Custom Survey of Local Policymakers

Reference Guide for Public Access Dataset
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Survey Overview

Survey Description

The survey was fielded in two stages. Stage one of the survey was fielded from June 16, 2022, to August 14, 2022. Stage 2 of the survey was fielded from August 25, 2022, to October 8, 2022.

The accompanying dataset includes the responses from 895 respondents from both stages. As indicated by the variable *Finished*, 610 respondents completed the survey, while 285 completed part of the survey. There were 405 completers from the "Standard" sample and 205 completers from the "Targeted" sample. The standard sample of respondents consisted of elected policymakers that were randomly drawn from U.S. local governments (i.e., township, municipality, and county governments) with a population over 1,000 residents, while the targeted sample was restricted to governments in non-metro counties in fossil fuel states. Elected policymakers include top elected officials and governing board members.

Sample Composition

Table 1: Government Level of Respondents

Level of Government	Number of Respondents
County	180
Municipality	565
Township	150
Total	895

Survey Metadata

Respondent_ID

A random number generated to uniquely identify each survey respondent.

Sample

The sample that a respondent was drawn from. The “Standard” sample is drawn from a national sample of local elected policymakers. The “Targeted” sample is drawn from a sample of elected policymakers from non-metro counties in fossil fuel states. The survey’s randomizations were randomized by block using the *Sample* variable.

Nonmetro_county

‘1’ if respondent is from a non-metro county in a fossil fuel state.
‘0’ if respondent is not from a non-metro county in a fossil fuel state.

The list of non-metro counties in fossil fuel states was provided to CivicPulse by the research team. All respondents in the “Targeted” sample are from non-metro counties in fossil fuel states. Some of the respondents in the “Standard” sample are from non-metro counties in fossil fuel states.

StartDate

The time and date when the survey was started.

EndDate

The time and date when the survey was completed. For respondents that did not complete the survey, this variable records the time of their last activity on the survey.

Finished

‘1’ if respondent completed the survey; ‘0’ otherwise.

***Note**: We do not require survey participants to answer any particular survey question to complete the survey, though we do use “soft request” for questions left unanswered. Thus, a completed response may include unanswered questions if the respondent declined to answer.*

Weight_1

Probability weights created with a post-stratification raking procedure using the Census and presidential vote share variables. This procedure follows the methodology outlined in DeBell and Krosnick (2009) for the American National Elections Study (ANES). These weights are calculated for only the respondents who finished the survey (i.e., *Finished* = 1).

Weight_2

Probability weights are created with a post-stratification raking procedure using the Census and presidential vote share variables. This procedure follows the methodology outlined in DeBell and Krosnick (2009) for the American National Elections Study (ANES). These weights are calculated for all respondents in the data set, which includes any respondent that answered at least one question.

Total_duration

The duration of the survey in seconds.

Questionnaire

Investment

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

Consider a promise by the federal government to make a 10-year investment for economic development in your area. Over the next 10 years, do you think the government would be likely to:

- Reduce the investment
- Keep the investment at the same level
- Expand the investment

InvestmentSure_reduce

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Show if Investment == "Reduce the investment"]

How sure are you that the federal government would ***[pipe in lower case response from Investment]*** over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

InvestmentSure_keep

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Show if Investment = "Keep the investment at the same level"]

How sure are you that the federal government would ***[pipe in lower case response from Investment]*** over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

InvestmentSure_expand

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Show if Investment = "Expand the investment"]

How sure are you that the federal government would ***[pipe in lower case response from Investment]*** over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

History

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

As far back as you can remember, when it comes to economic policies that impact your area, has the federal government:

- Always kept its promises
- Sometimes kept its promises
- Rarely kept its promises

UncertainOpen

What effect would uncertainty over possible reductions or changes to federal government investment programs have on economic development in your area? Feel free to answer with short bullet points.

UncertainOpen_flag

The responses for the variable *UncertainOpen* were reviewed for identifying information. Eleven responses were modified to remove specific geographic information. Those responses are marked with a '1' in the variable *UncertainOpen_flag*.

Transparency_random

[Randomly assign 50-50]
A: "The government would require that companies provide public reports on how many jobs go to local workers."
B: ""

Transparency

Consider a federal government investment to create renewable energy jobs in your area.***{Transparency_random}***

What is your best guess of the percent of jobs that would go to local workers? Please respond with a number between 0 and 100.

Transparency_flag

The responses for the variable *Transparency* were reviewed for identifying information. One response was modified to remove specific geographic information. That response is marked with a '1' in the variable *Transparency_flag*.

Clawback_random

[Randomly assign 50-50]
A: "to attract renewable energy jobs if companies that fail to hire enough local workers must pay back the tax credits"
B: "to attract renewable energy jobs"

Clawback

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

How likely or unlikely would you be to support your local government providing substantial tax credits ***{Clawback_random}***?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

Biz_GRID

How sure or unsure are you that community business leaders would raise the following questions about a federal investment to create renewable energy jobs in your area?

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

[Four items (rows): BizPred, BizTemp, BizLocal, BizPay]

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure
- Somewhat unsure
- Very unsure

BizPred

Would political support at the federal level decrease in the future?

BizTemp

How long would the jobs last after the investment ends?

BizLocal

How many local jobs would be created?

BizPay

How well would the jobs pay?

GreenRelative

Do you think that the community business concerns from the previous questions would be greater, the same, or lesser for the healthcare industry than for the renewable energy industry?

- Greater
- Same
- Lesser

Solutions

What suggestions would you have for the federal government about how to make sure that investments in your area for renewable energy jobs provide local benefits? Feel free to answer using short bullet points.

Solutions_flag

The responses for the variable *Solutions* were reviewed for identifying information. Four responses were modified to remove specific geographic information. Those responses are marked with a '1' in the variable *Solutions_flag*.

ClimateImpact

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

Federal lawmakers are considering a climate policy that would transition the country away from coal, oil and gas and toward renewable energy sources.

What effect do you think a climate policy would have on employment and business activity in your area?

- Substantial decrease
- Moderate decrease
- No change
- Moderate increase
- Substantial increase

Transition_random

[Randomly assign 50-50]
A: "promise to make"
B: "law that makes"

Transition

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options.]

Consider a federal government ***{Transition_random}*** a 10-year investment to support communities that lose jobs because of the climate policy. Over the next 10 years, do you think the government would be likely to:

- Reduce the investment
- Keep the investment at the same level
- Expand the investment

TransitionSure_reduce

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Display if Transition = "Reduce the investment"]]

How sure are you that the federal government would reduce the investment over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

TransitionSure_keep

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Display if Transition = "Keep the investment at the same level"]

How sure are you that the federal government would keep the investment at the same level over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

TransitionSure_expand

[Programming: Randomize forward vs. backward sequence of response options. Display if Transition = "Expand the investment"]]

How sure are you that the federal government would expand the investment over the next 10 years?

- Very sure
- Somewhat sure

TransitionOpen

What concerns would you have about whether investments to support communities impacted by a climate policy would provide long-term economic growth? Please answer using short bullet points.

TransitionOpen_flag

The responses for the variable *TransitionOpen* were reviewed for identifying information. Three responses were modified to remove specific geographic information. Those responses are marked with a '1' in the variable *TransitionOpen_flag*.

Demographics

Ideology

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

- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Very liberal
- Not sure

Party

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a…

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- Other party (Please specify:)

Party_other

The answer provided to “Other party (Please specify:)” in *Party.*

Party_indep

[Programming: Display if Party== “Independent” or “Other” is selected.])

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Neither
- Not sure

Gender

What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- Prefer to self-describe

Age

When were you born?

[5-yr interval dropdown]

Education

What is the last grade of school you completed?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate
- Technical/trade school

- Some college
- College graduate
- Some graduate school
- Graduate degree

Minority_status

This three-category string variable (***Minority***, ***Other***, ***White***) is based on responses to the original *Ethnicity_race* question below. Responses are grouped to prevent identifiability.

> *What racial or ethnic group best describes you?*
> - *White*
> - *Black*
> - *Hispanic/Latino*
> - *Asian*
> - *Native American*
> - *Middle Eastern*
> - *Mixed Race*
> - *Other*

- ***Minority*** if “Black,” “Hispanic/Latino,” “Asian,” “Native American,” “Middle Eastern,” or “Mixed Race” were selected
- ***Other*** if “Other” was selected and NOT ***Minority***
- ***White*** if “White” was selected and NOT ***Minority*** and NOT ***Other***

Minority_status_bin

This variable is based on *Minority_status,* where ‘1’ is assigned for ***Minority*** and ‘0’ is assigned for ***Other*** and ***White***.

Geographic Variables

Merging. To provide additional information about the geographic areas in which respondents work, additional covariates were merged to the survey response data (99% match rate). Where merging failed, these variables are labeled with 'NA'.

De-identification. To ensure anonymity of the respondent, some variables were coarsened by binning them into terciles.

Gov_type

A variable indicating the type of government of the respondent. Its values are: "county," "municipality," and "township."

State_code

The state in which the respondent resides provided as the two-digit FIPS code.

State_abb

The state in which the respondent resides provided as the states' two-letter abbreviation.

Census_area_college_bin

The proportion of 25-years-or-older residents in the given geographic unit who have completed a 4-year, post-secondary degree. This data is from the 2015-2019 Five Year Data from the US Census American Community Survey, as compiled by IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS). The terciles are:

- First tercile: 0 to 0.17
- Second tercile: 0.17 to 0.27
- Third tercile: 0.27 to 1.0

Census_area_population_bin

The total number of residents living in the given geographic unit. This data is from the 2015-2019 Five Year Data from the US Census American Community Survey, as compiled by IPUMS NHGIS. The terciles are:

- First tercile: 0 to 2422
- Second tercile: 2422 to 8774
- Third tercile: 8774+

Census_area_urban_bin

The proportion of residents in the given geographic unit who reside in an urban area. This data is taken the 2010 Census, as compiled by IPUMS NHGIS. The terciles are:

- First tercile: 0 to .1
- Second tercile: 0.1 to 0.96
- Third tercile: 0.96 to 1.0

County_voteshare_pres_2020_bin

The proportion of the votes, by county, for Joe Biden in the 2020 Presidential election. Each sub-county government is matched to the relevant county in which it is contained. The terciles are*:*

- First tercile: 0 to 0.31
- Second tercile: 0.31 to 0.46
- Third tercile: 0.46 to 1.0

Sample Representativeness

The tables below describe the representativeness of the sample, compared to the population. We also provide probability weights to increase sample representativeness.

Table 2: County Officials

Area Characteristics	Sample Median	Population Median
Proportion Urban	0.43	0.40
Proportion College-educated	0.20	0.19
Population Size	21,400	25,750
Democratic Vote Share 2020	0.31	0.30

Table 3: Municipality Officials

Area Characteristics	Sample Median	Population Median
Proportion Urban	0.98	0.98
Proportion College-educated	0.23	0.21
Population Size	6,400	4,180
Democratic Vote Share 2020	0.40	0.40

Table 4: Township Officials

Area Characteristics	Sample Median	Population Median
Proportion Urban	0.13	0.01
Proportion College-educated	0.27	0.22
Population Size	4,000	2,680
Democratic Vote Share 2020	0.46	0.39