidate has the most votes at the end of the election is certified as the winner.

Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd, liberal candidate Andrew Williams encouraged his supporters to cast their ballot for him in the local mayoral race. In a surprise move, Williams also complimented his conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, rather than other liberal candidates in the election, saying, “A vote for me is a vote for liberal values, and I'm glad to have your vote. My conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, is honest and a true patriot, and I wish him the best.”

After you have read the story fully, please click next.

- [ ] Next

RLC

Liberal Candidate Compliments Conservative Opponent in Ranked Choice Voting Election

Updated 2:17 PM, November 14, 2024

Share

Associated Press (AP)- Some local elections operate under what are called ‘ranked choice voting’ rules. In these ranked choice voting elections, voters can rank candidates based on how much they like the candidate. Each candidate competes to receive the most votes. If no candidate gets a majority of votes, the least popular candidate is eliminated and everyone who voted for that candidate has their vote automatically given to their second choice. This continues until one candidate has a majority of votes and is certified as the winner.

Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd, liberal candidate Andrew Williams encouraged his supporters to rank him first on their ballot for the local mayoral race. In a surprise move, Williams also complimented his conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, rather than other conservative candidates in the election, saying, “A vote for me is a vote for liberal values, and I'm glad to have your vote. My conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, is honest and a true patriot, and I wish him the best.”

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- [ ] Next

ReLC

Liberal Candidate Endorses Conservative Opponent in Ranked Choice Voting Election

Updated 2:17 PM, November 14, 2024

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Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd, liberal candidate Andrew Williams encouraged his supporters to rank him first on their ballot for the local mayoral race. In a surprise move, Williams also endorsed his conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, rather than other liberal candidates in the election, saying, "A vote for me is a vote for liberal values, and I'm glad to have your first-place vote. My conservative opponent, Kevin Johnson, is honest and a true patriot, and I encourage you all to rank Johnson second on your ballot."

After you have read the story fully, please click next.

- [ ] Next

PCL

Conservative Candidate Compliments Liberal Opponent in Plurality Election

Updated 2:17 PM, November 14, 2024

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- [ ] Next

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After you have read the story fully, please click next.

- [ ] Next

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After you have read the story fully, please click next.

- ○ Next

fmc

Next, we are going to ask about the news story you just read. Please answer the following questions.

In the news story you read earlier, what was the **stated ideology of Andrew Williams**, the candidate quoted?

- ○ Independent
- ○ Liberal
- ○ Communist
- ○ Conservative
- ○ Moderate

In the news story you read earlier, what was the **type of**

election the candidates were running in?

- ○ Plurality election
- ○ Ranked choice voting election
- ○ Proportional representation election
- ○ Mixed-member district election
- ○ At-large election

In the news story you read earlier, did the candidate quoted above **insult, compliment, endorse, accuse, or assault** the other candidate?

- ○ Accused the other candidate of violating campaign finance laws
- ○ Complimented the other candidate
- ○ Assaulted the other candidate
- ○ Endorsed the other candidate
- ○ Insulted the other candidate

affective_pol_dvs

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about how you view liberal and conservative candidates/elected officials. Please answer the following questions.

We'd like to know more about what you think about **conservative candidates and elected officials**. Below, we've given a list of words that some people might use to describe them.

For each item, please indicate how well you think it applies to conservatives: not at all well, not too well, somewhat well, very well, or extremely well.

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Intelligent	○	○	○	○	○
Open-minded	○	○	○	○	○
Hypocritical	○	○	○	○	○
Mean	○	○	○	○	○

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Patriotic	○	○	○	○	○
Selfish	○	○	○	○	○
Honest	○	○	○	○	○
Generous	○	○	○	○	○

We'd like to know more about what you think about **liberal candidates and elected officials**. Below, we've given a list of words that some people might use to describe them.

For each item, please indicate how well you think it applies to liberals: not at all well, not too well, somewhat well, very well, or extremely well.

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Generous	○	○	○	○	○
Open-minded	○	○	○	○	○
Selfish	○	○	○	○	○
Honest	○	○	○	○	○

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well
Intelligent	○	○	○	○	○
Hypocritical	○	○	○	○	○
Patriotic	○	○	○	○	○
Mean	○	○	○	○	○

We'd like you to rate how you feel towards various liberal and conservative candidates and elected officials on a scale from 0 to 100, which we call a "feeling thermometer."

On this feeling thermometer scale, ratings between 0 and 49 degrees mean that you feel unfavorable and cold (with 0 being the most unfavorable/coldest). Ratings between 51 and 100 mean that you feel favorable and warm (with 100 being the most favorable/warmest). A rating of 50 means you have no feelings one way or the other. How would you rate your feeling toward:

Elect_DVs

Next, we would like to know your support for different types of elections in the United States.

One type of elections are called **plurality** elections, where voters vote for a single candidate and the candidate with

the most votes wins.

A second set of elections are called **ranked choice voting elections**, where voters rank the candidates in order of preference. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the least popular candidate is eliminated and everyone who listed that candidate first has their vote automatically transferred to their next favorite candidate.

To what extent would you support or oppose using the following election types in the United States?

	Strongly support	Support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Plurality elections	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ranked choice voting elections	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

civility

Next, we are interested in how civil you perceive elections to be. How much do you agree or disagree with the following

statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongl disagre
Candidates are too disrespectful towards their opponents	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Candidates spend too much time criticizing their opponents	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Candidates behave too negatively towards their opponents	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

cand_char_l

Next, we are going to ask you about your impression of Andrew Williams, the candidate mentioned in the previous news story. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability.

Based on the news story you just read, to what extent do you think **Andrew Williams represents liberal values** as he stated in his speech to supporters?

- ○ Very well
- ○ Well
- ○ Somewhat well
- ○ Not very well
- ○ Not at all well

Based on the news story you just read, do you think **Andrew Williams** is very conservative, conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal, liberal, or very liberal?

- ○ Very liberal
- ○ Liberal
- ○ Somewhat liberal
- ○ Moderate
- ○ Somewhat conservative
- ○ Conservative
- ○ Very conservative

If you were a voter in this election, **would you vote for Andrew Williams**?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

cand_char_c

Next, we are going to ask you about your impression of Andrew Williams, the candidate mentioned in the previous news story. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability.

Based on the news story you just read, to what extent do you think **Andrew Williams represents conservative values** as he stated in his to his supporters?

- ○ Very well
- ○ Well
- ○ Somewhat well
- ○ Not very well
- ○ Not at all well

Based on the news story you just read, **how would describe Andrew Williams' ideology:** very conservative, conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal, liberal, or very liberal?

- ○ Very liberal
- ○ Liberal
- ○ Somewhat liberal
- ○ Moderate
- ○ Somewhat conservative
- ○ Conservative
- ○ Very conservative

If you were a voter in this election, **would you vote for Andrew Williams**?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Completed Survey Debrief

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

Please note that the headlines and stories included within this survey were created for the purposes of this study and are not meant to reflect any actual elections, candidates, news stories, or news agencies. That is, each of the headlines and stories are fake or altered by the researchers, and are in no way affiliated with the Associated Press, Washington Register, or any news agency or organization.

Additionally, please note that the attention/comprehension check questions included within this study are ***only*** used to measure data quality and ***are not*** used to determine respondent pay or compensation.

Please click on the arrow in the bottom right to be redirected back to Prolific and register your submission. You may need to include the following code: C2GB6BRL

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