

1977 VOTER VALIDATION STUDY
COVERSHEET

1. INTERVIEWER'S LABEL

2. Place _____

3. Primary Area _____

4. Date Mailed _____

← Name of Election Official for
this place.

Included in this packet are:

YES NO

a completed questionnaire (election administration survey)

Comments? _____

completed Individual Voter Record forms

How Many? _____ Comments? _____

Checklist of Items to be Collected, along with the materials
you were able to obtain

Comments? _____

completed Interviewer's Evaluation

Comments? _____

for office use only

1976 VOTER VALIDATION STUDY

P. 495456
July, 1977



SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48106

(Do Not Write in Above Space)

1. Interviewer's Label

2. Primary Area _____

3. Name of Place _____

4. Your Interview No. _____

5. Date _____

6. Length of Interview _____
(Minutes)

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION SURVEY

EXACT TIME NOW: _____

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION SURVEY

In this interview we are collecting information about the characteristics of the place in which respondents to our 1976 Election Study reside. The topics we are interested in include voter registration and the conduct of primary and general elections.

1. I'd like to begin by asking you some questions about voter registration. Are people in (NAME OF PLACE) required to be registered before they are eligible to vote in a general election?

1. YES

5. NO

→ TURN TO P. 5 , Q. 19B

2. How soon before a statewide general election must people in (NAME OF PLACE) be registered so that they can vote in that election?

_____ DAYS

3. Besides age and U.S. citizenship, are there other requirements people here must meet in order to be eligible to vote in a state or local general election?

1. YES

5. NO

→ GO TO Q. 5

4. What are these requirements?

4a. Anything else? _____

5. If a person here wants to register to vote, during what periods of the year may he or she regularly do so?

1. YEAR AROUND

7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____

2.

6. If a person wants to register to vote here during what time(s) of the day (or evening) may he or she regularly do so?

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIME(S)</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIME(S)</u>
	FROM TO		FROM TO
MONDAY	_____	FRIDAY	_____
TUESDAY	_____	SATURDAY	_____
WEDNESDAY	_____	SUNDAY	_____
THURSDAY	_____		

7. Are there periods before a general election when the regular hours a person can register to vote in that election are extended or new hours are added?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO Q. 10

8. How soon before a general election do these extended or additional hours begin?

_____ MONTHS _____ WEEKS _____ DAYS

9. What are these extended or additional hours?

<u>DAY(S)</u>	<u>TIME(S)</u>	<u>TO</u>
	FROM	
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

10. Where can a person in (NAME OF PLACE) regularly go to register to vote?

<u>NAME OF LOCATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

11. Are there ways of registering or being registered to vote in (NAME OF PLACE) other than going to an office in person, ways such as being visited at home or being contacted by phone or by using mail or postcard registration?

1. YES

5. NO

→ GO TO Q. 13



12. Would you briefly describe each of these other voter registration methods?

Four horizontal lines for describing voter registration methods.

13. Are there periods before a general election when additional locations are used to register voters here?

1. YES

5. NO

→ GO TO Q. 16



14. How many additional locations are used?

_____ NUMBER

15. What are the names and addresses of these additional locations?

NAME OF LOCATION

ADDRESSES

Two columns of horizontal lines for listing names and addresses of additional locations.

16. Do people here declare a political preference at the time they register to vote?

1. YES

5. NO

→ TURN TO P. 4, Q. 19A



17. Must people choose a specific political party when they register or can they register as an "independent" or "uncommitted" voter?

1. POLITICAL PARTY REQUIRED

5. POLITICAL PARTY OPTIONAL

TURN TO P. 4, Q. 19A

18. (SHOW CARD 1)

When it comes to voting in primary elections in which two or more parties have candidates, are people in (NAME OF PLACE): (READ RESPONSES)

- 1. bound to vote in the primary of the party with which they are currently registered?
- 2. bound to vote in the primary of the party with which they are registered, but allowed to change their declaration of political preference just before voting?
- 3. not bound to vote in the primary of the party with which they are registered, but required to identify in which party's primary they wish to participate?
- 4. not bound to vote in the primary of the party they are registered with and not required to identify in which party's primary they wish to participate?

TURN TO P. 5, Q. 20

19A. (SHOW CARD #2)

When it comes to voting in primary elections in which two or more parties have candidates, are people in (NAME OF PLACE): (READ RESPONSES)

- 1. required to identify in which political party's primary they wish to participate?
- 2. not required to identify in which political party's primary they wish to participate but can only vote in one party's primary?
- 3. able to vote for the candidates of more than one political party (for different offices)?

TURN TO P. 5, Q. 20

19B. (SHOW CARD 2)

When it comes to voting in primary elections in which two or more parties have candidates, are people in (NAME OF PLACE): (READ RESPONSES)

- 1. required to identify in which political party's primary they wish to participate?
- 2. not required to identify in which political party's primary they wish to participate but can only vote in one party's primary?
- 3. able to vote for the candidates of more than one political party (for different offices)?

TURN TO P. 6, Q. 26

20. Once people have registered to vote in (NAME OF PLACE), must they re-register to vote after a certain period of time even though they always vote?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO Q. 22

21. How long is this period of time?

_____ YEARS

_____ MONTHS

22. Are the names of people registered to vote in (NAME OF PLACE) ever deleted from the voter registration lists?

1. YES

5. NO → TURN TO P. 6, Q. 27

23. What are the rules for deciding whose names should be deleted from the voter registration lists?

23a. Anything else? _____

6.

24. How frequently are names of people registered to vote deleted from the voter registration lists?

25. When are their names deleted?

26. Are the registration records of people who have been removed from the voter registration files kept in a "dead" or "inactive" file or are they simply discarded?

1. KEPT IN A "DEAD" OR "INACTIVE" FILE

5. DISCARDED

27. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the recent general election. What times did the polling places in (NAME OF PLACE) officially open and close for the general election held on November 2, 1976?

TIME OPENED

TIME CLOSED

28. Which types of voting systems were used by people here who voted in person in the November, 1976 general election? (READ ALL CHOICES. CHECK ALL MENTIONS.)

1. Voting Machines?

2. Paper Ballots?

3. Computer Punch Cards?

7. Other (SPECIFY):

29. Which types of voting systems were used by people here who voted absentee in the November, 1976 general election? (READ ALL CHOICES. CHECK ALL MENTIONS.)

1. Voting Machines?

2. Paper Ballots?

3. Computer Punch Cards?

7. Other (SPECIFY):

30. Were the voting choices on the ballot for the November, 1976 general election printed in a language other than English?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO Q. 33

31. Were there separate ballots used for each language or were they printed both in English and another language?

1. ONLY ANOTHER LANGUAGE

5. BOTH ENGLISH AND ANOTHER LANGUAGE

32. What other languages were used?

33. How were the names of the candidates for partisan offices in the November, 1976 general election arranged on the ballot in (NAME OF PLACE)--were the names of all candidates from a political party listed together in a "party column" or were the candidates running for a single office grouped or "blocked" together?

1. PARTY COLUMN

5. OFFICE BLOCK
GO TO Q. 35

7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____

34. Was the name of the party or a party symbol--a donkey or elephant, for example--at the top of each column?

1. YES

5. NO

35. Was the political party membership of each candidate listed with his or her name?

1. YES

5. NO

36. Did the ballot indicate whether one of the candidates seeking office was an incumbent?

1. YES

5. NO

8.

37. In the November, 1976 general election did a person have to cast individual votes for each office or was it possible to vote a "straight party ticket" with a single lever, mark, or punch?

1. A SINGLE LEVER, MARK OR PUNCH

IF VOLUNTEERED:
3. TWO OR MORE LEVERS, MARKS, OR PUNCHES

5. INDIVIDUAL VOTES

38. Was there a primary election for statewide offices here preceding the November 2, 1976 general election?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO Q. 42

39. At that time how many political parties held primaries contested by two or more candidates?

_____ NUMBER

40. Which political parties were they?

41. Were there any nonpartisan primary races on the ballot?

1. YES

5. NO

42. Is there a law in (NAME OF PLACE) which allows people to take time off from work to vote on election day?

1. YES

5. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

TURN TO P. 9, Q. 45

43. Does this law apply only to general elections or to other elections as well?

1. ONLY TO GENERAL ELECTIONS

5. OTHER ELECTIONS

8. DON'T KNOW

44. Does this law include a provision for people to be paid their regular wages for the time they miss from work because they are voting?

1. YES

5. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

45. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the way voting and registration are administered here. If something were to happen to damage or destroy the voter registration files in (NAME OF PLACE), is there some form of back-up system available?

1. YES



5. NO

→ GO TO Q. 48

46. How does the voter registration file back-up system operate?

47. Where are the back-up registration files located?

48. If something were to happen to this area's voting system on election day--such as machines being vandalized or paper ballots being stolen or destroyed--is there some form of back-up system which would be readily available?

1. YES



5. NO

→ GO TO Q. 50

49. How does the election day voting back-up system operate?

50. During 1976, what was the normal size of the regular office staff responsible for maintaining the registration files and voting records in (NAME OF PLACE)?

10.

51. How many of these people were full-time and how many part-time employees?

<u>TYPE OF REGULAR STAFF</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
FULL-TIME	_____
PART-TIME	_____

52. Did this staff devote all or most of their time to maintaining the registration files and voting records?

1. YES, "ALL" OR "MOST"

5. NO

53. In the period during the fall leading up to the November, 1976 general election, were any temporary employees other than polling place officials added to the staff to register voters and/or to prepare for that election?

1. YES

5. NO → GO TO Q. 55

54. How many full-time and how many part-time temporary employees were added to the staff (again, not including polling place officials)?

<u>TYPE OF TEMPORARY STAFF</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
FULL-TIME	_____
PART-TIME	_____

55. On Election Day--November 2, 1976--how many people were hired for this office to work at the polls and assist in the conduct of the election?

_____ NUMBER

56. How are the people hired to work on Election Day normally chosen--are they nominated by the political parties, taken from civil service lists, or what?

1. NOMINATED BY POLITICAL PARTIES

3. TAKEN FROM CIVIL SERVICE LISTS

7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____

57. What was the average hourly wage or monthly salary paid to the regular staff and to the temporary staff during the period September 1, 1976 and November 2, 1976?

<u>TYPE OF WORKER</u>	<u>REGULAR STAFF AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE OR MONTHLY SALARY</u>	<u>TEMPORARY STAFF AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE OR MONTHLY SALARY</u>
FULL-TIME	\$ _____	\$ _____
PART-TIME	\$ _____	\$ _____
ELECTION DAY		\$ _____

58. Are there any particular qualifications or experience required to be hired as a full-time, part-time, or temporary worker in this office? What about...

- a. Full-time: _____

- b. Part-time: _____

- c. Temporary: _____

59. Is the position of clerk or registrar filled by election, by appointment or by civil service/merit procedures?

1. ELECTION

2. APPOINTMENT

3. CIVIL SERVICE/MERIT PROCEDURES

7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____

61. THUMBNAIL SKETCH:

INDIVIDUAL VOTER RECORD

Respondent's Label

Interviewer's Label

1. Was there a voter registration record available for the person whose name is on this label?

1. Yes

3. No, registration not required

5. No record available

2A. In which ward and/or precinct did this person reside?

Ward Precinct

2B. In which ward and/or precinct did this person reside?

Ward Precinct

GO TO 7

3. Was this person registered, or otherwise eligible, to vote in the November 2, 1976 general election?

1. Yes

5. No

GO TO 10

4. Which political party was this person registered as belonging to?

1. Democratic

3. "Independent"

5. Republican

7. Other, specify: _____

2. "Uncommitted"

6. Record does not indicate political preference

5. When did this person first register to vote?

Month Day Year

99. Information not available

6. What was the recorded date of birth for this person?

Month Day Year

99. Not recorded

7. Did this person's name appear on a list, file card, or some other record indicating eligibility to vote on November 2, 1976? (Make sure you check all possible voting files.)

1. Yes, active file

3. Yes, inactive file

5. No

8. Does the record indicate that this person did vote in the November 2, 1976 general election?

1. Yes, did vote 5. No, did not vote
GO TO 10

9. Did this person vote in person or was an absentee ballot used in the November, 1976 general election?

1. In person 5. Absentee ballot 8. Method of voting not indicated on record

10. Was this person registered, or otherwise eligible, to vote in the November 5, 1974 general election?

1. Yes 2. Eligible to vote, registration not required 5. No
GO TO 14

11. Did this person's name appear on a list, file card, or some other record indicating eligibility to vote on November 5, 1974? (Make sure you check all possible voting files.)

1. Yes, active file 3. Yes, inactive file 5. No
GO TO 14

12. Does the record indicate that this person did vote in the November 5, 1974 general election?

1. Yes, did vote 5. No, did not vote
GO TO 14

13. Did this person vote in person or use an absentee ballot in the November, 1974 election?

1. In person 5. Absentee ballot 8. Method of voting not indicated on record

14. Was this person registered, or otherwise eligible, to vote in the November 7, 1972 general election?

1. Yes 2. Eligible to vote, registration not required 5. No
GO TO 18

15. Did this person's name appear on a list, file card, or some other record indicating eligibility to vote on November ~~7~~², 1976? (Make sure you check all possible voting files.)

1. Yes active file 3. Yes, inactive file 5. No
GO TO 18

16. Does the record indicate that this person did vote in the November 7, 1972 general election?

1. Yes, did vote 5. No, did not vote
GO TO 18

NAME OF PLACE: _____

Interviewer's Label

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED

<u>Col- lected</u>	<u>Used but not Avail- able</u>	<u>Not Used</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. VOTER REGISTRATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Obtain a copy of a booklet or information sheet which lists the requirements a citizen in (NAME OF PLACE) must meet to be able to register to vote.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Also pick up a copy of the form(s) used to register voters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEPUTY/TEMPORARY REGISTRARS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. If deputy or temporary registrars are used in (NAME OF PLACE), try to obtain a list of the qualifications and a description of any training necessary to qualify for the position.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Also try to get a copy of any rules and/or procedures which deputy or temporary registrars must follow.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. REGISTRATION FIGURES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Try to get a copy of a document with the number of people preferably by precinct, or ward if there are no precincts, who were registered to vote in the November, 1976 general election.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pick up any booklets, pamphlets, printed or mimeographed materials available for or mailed to registered voters which were intended to instruct or assist the voters or give them information about the November, 1976 general election.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. ABSENTEE BALLOTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Collect copies of the rules and/or procedures for obtaining an absentee ballot in (NAME OF PLACE) and any instructions given to the voters about preparing and casting (voting) their absentee ballot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Also obtain a copy of the form a voter in (NAME OF PLACE) must complete in order to apply for an absentee ballot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDICAPPED OR ELDERLY OR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PERSONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If there are any in (NAME OF PLACE), pick up a copy of the special regulations or procedures and/or a description of the special facilities used to assist handicapped or elderly or non-English speaking voters to register to vote and/or cast their ballot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLLING PLACE OFFICIALS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Try to obtain a list of the qualifications necessary to become a poll official in (NAME OF PLACE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Also try to get a copy of any rules and/or procedures which the poll officials must follow.

<u>Col- lected</u>	<u>Used but not Avail- able</u>	<u>Not Used</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLL WATCHERS OR CHALLENGERS

Determine if there are any requirements a person in (NAME OF PLACE) must meet to qualify as a poll "watcher" or "challenger." If so, obtain a copy of them. [A poll watcher or challenger is someone assigned, usually by a political party, to watch the official proceedings at the polling place and challenge--or question--the credentials and/or any actions taken by either a voter or a polling place official which seem improper or illegal. They may also be there to record the names of the voters for their political party.]

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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9. SAMPLE BALLOT

Try to obtain the "sample" ballot(s) for the general election held on November 2, 1976. A sample ballot may be either a copy of a paper ballot, a facsimile of the ballot that would appear in a voting machine, or an absentee ballot, or any combination of these different forms.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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10. STATUTORY REGULATIONS

If they are conveniently assembled in one or a few pamphlets or printed sheets, pick up copies of any local or state regulations which pertain to the conduct of elections in (NAME OF PLACE). In some areas the actual texts of the regulations may not be available but the Officer or Clerk may be able to give you the "citation" (where they can be found) to the statutes. Please record this information:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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11. ELECTION DISTRICT MAP

Get a copy of the map(s) which display the boundaries of the local election districts as they existed in November, 1976. Local election districts are the smallest units used in the administration of elections and tabulation of the votes. Usually they are wards and/or precincts. They are not necessarily the boundaries for every political office--e.g., state representative, county commissioner, and the like.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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12. POLLING PLACES

Obtain a list of each polling place and its address within the jurisdiction of (NAME OF PLACE) which was used in the November, 1976 general election.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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13. VOTING RETURNS

Try to get a copy of a document with the final election results for the November, 1976 general election for each precinct (or ward if there are no precincts) in (NAME OF PLACE).

NAME OF PLACE: _____

INTERVIEWER'S EVALUATION

1. How helpful or of how much assistance to you was the official and his/her staff responsible for maintaining the registration files and voting records in

	Very Helpful (1)	Somewhat Helpful (2)	Not Very Helpful (3)	Not Helpful At All (4)
a. answering your questions?				
b. providing you with requested materials?				
c. assisting you in checking individual registration and voting records?				

2. If you answered (3) or (4) to any of the above, please explain:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Were the registration records in (NAME OF PLACE) available?

1. All records available	2. Most records available	3. Only a few records available	4. No records available
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4. Generally, in what condition did the registration records here appear to be? For instance, were the records organized in an efficient manner, maintained in an orderly state, and kept in a safe place?

1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor
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5. How were the registration records here maintained -- by computer or by hand (including typewriter)?

1. By computer	5. By hand or typed	7. Other, specify: _____ _____
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6. Generally, how "complete" were the individual registration records in (NAME OF PLACE)? For instance, were the records missing pieces of information which they were supposed to have or in any other way incomplete?

1. Very complete GO TO 8	2. Somewhat complete ↓	3. Somewhat incomplete ↓	4. Very incomplete ↓
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7. Why do you say so? _____

8. Were the voting records in (NAME OF PLACE) available?

1. All records available	2. Most records available	3. Only a few records available	4. No records available
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9. Generally, in what condition did the voting records here appear to be? For instance, were the records organized in an efficient manner, maintained in an orderly state, and kept in a safe place?

1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor
--------------	---------	---------	---------

10. How were the voting records here maintained -- by computer or by hand (including typewriter)?

1. By computer	5. By hand or typed	7. Other, specify: _____ _____
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11. Generally, how "complete" were the individual voting records in (NAME OF PLACE)? For instance, were the records missing pieces of information which they were supposed to have or in any other way incomplete?

1. Very complete GO TO 13	2. Somewhat complete ↓	3. Somewhat incomplete ↓	4. Very incomplete ↓
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12. Why do you say so? _____

13. Were the registration and voting records maintained in the same office, or in the same location but in different offices, or in two or more different locations?

1. Same office	3. Same location, different offices	5. Two or more different locations
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14. Did the records appear to have been heavily used -- including written notes, corrections and other adjustments -- or did they appear to have been new records?

1. Heavily used	3. Not heavily used	5. New records
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