

ANES 2020 Time Series Study: Question-Level Timing Data  
(Version: 20200719)

- 1) These question-level timing data files are generated by parsing the interview session and audit trail data provided by our data collection vendor.
- 2) In these files, each row represents a survey interview case, and each column refers to a survey question. Each timing is the difference between the timestamp of opening the survey question and the one of closing it.
- 3) The first column ["CASE\_ID"] contains the four digit Case ID variable which is identical to "V200001: 2020 Case ID" in ANES 2020 Time Series Study Full Release. The last column ["TOTAL\_INTERVIEW\_LENGTH"] is the total interview duration calculated by summing all of the question-level timing. The same information was used for "V203057: PRE ADMIN: Pre-election interview length (minutes)" and "V203082: POST ADMIN: Post-election interview length (minutes)" in the same Full Release. Note: The interview length could be very short in some cases. See 6) below for more info.
- 4) More information on survey questions and corresponding release variables can be found in the ANES 2020 Time Series Pre-Election and Post-Election Survey Questionnaires. It is available for download from the Data Center of the ANES website.
- 5) Most of the column/question names are listed in the questionnaires except for (1) the column/question names ending with "\_OS", and (2) the column named "MEDSRC\_INETNEWS".
  - 5-1) Some ANES interview questions offer the opportunity for a respondent to enter their own text response rather than to pick from preset choices. Those responses were recorded separately and their timing is stored in the columns ending with "\_OS". For example, "PREVOTE\_PRESVTWHO" (FOR WHOM DID R VOTE FOR PRESIDENT) has "Other candidate {SPECIFY}" as one of the response options. Thus, there are two columns in the pre-election survey timing data file, "PREVOTE\_PRESVTWHO" and "PREVOTE\_PRESVTWHO\_OS".
  - 5-2) One of the pre-election survey questions, "MEDSRC\_PRINTNEWS", was in a two-column grid format, the first column on print newspapers and the second on online ones. The response time on each is recorded in "MEDSRC\_PRINTNEWS" and "MEDSRC\_INETNEWS".
- 6) The interview session and audit trail data from the data collection vendor do not contain complete records for all interview cases. There are 40 cases in the pre-election survey for which no timing data was recorded (and therefore they could not be included in "anes\_timeseries\_2020\_pretimings.csv"). There are also several cases where the vendor's system failed to record part of interview session timing data. Please note that the presence of a missing data value (that is, an empty cell) could mean either (1) that the respondent was intentionally not asked the question as receiving the question was conditional on a past response ('not asked so no data') or (2) that they answered the question but the system failed to record the timing of the variable due to a system error or similar.
- 7) Timing data was rounded to the nearest tenth of a second. Note: An unrealistically short response time could have been recorded in certain branching questions by the data collection vendor's system reloading the survey screen. As a result of rounding, they are seen as 0 in these data files.