

Questionnaire

Decision to Vote and Reasons for Not Voting

The next several questions deal with your experiences voting during the November 2008 general election. It is important for the rest of the survey to know whether you voted. Your answer is anonymous.

Q1 Vote

Which of the following statements best describes you?

- <1> I did not vote in the election this November
- <2> I thought about voting this time, but didn't
- <3> I usually vote, but didn't this time
- <4> I tried to vote, but was not allowed to when I tried
- <5> I tried to vote, but it ended up being too much trouble
- <6> I definitely voted in the November General Election

Q2 [IF Q1! = 6] Reason for not voting

How much of a factor did the following reasons play in your not voting in the November General Election?

#rotate#

	Not a factor	A minor factor	A major factor	Don't know
Q2a I did not have the right kind of identification				
Q2b Illness or disability (own or family's)				
Q2c Out of town or away from home				
Q2d I forgot to vote				
Q2e I requested but did not receive an absentee ballot				
Q2f I was too busy/had a conflicting work, family, or school schedule				
Q2g Transportation problems				
Q2h I didn't like the candidates or campaign issues				
Q2i There were problems with my registration				
Q2j Bad weather				
Q2k The polling place hours, or location, were inconvenient				
Q2l The line at the polls was too long				
Q2m I did not know where to vote				
Q2n I did not receive my ballot in the mail, or it arrived too late for me to vote.				

Q3 [If Q1 != 6] Why no absentee ballot

Sometimes when voters can't get to the polls on Election Day, they vote using an absentee ballot. Please indicate which of the following statements most closely describes why you did not vote absentee in the November 2008 General Election.

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- <1> I had no interest in voting in this election.
- <2> It was too late to request an absentee ballot once I thought about it.
- <3> I requested an absentee ballot, but it never came.
- <4> I wouldn't have been allowed to vote absentee according to my state's election law
- <5> Requesting an absentee ballot requires too much effort
- <6> I didn't know how to request an absentee ballot.
- <7> {fixed} Other (please specify _____)

Q4 [IF Q1 = 4 or Q1 = 5 or Q1 = 6] First time voting

Was this your first time voting, or have you voted in elections before?

- <1> I am a first time voter
- <2> I have voted in elections before

Q5 [IF Q1 = 4 or Q1 = 5 or Q1 = 6] Mode of voting

Did you vote in person at a precinct on Election Day, in person before Election Day, or by mail (that is, absentee or vote-by-mail)?

- <1> In person on Election Day (at polling place or precinct)
- <2> In person before Election Day (early)
- <3> Voted by mail (or absentee)
- <4> Don't know

In-Person Voting

Q6 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Difficulty finding polling place

How difficult was it to find your polling place to vote?

- <1> Very difficult
- <2> Somewhat difficult
- <3> Fairly easy
- <4> Very easy
- <5> Don't know

Q7 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Polling place type

How would you describe the place where you voted?

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- <1> Private home
- <2> Private business
- <3> School building
- <4> Church
- <5> Police/Fire Station
- <6> A store or shopping mall
- <7> Senior center
- <8> Community center
- <9> Library
- <10> {fixed} Other government office (court house, municipal building, city hall, etc.)
- <11> {fixed} Other (please specify _____)

Q8 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Did you personally know the person who checked you in when you arrived to vote?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know
- <4> I don't remember

Q9 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] How well the polling place was run

How well were things run at the polling place where you voted?

- <1> Very well — I did not see any problems at the polling place
- <2> Okay — I saw some minor problems, but nothing that interfered with people voting
- <3> Not well — I saw some minor problems that affected the ability of a few people to vote
- <4> Terrible — I saw some major problems that affected the ability of many people to vote
- <5> Don't know

Q10 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Problem with voter registration

Was there a problem with your voter registration when you tried to vote?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had _____)
- <3> Don't know

Q11 [If Q10 = 2] Problem with voter registration — allowed to vote

Were you allowed to vote?

- <1> I voted a regular ballot
- <2> I voted using a provisional ballot
- <3> I was offered a provisional ballot, but I chose not to vote using it
- <4> No, I was not allowed to vote

Q12 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Line length

Approximately, how long did you have to wait in line to vote?

- <1> Not at all
- <2> Less than 10 minutes
- <3> 10-30 minutes
- <4> 31 minutes – 1 hour
- <5> More than 1 hour (please specify how long _____)
- <6> Don't know

Q12a [If Q12 != 1] Source of line

Was your wait in line mostly when you first arrived to check in at the registration table, or after you checked in and were waiting to gain access to a place to cast your ballot?

- <1> Most of my wait was to check in to vote.
- <2> Most of my wait was after I had checked in, and I was waiting to gain access to a voting machine or other place to vote.
- <3> My wait in line was fairly evenly divided between checking in and waiting to cast my ballot.
- <4> I don't recall.

Q13 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Picture ID

Were you asked to show picture identification, such as a driver's license, at the polling place this November?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> Don't know

Q13a [If Q13 = 1] Were you then allowed to vote?

- <1> Yes. I voted using a regular ballot.
- <2> Yes. I voted using a provisional ballot
- <3> I was offered a provisional ballot, but I chose not to vote using it
- <4> No, I was not allowed to vote

Q14 [If Q13 = 1] Type of ID shown

What type of picture identification did you show?

- <1> Driver's license
- <2> Passport
- <3> Voter registration card
- <4> Another picture ID card issued by the government (please specify _____)
- <5> A picture ID card not issued by the government (student ID, employee badge, etc.)
- <6> An ID card without a picture, which the poll worker accepted.
- <7> A bill, letter, or package addressed to me, which the poll worker accepted.
- <8> I don't remember

Q15 [If Q13 = 1] Picture ID follow-up

Did you show picture identification because you were asked for it specifically, or because a picture ID was the most convenient form of identification for you to show?

- <1> I was asked specifically for an ID card with a picture on it
- <2> I showed a picture ID card because it was convenient for me; I could have shown another form of ID if I had wanted to
- <3> Don't know

Q16 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Voting equipment problems

Did you encounter any problems with the voting equipment or the ballot that may have interfered with your ability to cast your vote as intended?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had _____)
- <3> Don't know

Q17 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Help with ballot

Did you receive help in filling out your ballot?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

Q18 [If Q17 = 1] Ballot help

Who helped you with your ballot?

- <1> My spouse or partner
- <2> A child of mine
- <3> A friend of mine
- <4> An election official or precinct worker
- <5> Another voter, or someone else at my voting location
- <6> A person who helps me out because I have a physical disability or illness
- <7> Other (please specify _____)
- <8> Don't know

Q19 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Poll worker performance

Please rate the job performance of the poll workers at the polling place where you voted.

- <1> Excellent
- <2> Good
- <3> Fair
- <4> Poor
- <5> Don't know

Q20 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Race of Poll Worker

What was the race/ethnicity of the poll worker who checked you in when you voted?

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- <1> African-American
- <2> Native American
- <3> Asian
- <4> White
- <5> Hispanic
- <6> {Fixed} Other/multi-racial
- <7> {Fixed} I don't recall the race of my poll worker
- <8> {Fixed} I don't know

Q21 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Age of poll worker

About how old was the poll worker who checked you in when you voted?

- <1> Under 30
- <2> Between 31 and 50
- <3> Between 51 and 70
- <4> Older than 70

Q22 [If Q5 = 1 or Q5 = 2] Polling place intimidation

Did you personally feel intimidated at the place where you voted?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes (Please specify _____)
- <3> I don't remember

Absentee Voting

Q23 [If Q5 = 3] Reason for absentee ballot

Which of the following statements most closely describes why you voted by mail or absentee?

- <1> My state or locality only has vote-by-mail.
- <2> I have signed up to receive a mail or absentee ballot automatically in each election.
- <3> Voting by mail or absentee was just more convenient for me this election
- <4> I was out of town for this election
- <5> I have a physical disability that makes it difficult for me to get to the polls
- <6> I could not get to the polls on Election Day because of my work or school schedule
- <7> I am in the armed forces
- <8> I was an election official or poll worker
- <9> Religious observances would have interfered with my going to the polls
- <10> Other (Please specify _____)

Q24 [If Q5 = 3 and Q23 != 1] Contact re absentee ballot

Did someone associated with a political candidate or political party contact you to encourage you to vote absentee or by mail?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes

Q25 [If Q5 = 3] Problems getting mail ballot

Were there any problems getting your absentee or mail-in ballot sent to you?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes (Please specify what problem, or problems, you had _____)

Q26 [If Q5 = 3] Mail ballot problems

Did you encounter any problems marking or completing your ballot that may have interfered with your ability to cast your vote as intended?

- <1> No
- <2> Yes (please specify what problem, or problems, you had _____)
- <3> Don't know

Q27 [If Q5 = 3] Help with absentee ballot

Did you receive help in filling out your absentee or mail ballot?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

Q28 [If Q27 = 1] Absentee ballot help

Who helped you fill out your ballot?

- <1> My spouse or partner
- <2> A child of mine
- <3> A friend of mine
- <4> An election official or precinct worker
- <5> Another voter, or someone else at my voting location
- <6> A person who helps me out because I have a physical disability or illness
- <7> Other (please specify _____)
- <8> Don't know

Q29 [If Q5 = 3] Absentee ballot pressure

Did you feel pressured to vote in a particular way when you filled out your absentee or mail ballot? For instance, because another person may have been watching you fill out your ballot?

- <1> No

- <2> Yes (Please specify _____)
- <3> I don't remember

Q30 [If Q5 = 3] How returned

How did you return your absentee or mail ballot?

- <1> I personally mailed it back in.
- <2> Someone else in my household mailed it back in.
- <3> I personally returned the ballot to an official election location (polling place, election office, early voting center, etc.)
- <4> Someone else in my household returned the ballot to an official election location
- <5> Other (please specify _____)
- <6> I don't remember

Q31 [If Q5 = 3] Returned absentee ballot

To the best of your memory, when did you return your absentee or mail ballot?

- <1> On Election Day
- <2> A few days before Election Day
- <3> The week before Election Day
- <4> More than a week before Election Day
- <5> I don't remember

Q32 [If Q5 = 3] Ease filling out absentee ballot

Overall, how easy was it to follow all the instructions necessary to cast your ballot and return it to be counted?

- <1> Very easy
- <2> Somewhat easy
- <3> Somewhat hard
- <4> Very hard
- <5> I don't remember

Vote Choice Decision and Confidence

Q33 [If Q1 = 6] Presidential vote

For whom did you vote for President of the United States?

#rotate#

- <1> John McCain (Republican)
- <2> Barack Obama (Democrat)
- <3> Robert Barr (Libertarian)
- <4> Cynthia McKinney (Green Party)
- <5> Ralph Nader (Independent)
- <6> {fixed} Other candidate or party (specify)
- <7> {fixed} I did not vote in this race

Q34 [If Q1 = 6] Confidence

How confident are you that your vote in the General Election was counted as you intended?

- <1> Very confident
- <2> Somewhat confident
- <3> Not too confident
- <4> Not at all confident
- <5> Don't know

Q35 [If Q4 != 1] Past voting experience

Whether or not you voted in the November 2008 General Election, which of the following statements most closely describes your past voting history?

- <1> I almost always vote in every election, regardless of what is on the ballot.
- <2> I usually vote in national and/or state elections, and tend not to vote in local elections.
- <3> I usually vote in local elections, and tend not to vote in national or state elections.
- <4> I usually haven't voted in the past, regardless of what type of election it was.
- <5> Other (please specify _____)

Attitudes Regarding Voter Fraud

Q36 Voter fraud

It is illegal to vote more than once in an election or to vote if not a U.S. citizen. How frequently do you think this occurs in your community?

- <1> It is very common
- <2> It occurs occasionally
- <3> It occurs infrequently
- <4> It almost never occurs
- <5> Not sure

Q37 Vote theft

Another form of fraud occurs when votes are stolen or tampered with. How frequently do you think this occurs in your community?

- <1> It is very common
- <2> It occurs occasionally
- <3> It occurs infrequently
- <4> It almost never occurs
- <5> Not sure

Q38 Voter impersonation

It is illegal for a person to claim to be another person, who is registered to vote, and to cast that person's vote. How often do you think this occurs in your community?

- <1> It is very common
- <2> It occurs occasionally
- <3> It occurs infrequently
- <4> It almost never occurs
- <5> Not sure

Identification and Voting

Q39 Driver's license

Do you have a driver's license?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q39a [If Q39 = 1] DL expired

Is your driver's license expired?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q39b [If Q39 = 1] DL legal name

Is the name on your driver's license the same name you are registered to vote under?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q39c [If Q39 = 1] DL address

Is the address on your driver's license the same as the address where you are registered to vote?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q40 Passport

Do you have a U.S. passport?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q40a [If Q40 = 1] Passport expired

Is your passport expired?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q40b [If Q40 = 1] Passport legal name

Is the name on your passport the same name you are registered to vote under?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> I don't know

Q41 Other identification

Do you have any other form of government-issued picture identification, such as a state ID card or a military ID card?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

<3> I don't know

Q42 Birth certificate

Do you have an official copy of your birth certificate that you can easily locate?

<1> Yes

<2> No

<3> I don't know

Attitudes Toward Election Reform

Q43 Reform proposals

Do you support or oppose any of the following proposals for new ways of voting or conducting elections?

#rotate#

Support Oppose

Q43a Allow absentee voting over the Internet

Q43b Run all elections by mail

Q43c Automatically register all citizens over 18 to vote

Q43d Allow people to register on Election Day at the polls

Q43e Require all people to show government issued photo identification when they vote

Q43f Move Election Day to a weekend

Q43g Make Election Day a national holiday

Demographic Information

Q44 Residence

Which of the following best describes your current housing arrangement?

<1> I rent

<2> I own my apartment or house

<3> I live with someone else (such as a parent, grandparent), but do not rent

<4> I live in institutional housing, such as a dormitory or nursing home.

<5> Other

Q45 Disability

Does a health problem, disability, or handicap CURRENTLY keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

<1> Yes

<2> No

Age

Income

Education

Party identification

Ideology

Years in current residence

Race

County of residence

Validated vote