



ANES Policy on Use of its Survey Questions

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On many occasions, we are contacted by scholars who ask if they can use ANES questions on their own surveys. In general, the answer is yes, but there is an important exception. As ANES is devoted to the production of public goods, *anyone for any purpose may use any ANES question that is in the public domain*. By public domain, we mean any question that has appeared on a previous ANES production study. For the complete list of these surveys, please visit the ANES Data Center at: www.electionstudies.org

On occasion, ANES is also asked about the content of questionnaires for surveys that are “in the field” and have not yet been completed. For example, a scholar may know that ANES is going to field a study in the month of November and she may want to use some of the same questions on a survey that she is running. We encourage such coordination. However, there are important restrictions on how we can respond.

One restriction is that ANES is devoted to helping scholars explain vote choice and turnout *after elections have taken place*. To protect our scientific integrity, *we do not release data to anyone for any reason about elections that have not yet occurred*. For example, we will collect different kinds of data from citizens in the months leading up to the 2008 general election, but we will not release any of this data to anyone until after the election has commenced.

We also do not release the content of the questionnaire before the election to the public. We do show the questionnaire to scholars, such as Board Members, who are helping us to develop the questionnaire. However, to facilitate coordination with other election studies, ANES will respond to inquiries about whether or not specific questions will appear on a study that is not yet in the public domain. Such requests must be made about specific questions (rather than the questionnaire as a whole) and the requestor must sign an agreement not to publicize in any way the fact that ANES is the source of the questions until after the full questionnaire has been publicly posted on the ANES website (www.electionstudies.org).

To make such requests, please send an e-mail to “anes@electionstudies.org”. As always, ANES encourages use of its products and looks forward to opportunities to help scholars conduct more effective research.

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