

1952 ELECTION QUESTIONNAIREPRE-ELECTION

I'm mainly interested in talking to you about the election this fall and how you feel about it.

1. Who do you think will be elected president in November?
  - 1a. (IF R MAKES CHOICE) Do you think it will be a close race or will (ANSWER TO Q.1) win by quite a bit?
2. How about here in (STATE)? Will the vote for president be pretty evenly split or not?  
  
(IF NECESSARY) 2a. Who do you think will win for president here in (STATE)?
3. Do you think there are any important differences between what the Democratic and Republican parties stand for, or do you think they are about the same?
4. I'd like to ask you what you think are the good and bad points about the two parties. Is there anything in particular that you like about the Democratic party? What is that?
5. Is there anything in particular that you don't like about the Democratic party? What is that?
7. Is there anything in particular that you don't like about the Republican party? What is that?
8. Do you think it will make a good deal of difference to the country whether the Democrats or the Republicans win the elections this November, or that it won't make much difference which side wins?  
  
(IF YES) 8a. Why is that?  
  
(IF NO) 8b. Why do you feel it won't make much difference?
9. Do you think it will make any difference in how you and your family get along financially whether the Democrats or Republicans win? How is that?

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(IF MAKES A DIFFERENCE  
AND NOT ANSWERED IN A.9)

9a. Well, do you think you'll be better off or worse off financially if the Republicans win the election?

10. Now I'd like to ask you about the good and bad points of the two candidates for president. Is there anything in particular about Stevenson that might make you want to vote for him? What is it?
11. Is there anything in particular about Stevenson that might make you want to vote against him? What is it?
12. Is there anything in particular about Eisenhower that might make you want to vote for him? What is it?
13. Is there anything in particular about Eisenhower that might make you want to vote against him? What is it?
14. Now, adding up the good points and the bad points about the two candidates, and forgetting for a minute the parties they belong to, which one do you think would make the best president?
15. Some people say that Eisenhower is not a real Republican. What do you think about this? Is he the kind of man that you think of as being a real Republican? Why do you say that?
16. (IF NOT ANSWERED IN Q.15) What about Eisenhower's ideas and the things he stands for? Do you think he is pretty much the same as most other Republicans, or is he different from them? How is that?
17. How about the candidates for vice-president? Aside from their parties do you have any strong opinions about either of them? How is that?
18. Generally speaking, would you say that you personally care a good deal which party wins the presidential election this fall, or that you don't care very much which party wins?
19. How about state and local elections? When you have state and local elections around here would you say that you care a good deal who wins, or that you don't care very much who wins those elections?
20. Some people don't pay much attention to the political campaigns. How about you? Would you say that you have been very much interested, somewhat interested, or not much interested in following the political campaigns so far this year?

Now, I want to ask you how you feel about some of the issues that people are talking about these days. For example --

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21. Some people think the national government should do more in trying to deal with such problems as unemployment, education, housing, and so on. Others think that the government is already doing too much. On the whole, would you say that what the government has done has been about right, too much, or not enough?
- 21a. Now, how do you think the two parties feel about this question -- Do you think there are any differences between the Democratic and Republican parties on this issue, or would you say they feel the same? How is that?
22. There is a lot of talk these days about discrimination, that is, people having trouble getting jobs because of their race. Do you think the government ought to take an interest in whether Negroes have trouble getting jobs or should it stay out of this problem?
- (IF GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE AN INTEREST)
- 22a. Do you think we need laws to deal with this problem or are there other ways that will handle it better?
- (IF "OTHER WAYS" 22a(1). What do you have in mind?  
TO Q.22a)
- (IF "LAWS" TO Q.22a) 22a(2). Do you think the national government should handle this or do you think it should be left for each state to handle in its own way?
- (IF GOVERNMENT SHOULD STAY OUT)
- 22b. Do you think the state governments should do something about this problem, or should they stay out of it also?
23. Have you heard anything about the Taft-Hartley Law?
- (IF HAS HEARD) 23a. How do you feel about it? Do you think it's all right as it is, do you think it should be changed in any way, or don't you have any feelings about it?
- (IF SHOULD BE CHANGED)
- 23a(1). Do you think the law should be changed just a little, changed quite a bit, or do you think it should be completely repealed? How is that?
24. Some people think that since the end of the last world war this country has gone too far in concerning itself with problems in other parts of the world. How do you feel about this?

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25. Some people feel that it was our government's fault that China went Communist, others say there was nothing that we could do to stop it. How do you feel about this?
26. Do you think we did the right thing in getting into the fighting in Korea two years ago, or should we have stayed out?
27. Which of the following things do you think it would be best for us to do now in Korea? Should we --

(a) Pull out of Korea entirely?

(b) Keep on trying to get a peaceful settlement?

(c) Take a stronger stand and bomb Manchuria and China?

(Qualifying comments) \_\_\_\_\_

Now I would like to ask you a little more about the political parties.

28. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?

(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT TO Q.28):

28a. Would you call yourself a strong (R) (D) or a not very strong (R) (D)?

28b. Was there ever a time when you thought of yourself as a (R) (D) rather than a (D) (R)?

(IF YES TO Q.28b.) 28b(1). When did you change?

28c. Suppose there was an election where your party was running a candidate that you didn't like or you didn't agree with. Which of the following things comes closest to what you think you would do?

(1) I probably would vote for him anyway because a person should be loyal to his party.

(2) I probably would not vote for either candidate in that election.

(3) I probably would vote for the other party's candidate.

(IF 3 IS CHOSEN TO Q.28c) 28c(1). How would you feel about voting for the other party -- would it bother you in any way?

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(IF INDEPENDENT OR OTHER TO Q.28):

28d. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?

28e. Was there ever a time when you thought of yourself as a Democrat or a Republican?

(IF YES TO Q.28e) 28e(1). Which party was that?

28e(2). When did you change?

(ASK OF EVERYONE)

29. Do you remember when you were growing up whether your parents thought of themselves mostly as Democrats or Republicans, or did they shift around from one party to another?

30. In the elections for president since you have been old enough to vote, would you say that you have voted in all of them, most of them, some of them, or none of them?

(IF R HAS EVER VOTED FOR PRESIDENT TO Q.30, ASK QUESTIONS 31-33;

IF R HAS NEVER VOTED FOR PRESIDENT, SKIP TO Q.34)

31. Have you always voted for the same party, or have you voted for different parties for president?

(IF SAME) 31a. Which party was that?

32. Do you remember who you voted for the first time you voted for president?

32a. Who was it? What party was it?

32b. Do you remember what year that was? When?

33. In 1948, you remember that Truman ran against Dewey. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?

(IF YES, DOES REMEMBER VOTING) 33a. Which one did you vote for?

(ASK OF EVERYONE)

34. Now, how about the election this November? Do you know if you are (registered) (eligible to vote) so that you could vote in the November election if you wanted to?

(IF NECESSARY) 34a. Are you (registered) (eligible to vote)?

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35. So far as you know now, do you expect to vote in November or not?

(IF YES TO Q.35, ASK QUESTIONS 36-39)

(IF NO TO Q.35, SKIP TO QUESTION 40)

36. How do you think you will vote for president in this election?

(IF MENTIONS CANDIDATE OR PARTY) 36a. What would you say is the most important reason why you are going to vote for (ANSWER TO Q.36)?

37. Who do you plan to vote for as United States senator?

38. How about congressman? Who do you plan to vote for there?

39. Who do you think you will vote for as governor here in (STATE)?

(IF NO TO Q.35)

40. If you were going to vote, how do you think you would vote for president in this election?

(IF MENTIONS CANDIDATE OR PARTY) 40a. What would you say is the most important reason why you would vote for (ANSWER TO Q.40)?

(ASK OF EVERYONE)

41. Some people think that if a voter votes for one party for president he should vote for the same party for senator and congressman. Do you agree or disagree with that idea?

41a. Why do you feel that way?

42. Was there some other candidate whom you would rather have seen nominated at Chicago last July? (IF NECESSARY) Who?

(IF YES TO Q.42) 42a. Why would you like to have seen him nominated?

43. Do you think the party conventions like they had in Chicago are a good way to nominate candidates for president, or do you think there is a better way?

(IF BETTER WAY) 43a. What would you suggest?

44. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about how you think other people will vote in this election.

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45. Are you married?

(IF YES) 45a. How do you think your husband (wife) will vote?

46. Now, how about your five best friends? How do you think they're most likely to vote?

47. Now I'd like to read some of the kinds of things people tell me when I interview them and ask you whether you agree or disagree with them. I'll read them one at a time and you just tell me whether you agree or disagree.

- 47a. It isn't so important to vote when you know your party doesn't have a chance to win. EACH ITEM CARRIES  
CHOICE OF  
 AGREE  DISAGREE
- 47b. I don't think public officials care much what people like me think.
- 47c. The way people vote is the main thing that decides how things are run in this country.
- 47d. Voting is the only way that people like me can have any say about how the government runs things.
- 47e. A good many local elections aren't important enough to bother with.
- 47f. So many other people vote in the national elections that it doesn't matter much to me whether I vote or not.
- 47g. People like me don't have any say about what the government does.
- 47h. If a person doesn't care how an election comes out he shouldn't vote in it.
- 47i. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.

And now I'd like to ask you just two more questions.

48. There's quite a bit of talk these days about different social classes. If you were asked to use one of these four names for your social class, which would you say you belonged in -- the middle class, lower class, working class or upper class?
49. Some people say there's not much opportunity in America today -- that the average man doesn't have much chance to really get ahead. Others say there's plenty of opportunity, and anyone who works hard can go as far as he wants. How do you feel about this?

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PERSONAL DATA

1. Sex

2. Race: White Negro Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What year were you born?

4. How many grades of school did you finish? 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12

(IF HIGH SCHOOL) 4a. Have you had any schooling other than high school?

(IF YES TO 4a) 4a(1). What other schooling have you had?

(IF ATTENDED COLLEGE) 4b. Do you have a college degree?

5. What is your occupation? I mean, what kind of work do you do?

(IF R IS EMPLOYED) 5a. Do you work for yourself or for someone else?

(IF R IS UNEMPLOYED) 5b. What kind of work do you usually do?

(IF R IS RETIRED) 5c. What kind of work did you do before you retired?

(ASK ONLY IF R IS NOT HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD)

6. What kind of work does the head of your household do?

(IF HEAD IS EMPLOYED) 6a. Does he work for himself or for someone else?

(IF HEAD IS UNEMPLOYED) 6b. What kind of work does he usually do?

(IF HEAD IS RETIRED) 6c. What kind of work did he do before he retired?

6d. Age of head: 21-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64

65 and over

7. Do either you or the head of your household belong to a labor union?

(IF NECESSARY) 7a. Who is it that belongs?

8. What kind of work did your father do for a living while you were growing up?

9. Where were you born? (IF UNITED STATES, which state?)

10. What part of the United States did you grow up in? (Which state or states?)



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11. Were you brought up mostly on a farm, in a small town, or in a large city?

12. Were both your parents born in this country?  Yes  No

(IF YES TO Q.12)

12a. Which country did your father's parents come from?

12b. Which country did your mother's parents come from?

(IF NO TO Q.12)

12c. Which country was your father born in?

12d. Which country was your mother born in?

13. How long have you lived in this county? (NOTE: county, not country)

14. How long have you lived in (STATE)?

15. Do you feel that you have settled down to stay here in (FACE SHEET DESIGNATION) or do you feel that you may not stay here very long?

16. Do you folks own your home here, or rent, or what?

17. Do you have any children in school here in \_\_\_\_\_?

18. Is your church preference Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish?

Protestant  Catholic  Jewish  Other  None

19. Would you say you go to church  regularly ,  often ,  seldom or  never ?

20. About what do you think your total income will be this year for yourself and your immediate family?

Under \$1,000  \$1000-1999  \$2000-2999  \$3000-3999  \$4000-4999  
 \$5000-7499  \$7500-9999  \$10,000 and over