

**NOTE:**

Experimental modules (highlighted in gray) are considered supplemental to the AmericasBarometer, and not released for a minimum of two years, after that period interested parties can contact LAPOP with questions about how to access these data.

*AmericasBarometer 2021 United States Questionnaire Version # 17.5.4.3 IRB Approval #:200472*



## LAPOP: United States Online Survey, 2021

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**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: "Decline to answer" option will be allowed but not prompted. If the individual attempts to skip a question, give prompt that says "You didn't answer the question. We would greatly appreciate it if you would", then the page must re-appear with the same question and answer choices, plus the "Decline to answer" option that the respondent can select at that point.]**

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DO NOT SHOW VARIABLES IDNUM, IDIOMAQ, FECHA, AND TI TO RESPONDENTS, THOSE ARE TO BE FILLED OUT AUTOMATICALLY AND ADDED IN THE DATASET]**

You have been selected at random to participate in a study of public opinion that is being conducted by YouGov. The project is supported by Vanderbilt University.

The interview will last approximately 20 minutes.

The objective of the study is to learn your opinions about different aspects of the way things are in the United States.

Although you have been selected to participate, your participation in the study is voluntary. You can decline to answer any question or end the interview at any time. The replies that you give will be kept confidential and anonymous.

If you have any questions about the study, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Elizabeth Zechmeister by email at [liz.zechmeister@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:liz.zechmeister@vanderbilt.edu).

Are you willing to participate?

(1) Yes  
(2) No

**IDNUM.** Questionnaire number [assigned by the office]

To begin...

Q2Y. In what year were you born? [PROGRAMMING NOTE: Cannot be less than 18 years old. If less than 18 years old, end the interview]

**IDIOAQ. Questionnaire language:** (2) English

**FECHA. Date Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Month:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** 2021

**USPOS:** What is your zip code? (Do not include any spaces) \_\_\_\_\_

Next, we would like to ask some questions about the COVID-19 virus.

**COVID1.** How serious of a problem do you think the COVID-19 virus outbreak is for the United States?

(1) Very serious (2) Somewhat serious (3) Not so serious (4) Not serious at all  
(5) Have not thought much about this  
(988888) Decline to answer

	<b>Very worried</b>	<b>Somewhat worried</b>	<b>A little worried</b>	<b>Not worried at all</b>	<b>Decline to answer</b>
<b>COVID2AT.</b> How worried are you about the possibility that you or someone in your household will get sick from COVID-19 in the next 3 months?	1	2	3	4	988888

**IDIO2.** Do you think that **your** current economic situation is better, the same or worse than it was **twelve months ago**?

(1) Better [Skip to FS2] (2) Same [Skip to FS2] (3) Worse [Continue]  
(988888) Decline to answer [Skip to FS2]

**IDIO2COV.** And is that mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic or another reason?

(1) The COVID-19 pandemic  
(2) Another reason  
(988888) Decline to answer  
(999999) Inapplicable

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Decline to answer</b>
<b>FS2.</b> In the past three months, because of a lack of money or other resources, did your household ever run out of food?	0 [Skip to IT1]	1 [Continue]	988888 [Skip to IT1]

**FS2COVIDN.** And did that happen mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic or for another reason?

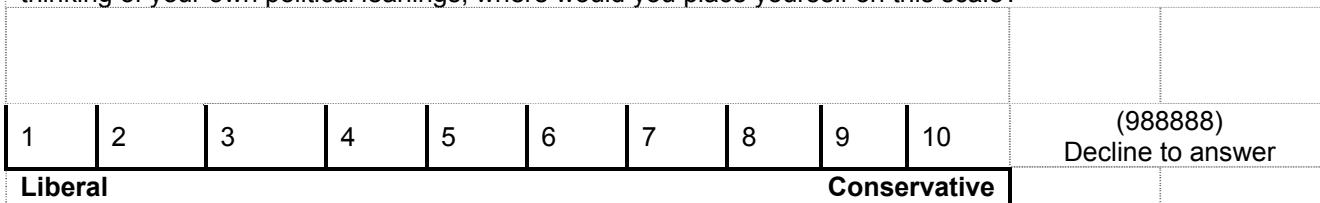
(1) The COVID-19 pandemic  
(2) Another reason  
(988888) Decline to answer  
(999999) Inapplicable

Moving on from discussing COVID-19...

**IT1.** Speaking of the people from around your community, would you say that people in your community are very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy or untrustworthy?

(1) Very trustworthy (2) Somewhat trustworthy  
(3) Not very trustworthy (4) Untrustworthy  
(988888) Decline to answer

**L1B.** Now, to change the subject... This is a 1-10 scale that goes from liberal to conservative. One means liberal and 10 means conservative. Nowadays, when we speak of political leanings, we talk of liberals and conservatives. In other words, some people sympathize more with the liberals and others with the conservatives. According to the meaning that the terms "liberals" and "conservatives" have for you, and thinking of your own political leanings, where would you place yourself on this scale?



**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomize the order of JC13 and JC13COVID.]**

Some people say that under some circumstances it would be justified for the military of this country to take power by a coup d'état (military coup). In your opinion, would a military coup be justified...

JC13. When there is a lot of corruption.	(1) It would be justified	(2) No, it would not be justified	(988888) Decline to answer
JC13COVID. When there is a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic.	(1) It would be justified	(2) No, it would not be justified	(988888) Decline to answer

JC15A. Do you believe that when the country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the president of the country to close the Congress and govern without Congress?	(1) Yes, it is justified	(2) No, it is not justified	Decline to answer (988888)
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**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomize the order of JCCOV1 and JCCOV2.]**

JCCOV1. Do you believe that when there is a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic it is justifiable for the president of the country to postpone elections?	(1) Yes, it is justified	(2) No, it is not justified	Decline to answer (988888)
JCCOV2. Do you believe that when there is a lot of violence it is justifiable for the president of the country to postpone elections?	(1) Yes, it is justified	(2) No, it is not justified	Decline to answer (988888)

**VIC1EXT.** Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats, or **any other type of crime** in the past 12 months?

(1) Yes      (2) No  
(988888) Decline to answer

**POLE2N.** In general, are you very satisfied, satisfied, **dissatisfied**, or very **dissatisfied** with the performance of the police in your neighborhood?

(1) Very satisfied      (2) Satisfied      (3) Dissatisfied      (4) Very dissatisfied  
(988888) Decline to answer

**AOJ11.** Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?  
 (1) Very safe    (2) Somewhat safe    (3) Somewhat unsafe    (4) Very unsafe  
 (988888) Decline to answer

Here are some things that can happen during elections. Would you say they happen always, sometimes or never in the United States?	Always	Sometimes	Never	Decline to answer
<b>COUNTFAIR1.</b> Votes are counted correctly and fairly.	1	2	3	988888
<b>COUNTFAIR2.</b> The rich buy the election results.	1	2	3	988888
<b>COUNTFAIR3.</b> Politicians can find out who each person voted for.	1	2	3	988888
<b>COUNTFAIR4.</b> Some foreign governments may influence the election results of the United States.	1	2	3	988888

Countries organize themselves in different ways to make decisions. Which of the following ways is the one you think is best for the United States?

**WVS12.** In deciding what laws to make, what do you think is best for the United States: should elected representatives of the people decide, or should citizens vote directly to decide each issue?  
 (1) Elected representatives  
 (2) Citizens vote directly  
 (988888) Decline to answer

**WVS13.** In deciding what laws to make, what do you think is best for the United States: should a group of experts decide or representatives elected by the people decide?  
 (1) A group of experts  
 (2) Elected representatives  
 (988888) Decline to answer

**[Programming Note: GIVE CHM1BN AND CHM2BN TO RANDOMIZED 50% OF SAMPLE]**

## QUESTIONNAIRE A

**CHM1BN.** Which political system seems best for the United States?  
 (1) A system that guarantees access to a basic income and services for all citizens, even if the authorities cannot be elected  
 (2) To be able to vote to elect the authorities, even if some people do not have access to a basic income and services  
 (988888) Decline to answer  
 (999999) Inapplicable

## QUESTIONNAIRE B

**CHM2BN.** Which political system seems best for the United States?

(1) A system that guarantees access to a basic income and services for all citizens, even if they cannot express their political opinions without fear or censorship

(2) A system in which everybody can express their political opinions without fear or censorship, even if some people do not have access to a basic income and services

(988888) Decline to answer

(999999) Inapplicable

And thinking about types of leadership ...	Very Good	Good	Neither Good nor Bad	Bad	Very Bad	Decline to answer
<b>CSES6N.</b> Having a strong leader in the government, even if the leader bends the rules to get things done. Would you say that it is very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad, or very bad as a form of government for our country?	1	2	3	4	5	988888

Please answer the following questions using a number on a scale ranging from 1 to 7, where 1 means NOT AT ALL and 7 means A LOT. If your opinion is between not at all and a lot, you would choose an intermediate score.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

988888

**Not at All**

**A Lot**

Decline to answer

**B2.** To what extent do you respect the political institutions of the United States?

**B3.** To what extent do you think that citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system of the United States?

**B4.** To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of the United States?

**B6.** To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of the United States?

**B32.** To what extent do you trust the local or municipal government?

**B37.** To what extent do you trust the mass media?

**B47A.** To what extent do you trust elections in this country?

**B21A.** To what extent do you trust the President?

**B43.** To what extent are you proud of being American?

(888888) I don't consider myself American

**MOVUS1.** To what extent do you think that it is possible to start out poor in this country, work hard and become well-off?

We will now stop using the scale from 1 to 7 and we will talk about other topics.

**DST1BN.** The government should spend more money to enforce building codes to make homes safer from natural disasters, even if it means spending less on other programs. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- (1) Strongly agree
- (2) Somewhat agree
- (3) Neither agree nor disagree
- (4) Somewhat disagree
- (5) Strongly disagree
- (988888) Decline to answer

**PR3DNR.** How likely is it that people in your neighborhood would be punished by authorities for building, renovating or remodeling a house without a license or permit?

- (1) Not likely
- (2) A little likely
- (3) Somewhat likely
- (4) Very likely
- (988888) Decline to answer

**PR3ENR.** And if someone in your neighborhood were to build, renovate or remodel a house, how likely do you think it is that they would be asked to pay a bribe?

- (1) Not likely
- (2) A little likely
- (3) Somewhat likely
- (4) Very likely
- (988888) Decline to answer

**DRK1C.** How likely do you think it is that the United States could experience a natural disaster, such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados or storms, in which people may be injured or killed, in the next 10 years? Do you think it is...?

- (1) Not likely
- (2) A little likely
- (3) Somewhat likely
- (4) Very likely
- (988888) Decline to answer

**DRK1N.** How likely do you think it is that you or someone in your immediate family here in the United States could be killed or seriously injured in a natural disaster, such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados or storms in the next 10 years? Do you think it is...?

- (1) Not likely
- (2) A little likely
- (3) Somewhat likely
- (4) Very likely
- (988888) Decline to answer

**DRR1.** Have you or someone in your immediate family ever been affected by a natural disaster such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados or storms resulting in injury, death, or damage to the home or other property here in the United States?

- (1) Yes [Continue]
- (2) No [Skip to M1]
- (988888) Decline to answer [Skip to M1]

**DRR1A.** And in what year did this natural disaster occur? [If you have experienced more than one disaster, answer for the most recent one. If you don't remember, give an estimate.]

Enter year: \_\_\_\_\_ [Programming note: minimum 1900, maximum 2021]

- (988888) Decline to answer
- (999999) Inapplicable

**DRR1B.** And how affected, physically or materially, were you or members of your family as a result of this disaster?

- (1) A lot
- (2) Some
- (3) A little
- (4) Not at all
- (988888) Decline to answer
- (999999) Inapplicable

**M1.** Speaking in general of the current administration, how would you rate the job performance of President Joe Biden?

(1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad  
(988888) Decline to answer

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

988888

**Strongly Disagree**

**Strongly Agree**

Decline to answer

Here is a statement. Please tell us your opinion using a scale from 1, which means "strongly disagree" to 7, which means "strongly agree". You can use any number between 1 and 7.

**ING4.** Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Now we will stop using this scale from 1 to 7 and will talk about other topics...

**ANESTG.** How much do you trust the federal government to do what is right?

(1) A lot (2) Somewhat (3) A little (4) Not at all  
(988888) Decline to answer

**PN4.** In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, **dissatisfied**, or very **dissatisfied** with the way democracy works in the United States?

(1) Very satisfied (2) Satisfied (3) Dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied  
(988888) Decline to answer

Talking about your personal experience with things that happen in everyday life ...

**EXC2.** Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?

(0) No (1) Yes  
(988888) Decline to answer

**EXC6.** In the last twelve months, did any government employee ask you for a bribe?

(0) No (1) Yes  
(988888) Decline to answer

**EXC7NEW.** Thinking of the politicians of the United States... how many of them do you believe are involved in corruption?

(1) None  
(2) Less than half of them  
(3) Half of them  
(4) More than half of them  
(5) All  
(988888) Decline to answer

**VB1.** Are you registered to vote?

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Being processed  
(988888) Decline to answer

**VB2.** Did you vote in the last **presidential elections of 2020**?

(1) Voted [**Continue**]  
(2) Did not vote [**Skip to USVB1011**]  
(988888) Decline to answer [**Skip to USVB1011**]

**VB3N.** Who did you vote for in the last presidential election of 2020?

- (00) None (Blank ballot)
- (97) None (null ballot)

- (4001) Joe Biden, Democrat
- (4002) Donald Trump, Republican
- (4003) Jo Jorgensen, Libertarian
- (4004) Howie Hawkins, Green Party
- (4077) Other

- (988888) Decline to answer
- (999999) Inapplicable (Didn't vote)

**USVB1011.** Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?

- (4001) Republican
- (4002) Democrat
- (4003) Independent
- (77) Other

- (988888) Decline to answer

**POL1.** How much interest do you have in politics: a lot, some, little or none?

- (1) A lot
- (2) Some
- (3) Little
- (4) None

- (988888) Decline to answer

**USVB20.** If the next presidential elections were being held this week, what would you do?

- (1) Wouldn't vote
- (2) Would vote for a candidate from the Democratic party
- (3) Would vote for a candidate from the Republican party
- (5) Would vote for a candidate from a third party
- (4) Would go to vote but would leave the ballot blank

- (988888) Decline to answer

We are going to show you some statements about relationships of couples and we will ask you your opinion.

Suppose a woman in your neighborhood was beaten by their partner.

**AOJG2N.** If the incident was reported, how likely would it be that the police would take it seriously?

- (1) Very likely
- (2) Somewhat likely
- (3) A little likely
- (4) Not at all likely

- (988888) Decline to answer

**AOJG3N1.** If the case were brought to justice, how likely would the judicial system be to punish the culprit?

- (1) Very likely
- (2) Somewhat likely
- (3) A little likely
- (4) Not at all likely

- (988888) Decline to answer

Now, we will show several statements that people sometimes make. Please respond to the statements with the response options provided.

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomize the order of the questions within the battery NATID\*; provide in a grid format.]**

For each statement, we would like you to tell us how strongly you disagree or agree.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Decline to answer
<b>NATID1.</b> Being American is very important to me.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>NATID2.</b> I see myself as a typical American.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>NATID3.</b> The term 'American' does <b>not</b> describe me well.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>NATID4.</b> When talking about Americans, I often say "we" instead of "they."	1	2	3	4	5	988888

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomize the order of the two batteries - AECHAR\* and AEMISS\* -, and of the questions within each battery; provide in a grid format.]**

For each statement, we would like you to tell us how strongly you disagree or agree.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Decline to answer
<b>AECHAR1.</b> The United States has a unique character that makes it the greatest country in the world.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AECHAR2.</b> When we teach American schoolchildren that the U.S. has the best political system, we teach them the truth.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AECHAR3.</b> Other countries should try to make their governments as much like ours as possible.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AECHAR4.</b> America's way of doing things is <b>no</b> better than the way other countries do things.	1	2	3	4	5	988888

For each statement, we would like you to tell us how strongly you disagree or agree.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Decline to answer
<b>AEMISS1.</b> The United States should take the lead in solving international crises and conflicts.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AEMISS2.</b> The United States should use its position as a superpower to promote democracy around the world.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AEMISS3.</b> It is the destiny of Americans to lead the world in the creation of a democratic order.	1	2	3	4	5	988888
<b>AEMISS4.</b> The world would be a better place if the U.S. <b>stopped</b> trying to remake foreign nations in its image.	1	2	3	4	5	988888

Speaking now of other topics ...

**ED\_USA.** What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- (01) Did not graduate from high school
- (02) High school graduate
- (03) Some college, but no degree (yet)
- (04) 2-year college degree
- (05) 4-year college degree
- (06) Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)
- (988888) Decline to answer

**OCUP4A.** How do you mainly spend your time? Are you currently

- (1) Working?
- (2) Not working, but have a job?
- (3) Actively looking for a job?
- (4) A student?
- (5) Taking care of the home?
- (6) Retired, a pensioner or permanently disabled to work?
- (7) Not working and not looking for a job?
- (988888) Decline to answer

**Q10NEWT.** And into which of the following ranges does the total **monthly** income of your household fit, including remittances from abroad and the income of all working adults and children?

- (401) Between \$0 and \$1,300
- (402) Between \$1,301 and \$3,000
- (403) Between \$3,001 and \$4,300
- (404) Between \$4,301 and \$7,500
- (405) More than \$7,500
- (988888) Decline to answer

**Q11N.** What is your marital status?

- (1) Single
- (2) Married
- (3) Common law marriage (Living with an unmarried partner)
- (4) Divorced
- (5) Separated
- (6) Widowed
- (7) Civil union
- (988888) Decline to answer

**Q12C.** How many people in total live in your household at this time, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

(988888) Decline to answer

**Q12BN.** How many children under the age of 13 live in this household? \_\_\_\_\_

00 = None

(988888) Decline to answer

**ETID.** What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

- (1) White (4) Black or African American
- (4003) Hispanic or Latino (4004) Asian or Asian American (4005) Native American
- (4006) Mixed race (4008) Middle Eastern
- (7) Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- (988888) Decline to answer

**G10N.** About how often do you pay attention to the news, whether on TV, the radio, newspapers, or the internet?

- (1) Daily (2) A few times a week (3) A few times a month
- (4) A few times a year (5) Never
- (988888) Decline to answer

**NEWSCONS1.** We would like to know which TV shows you enjoy. Below is the list of programs that many Americans watch. Please check all the programs you have regularly watched in the past year.

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: multiple choice options - program names should be displayed in random order]**

- (01) NCIS (CBS)
- (02) This is Us (NBC)
- (03) Young Sheldon (CBS)
- (04) Chicago PD (NBC)
- (05) Blue Bloods (CBS)
- (06) FBI (CBS)
- (07) The Masked Singer (FOX)
- (08) Grey's Anatomy (ABC)
- (09) NFL Sunday Night Football (NBC)
- (10) The Bachelor (ABC)
- (11) 60 Minutes (CBS)
- (12) The Voice (NBC)

(13) The American Idol (ABC)  
 (14) The Amazing Race (CBS)  
 (15) Shark Tank (ABC)  
 (16) Tucker Carlson Tonight (FOX)  
 (17) Hannity (FOX)  
 (18) The Rachel Maddow Show (MSNBC)  
 (19) All In with Chris Hayes (MSNBC)  
 (20) Equalizer (CBS)  
 (77) Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (00) None **[PROGRAMMING NOTE: If this alternative “None” is selected, do not allow to select any other alternative]**  
 (988888) Decline to answer

**PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign each TREATMENT (1 to 5) to 1/5 of respondents.]**  
**[NOTE: We'll need that the dataset includes identifiers for the treatments. We'll need identifiers, because we'll need to know into which group a respondent was sorted.]**

On the next page, we will provide you with an example of a news story that could appear in a local newspaper. Please read the news story carefully. After you finish, you will be asked a few questions about what you have read.

#### **EXPERIMENT 1 – TREATMENT 1 (CONTROL)**

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign “TREATMENT 1” to 1/5 of respondents; n = 300]**

The 2022 midterm elections are just around the corner, and every member of the House of Representatives will be up for reelection.

As always, some lawmakers will cruise to victory, while others will struggle to hang on.

This time, however, there may be a wrinkle to the proceedings-as-usual: *electoral reform*.

One idea out there is the “Fair Representation Act.”

This bill would convert our single-winner House districts into *multi-winner* districts, each with five seats. District voters, then, would fill these seats via *ranked-choice voting*.

A ranked-choice ballot allows you to rank the candidates in order of your preference: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so on.

The five district candidates with the ‘strongest’ overall support would win the seats.

#### **Reactions to the proposal**

This electoral system would be new to the U.S.

Proponents argue this reform would incentivize congressional candidates to appeal to a broader array of voters.

Opponents counter that the proposed change is far too dramatic.

*Please read carefully. The forward button will appear momentarily.*

## EXPERIMENT 1 – TREATMENT 2

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign “TREATMENT 2” to 1/5 of respondents; n = 300]

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This bill would convert our single-winner House districts into *multi-winner* districts, each with five seats. District voters, then, would fill these seats via *ranked-choice voting*.

A ranked-choice ballot allows you to rank the candidates in order of your preference: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so on.

The five district candidates with the ‘strongest’ overall support would win the seats.

### Reactions to the proposal

Although this electoral system would be new to the U.S., many *foreign* countries—in Europe and elsewhere—currently use it.

Proponents argue this reform would incentivize congressional candidates to appeal to a broader array of voters.

Opponents counter that the proposed change is far too dramatic, a “foreign import” that would be *out-of-place in America*.

One such critic is Frank Ellis, 52, of Le Claire, Iowa.

“I don’t understand why people would want this reform,” he says. “It’s an insult to America. Why on earth would this country look to *Europeans* for inspiration?”

*Please read carefully. The forward button will appear momentarily.*

## EXPERIMENT 1 – TREATMENT 3

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign “TREATMENT 3” to 1/5 of respondents; n = 300]

The 2022 midterm elections are just around the corner, and every member of the House of Representatives will be up for reelection.

As always, some lawmakers will cruise to victory, while others will struggle to hang on.

This time, however, there may be a wrinkle to the proceedings-as-usual: *electoral reform*.

One idea out there is the “Fair Representation Act.”

This bill would convert our single-winner House districts into *multi-winner* districts, each with five seats. District voters, then, would fill these seats via *ranked-choice voting*.

A ranked-choice ballot allows you to rank the candidates in order of your preference: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so on.

The five district candidates with the 'strongest' overall support would win the seats.

### Reactions to the proposal

Although this electoral system would be new to the U.S., many *foreign* countries—in Europe and elsewhere—currently use it.

Proponents argue this reform would incentivize congressional candidates to appeal to a broader array of voters.

Opponents counter that the proposed change is far too dramatic, a “foreign import” that would be *out-of-place in America*.

One such critic is Frank Ellis, 52, of Le Claire, Iowa.

“I don’t understand why people would want this reform,” he says. “It’s an insult to America. Why on earth would this country look to *Europeans* for inspiration?”

“I think the way the U.S. does things works quite well,” Ellis continues. “The American way is proven and reliable. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!”

*Please read carefully. The forward button will appear momentarily.*

### EXPERIMENT 1 – TREATMENT 4

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign “TREATMENT 4” to 1/5 of respondents; n = 300]**

The 2022 midterm elections are just around the corner, and every member of the House of Representatives will be up for reelection.

As always, some lawmakers will cruise to victory, while others will struggle to hang on.

This time, however, there may be a wrinkle to the proceedings-as-usual: *electoral reform*.

One idea out there is the “Fair Representation Act.”

This bill would convert our single-winner House districts into *multi-winner* districts, each with five seats. District voters, then, would fill these seats via *ranked-choice voting*.

A ranked-choice ballot allows you to rank the candidates in order of your preference: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so on.

The five district candidates with the 'strongest' overall support would win the seats.

### Reactions to the proposal

Although this electoral system would be new to the U.S., many *foreign* countries—in Europe and elsewhere—currently use it.

Proponents argue this reform would incentivize congressional candidates to appeal to a broader array of voters.

Opponents counter that the proposed change is far too dramatic, a “foreign import” that would be *out-of-place in America*.

One such critic is Frank Ellis, 52, of Le Claire, Iowa.

“I don’t understand why people would want this reform,” he says. “It’s an insult to America. Why on earth would this country look to *Europeans* for inspiration?”

“I feel very proud of the way the U.S. does things,” Ellis continues. “The American way is the envy of the world. And that feels really good!”

*Please read carefully. The forward button will appear momentarily.*

#### **EXPERIMENT 1 – TREATMENT 5**

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomly assign “TREATMENT 5” to 1/5 of respondents; n = 300]**

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One such critic is Frank Ellis, 52, of Le Claire, Iowa.

“I don’t understand why people would want this reform,” he says. “It’s an insult to America. Why on earth would this country look to *Europeans* for inspiration?”

“I think Americans should fully support the way the U.S. does things,” Ellis continues. “The American way is the right way. Be loyal to the brand!”

*Please read carefully. The forward button will appear momentarily.*

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Ask to all respondents]**

**ERFRA1.** If you had to make a choice, to what extent would you support or oppose the electoral reform that the Fair Representation Act proposes?

- (1) Strongly support
- (2) Support
- (3) Neither support nor oppose
- (4) Oppose
- (5) Strongly oppose
- (988888) Decline to answer

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Ask to all respondents]**

**ERFRA2.** According to what you have just read, the Fair Representation Act would, if implemented, reform elections for which office? **[PROGRAMMING NOTE: Randomize order of options]**

- (1) The U.S. president
- (2) The U.S. House of Representatives
- (3) The U.S. Senate
- (4) The fifty state governors
- (5) Don't know
- (988888) Decline to answer

*This completes the survey. Thank you very much for your cooperation.*

**TI.** Duration of the interview **[minutes]** \_\_\_\_\_