

1956 POST-ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. We're interested in this interview in finding out whether people paid much attention to the election campaign this year. Take newspapers for instance -- did you read about the campaign in any newspaper?

(IF YES) 1a. What paper did you read most for news about politics?

2. How about radio -- did you listen to any speeches or discussions about the campaign on the radio?
3. How about television -- did you watch any programs about the campaign on television?
4. How about magazines -- did you read about the campaign in any magazines?

(IF YES TO TWO OR MORE)

5. Of all these ways of following the campaign, which one would you say you got the most information from -- newspapers, radio, television or magazines?

(ASK OF EVERYONE)

6. Now talking just about newspapers. In reporting the news about the campaign and the candidates, do you feel the newspapers were equally fair to both sides or not?

(IF UNFAIR) 6a. Which candidate did the papers favor?

7. In talking to people about the election we find that a lot of people weren't able to vote because they weren't registered or they were sick or they just didn't have time. How about you, did you vote this time?

(IF "YES" DID VOTE) 8. Who did you vote for for President?

8a. What would you say is the most important reason you voted for him?

9. How long before the election did you decide that you were going to vote the way you did?

10. Did you ever think during the campaign that you might vote for (OPPOSITE CANDIDATE)?

(IF YES) 10a. What made you decide not to vote for him?

11. When you voted for President in this election, did you feel that it was a lot better to vote for the (R)(D) candidate, somewhat better, or that it didn't make much difference which one you voted for?
12. We would like to know how strongly you felt about the importance of voting in this election. Would you say you cared a great deal whether or not you voted, cared somewhat, or didn't care too much this time?
13. How about the election for United States Senator? Did you vote for a candidate for Senator?
(IF YES) 13a. Who did you vote for? (IF R DOESN'T KNOW CANDIDATE'S NAME) Which party was that?
14. How about the vote for Congressman? Did you vote for Congress?
(IF YES) 14a. Who did you vote for? (IF R DOESN'T KNOW CANDIDATE'S NAME) Which party was that?
14b. What would you say is the most important reason you voted for him?
15. How about the elections for state and local offices -- did you vote a straight ticket or did you vote for candidates from different parties?
(IF VOTED A STRAIGHT TICKET) 15a. Which party did you vote for?
- (IF "NO, DID NOT VOTE" TO Q.7) 16. Who would you have voted for President if you had voted?
(IF R NAMES PARTY OR CANDIDATE) 16a. What would you say was the most important reason you would have voted for him?
16b. What was the main reason you didn't vote?

(ASK OF EVERYONE)

17. I have a list of some of the things that people do that help a party or a candidate win an election. I wonder if you could tell me whether you did any of these things during the last election campaign.
- 17a. Did you talk to any people and try to show them why they should vote for one of the parties or candidates?
- 17b. Did you give any money or buy tickets or anything to help the campaign for one of the parties or candidates?

- 17c. Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, dinners, or things like that?
- 17d. Did you do any other work for one of the parties or candidates?
- 17e. Do you belong to any political club or organizations?
- 17f. Did you wear a campaign button or put a campaign sticker on your car?
18. You know that the parties try to talk to as many people as they can to get them to vote for their candidate. Did anybody from either one of the parties call you up or come around and talk to you during the campaign?
(IF YES) 18a. Which party were they from? Democratic? Republican? Both? Other? Don't know
18b. Did they talk to you about voting for President, were they interested in how you would vote for other offices, or did they just talk about voting for the (D)(R) party?
- Now I'd like to ask you something about the groups you belong to.
19. There's quite a bit of talk these days about different social classes. Most people say they belong either to the middle class or to the working class. Do you ever think of yourself as being in one of these classes?
(IF YES) 19a. Which one? Middle class / Working class
19b. Would you say that you are about an average (CLASS SELECTED) person or that you are in the upper part of the (CLASS SELECTED)?
20. What would you say your family was when you were growing up, Middle class / or Working class? (IF NECESSARY) Which one?
20a. Would you say they were about an average (CLASS SELECTED) family or that they were in the upper part of the (CLASS SELECTED)?
21. (IF NOT ALREADY ASCERTAINED) Are you married, single, divorced, separated, or widowed?
(IF MARRIED) 22. How about your (husband)(wife)? Did (he)(she) vote in this election? Yes / No
(IF YES) 22a. Did (he)(she) vote Democratic or Republican for President?
Dem / Rep / Other / Don't know

(IF MARRIED, WIDOWED,
DIVORCED OR SEPARATED)

23. How old were you when you got married?
24. When you were first married, what was the first regular full-time job that (HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD) had?
25. About how much money was (HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD) making then?

(IF R IS NOT AND HAS
NOT BEEN MARRIED)

26. After you got out of school, what was the first regular full-time job that you had?
27. How old were you at that time?
28. About how much money were you making then?

(ASK ONLY OF FARMERS)

29. About how much do you folks farm, Full-time or just Part of the time?
30. Do you own your farm, manage it, rent it or what?
31. How much land do you farm?
32. What kind of farming do you do here mostly?
33. Over the past four years have prices you get for the things you produce gone up, have they gone down, or have they stayed about the same?
- (IF UP OR DOWN) 33a. Would you say they have gone (up)(down) a lot or just a little?
34. How much effect do you think government farm policies have had on what you get for your crops, a lot, some or not much at all?

Some farmers feel they have a lot in common with other farmers; but other farmers we talk to don't feel this way so much. How about you?

35. Would you say you feel pretty close to farm people in general or that you don't feel much closer to them than you do to other kinds of people?
36. How much interest would you say you have in how farm people as a whole are getting along in this country? Do you have a good deal of interest in it, some interest, or not much interest at all?
37. Do you (or head) belong to any farm organization? Yes No

(IF YES)

- 37a. What one(s)?
- 37b. How do you (or head) feel about belonging to this group. Do you (does he) have: A great deal of interest in it?
Some interest? or
Not much interest at all?

Some people think farm organizations ought to get into politics and some people think they ought not.

38. How do you feel about farm organizations trying to get Congress to pass laws that farmers are interested in? Do you think it's all right for them to do that, or do you think they ought to stay out of that?
39. How do you feel about farm organizations trying to help certain candidates get elected? Do you think it's all right for them to do that or do you think they ought to stay out of that?

(ASK IN ALL HOUSEHOLDS WHERE R OR HEAD IS UNION MEMBER)

40. You said before that you (or head) belong to a labor union. About how long have you (has he) belonged to this union?

Some union members feel they have a lot in common with other union members; but others we talk to don't feel this way so much. How about you?

41. Would you say you feel pretty close to labor union members in general or that you don't feel much closer to them than you do to other kinds of people?
42. How much interest would you say you (or head) have in how union people as a whole are getting along in this country? Do you have a good deal of interest in it, some interest, or not much interest at all?
43. And how do (union member) feel about your (his) own union? Do you (does he) have a great deal of interest in it, some interest, or little or no interest in it?

Some people think labor unions ought to get into politics and some people think they ought not.

44. How do you feel about labor unions trying to get Congress to pass laws that union members are interested in? Do you think it's all right for them to do that, or do you think they ought to stay out of that?
45. How do you feel about labor unions trying to help certain candidates get elected? Do you think it's all right for them to do that or do you think they ought to stay out of that?

(ASK WHERE R IS NEGRO)

This time we have a few more questions about the different kinds of groups people belong to, like veterans, or business groups, or religious groups, or races. Some Negroes feel they have a lot in common with other Negroes, but others we talk to don't feel this way so much. How about you?

46. Would you say you feel pretty close to Negroes in general or that you don't feel much closer to them than you do to other kinds of people?
47. How much interest would you say you have in how Negroes as a whole are getting along in this country? Do you have a good deal of interest in it, some interest, or not much interest at all?

Some people think Negro organizations ought to get into politics and some people think they ought not.

48. How do you feel about Negro organizations trying to get Congress to pass laws that Negroes are interested in? Do you think it's all right for them to do that, or do you think they ought to stay out of that?
49. How do you feel about Negro organizations trying to help certain candidates get elected? Do you think it's all right for them to do that or do you think they ought to stay out of that?

(ASK WHERE R IS CATHOLIC)

This time we have a few more questions to ask about the different kinds of groups people belong to, like veterans' groups, or business groups, or religious groups such as Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups. Some Catholics feel they have a lot in common with other Catholics; but others we talk to don't feel this way so much. How about you?

50. Would you say you feel pretty close to Catholics in general or that you don't feel much closer to them than you do to other people?
51. How much interest would you say you have in how Catholic people as a whole are getting along in this country? Do you have a good deal of interest in it, some interest, or not much interest at all?

Some people think Catholic organizations ought to get into politics and some people think they ought not.

52. How do you feel about Catholic organizations trying to get Congress to pass laws that Catholics are interested in? Do you think it's all right for them to do that, or do you think they ought to stay out of that?
53. How do you feel about Catholic organizations trying to help certain candidates get elected? Do you think it's all right for them to do that or do you think they ought to stay out of that?

(ASK WHERE R IS JEWISH)

This time we have a few more questions to ask about the different kinds of groups people belong to, like veterans' groups, or business groups, or religious groups such as Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups. Some Jews feel they have a lot in common with other Jews; but others we talk to don't feel this way so much. How about you?

54. Would you say you feel pretty close to Jews in general or that you don't feel much closer to them than you do to other people?
55. How much interest would you say you have in how Jewish people as a whole are getting along in this country? Do you have a good deal of interest in it, some interest, or not much interest at all?

Some people think Jewish organizations ought to get into politics and some people think they ought not.

56. How do you feel about Jewish organizations trying to get Congress to pass laws that Jews are interested in? Do you think it's all right for them to do that, or do you think they ought to stay out of that?
57. How do you feel about Jewish organizations trying to help certain candidates get elected? Do you think it's all right for them to do that or do you think they ought to stay out of that?

(ASK OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

58. In election campaigns, different groups work for one candidate or another. Are there any groups on this list (HAND CARD WITH LIST TO R) that you particularly trust -- that is, would you be more likely to vote for candidates they recommend? Which group.

Veterans' groups / Protestant groups / Farm groups / Negro groups
Business groups / Jewish groups / College groups / Labor unions
Catholic groups / None

59. Are there any groups on the list that you don't trust, that is would you be more likely to vote against candidates they recommend? Which groups?

(SAME LIST OF GROUPS AS FOR Q.58)

QUESTIONS C1 - C24.

Now, for the last questions, here is something different. I have some statements which I will read to you and I would like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with them. I will read them one at a time and you just tell me whether you agree or disagree and whether you agree or disagree a little or quite a bit.

C1. I prefer the practical man anytime to the man of ideas.

Agree, lot Agree, little Disagree, little Disagree, lot

C2. If you start trying to change things very much, you usually make them worse.

(SAME RESPONSE CATEGORIES USED IN Qs. C2 - C24 AS IN Q. C1)

C3. If something grows up over a long time, there will always be much wisdom in it.

C4. It's better to stick by what you have than to be trying new things you don't really know about.

C5. We must respect the work of our forefathers and not think that we know better than they did.

C6. A man doesn't really get to have much wisdom until he's well along in years.

C7. The artist and the professor are probably more important to society than the business man and the manufacturer.

C8. The findings of science may someday show that many of our most deeply-held beliefs are wrong.

C9. Human nature being what it is, there must always be war and conflict.

C10. People ought to pay more attention to new ideas, even if they seem to go against the American way of life.

C11. What young people need most of all is strict discipline by their parents.

C12. Most people who don't get ahead just don't have enough will power.

C13. It is highly unlikely that astrology will ever be able to explain anything.

C14. Sex criminals deserve more than prison; they should be whipped in public or worse.

C15. An urge to jump from high places is probably the result of unhappy personal experiences rather than something inborn.

C16. Bosses should say just what is to be done and exactly how to do it if they expect us to do a good job.

C17. I would rather decide things when they come up than always try to plan ahead.

C18. I have always felt pretty sure my life would work out the way I wanted it to.

C19. I seem to be the kind of person that has more bad luck than good luck.

C20. I never have any trouble making up my mind about important decisions.

C21. I have always felt that I have more will power than most people have.

C22. There's not much use for me to plan ahead because there's usually something that makes me change my plans.

C23. I nearly always feel pretty sure of myself even when people disagree with me.

C24. I have often had the feeling that it's no use to try to get anywhere in this life.