

West Virginia Political Attitudes and Behavior Questionnaire
Department of Political Science, Division of Public Administration,
and Institute for Public Affairs of West Virginia University

Questionnaire # _____ Surveyor: _____ Phone No.
Called _____

Hello. My name is (first name) and I am calling for the Institute for Public Affairs at West Virginia University. To gain more insight on West Virginia politics, we are surveying a randomly selected group of West Virginians about their political values and opinions. May I speak with an adult member of the house who is a resident of West Virginia? (If person answering is not an adult resident of West Virginia, ask for such an individual and repeat the greeting)

Will you take a few minutes and answer several questions for us? This interview is completely voluntary, you do not have to answer every question, and we don't record your name or identifying information, so your responses are totally confidential.

(If respondent indicates that the time is inconvenient, ask when it would be a good time to call back. (Schedule appointment)_____)

[Notes for interviewers: 1. If your are asked for a definition of local government, indicate city council or county commission; 2. Please emphasize the terms that are bold faced.]

First a few questions about your political beliefs.

1. How much of the time can you trust the West Virginia state government in Charleston to do what it right: most of the time, some of the time, almost never?

- _____ (1) most of the time
- _____ (2) some of the time
- _____ (3) almost never
- _____ (9) dk/nr

2. How much of the time can you trust your local government to do what it right: most of the time, some of the time, almost never?

- _____ (1) most of the time
- _____ (2) some of the time
- _____ (3) almost never
- _____ (9) dk/nr

3. Would you say that West Virginia state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of the people?

- _____ (1) few big interests
- _____ (2) for the benefit of the people
- _____ (9) dk/nr

4. Who do you feel has the most influence on your state legislators in Charleston: the governor and his staff, special interest lobbyists, the media, the voters who elected her or him, or other legislators?

- _____ (1) the governor and his staff
- _____ (2) special interest lobbyists
- _____ (3) the media

- _____ (4) the voters who elected her or him
- _____ (5) other legislators
- _____ (9) dk/nr

5 What do you think about the job done by West Virginia state legislature in Charleston? Do they do an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

- _____ (1) excellent
- _____ (2) good
- _____ (3) fair
- _____ (4) poor
- _____ (9) dk/nr

6. What do you think about the job done by the governor of West Virginia? Does he do an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

- _____ (1) excellent
- _____ (2) good
- _____ (3) fair
- _____ (4) poor
- _____ (9) dk/nr

7. What do you think about the job done by West Virginia state judges? Do they do an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

- _____ (1) excellent
- _____ (2) good
- _____ (3) fair
- _____ (4) poor
- _____ (9) dk/nr

8. What do you think about the job done by your West Virginia local government officials? Do they do an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

- _____ (1) excellent
- _____ (2) good
- _____ (3) fair
- _____ (4) poor
- _____ (9) dk/nr

9. In general, do you think that your West Virginia state governmental officials are very honest, honest, dishonest, or very dishonest?

- _____ (1) very honest
- _____ (2) honest
- _____ (3) dishonest
- _____ (4) very dishonest
- _____ (9) dk/nr

10. What do you think is the most important problem facing West Virginia's state government today? (Interviewer: "Open ended," do not read responses)

- _____ (1) jobs or the economy
- _____ (2) affordable health care
- _____ (3) quality of public education
- _____ (4) crime
- _____ (5) the environment, or water or air quality
- _____ (6) workers' compensation

- _____ (7) high taxes
- _____ (8) road, highway, or traffic conditions
- _____ (9) treatment of minorities and women
- _____ (10) Other—please list _____
- _____ (11) dk/nr

11. What do you think is the second most important problem facing West Virginia's state government today? (Interviewer: "Open ended," do not read responses)

- _____ (1) jobs or the economy
- _____ (2) affordable health care
- _____ (3) quality of public education
- _____ (4) crime
- _____ (5) the environment, water or air quality
- _____ (6) workers' compensation
- _____ (7) high taxes
- _____ (8) road, highway, or traffic conditions
- _____ (9) treatment of minorities and women
- _____ (10) Other—please list _____

12. Do you think that West Virginia government officials have the knowledge and expertise to solve the most important problems facing the state most of the time, some of the time, almost never?

- _____ (1) most of the time
- _____ (2) some of the time
- _____ (3) almost never
- _____ (9) dk/nr

13. What level of government, federal, state, or local, is best suited to solve West Virginia's economic problems and provide jobs?

- _____ (1) federal
- _____ (2) state
- _____ (3) local
- _____ (9) dk/nr

14. What level of government, federal, state, or local, is best suited to improve health care in West Virginia?

- _____ (1) federal
- _____ (2) state
- _____ (3) local
- _____ (9) dk/nr

15. How do you pay for most health care expenses?

- _____ (1) Health insurance paid largely by employer
- _____ (2) Health insurance I pay, not paid by employer
- _____ (3) Pay no health insurance, pay out of pocket as expenses arise
- _____ (4) Medicaid
- _____ (5) Medicare
- _____ (9) dk/nr

16. Are you currently employed, unemployed, or retired?

- _____ (1) employed—go to 16a, 16b.
- _____ (2) unemployed—go to 17

____ (3) retired—go to 17

____ (9) dk/nr

CUT 16a. If employed outside the home, how many minutes does it take you to get work, one way?

____ minutes

16b. How do you get to work on most days?

____ (1) Drive a vehicle

____ (2) Ride in someone else's vehicle

____ (3) Use public transit

____ (4) Walk or bicycle

____ (9) dk/nr

17. What level of government, federal, state, or local, is best suited to improve public education in West Virginia?

____ (1) federal

____ (2) state

____ (3) local

____ (9) dk/nr

18. CUT Do you think that the majority of law suits in West Virginia are justified or are not justified?

____ (1) Most are justified

____ (2) Only some are justified

____ (3) Most are not justified

____ (9) dk/nr

Now, a few questions about your personal political activities during the past FOUR years.

19. Did you vote in the last election for president?

____ (1) yes

____ (2) no

____ (9) don't know, no response

20. Have you given money to a candidate for political office or to a political party?

____ (1) yes

____ (2) no

____ (9) don't know, no response

21. Have you worked or done errands for a candidate for political office?

____ (1) yes

____ (2) no

____ (9) don't know, no response

22. Have you done to any political rallies, meetings, dinners, speeches, or other things in support of a political candidate?

____ (1) yes

____ (2) no

____ (9) don't know, no response

23. Have you worked with others in your community to try to solve some problem

- _____ (1) yes
- _____ (2) no
- _____ (9) don't know, no response

New: Have you posted stories or comments about state or local politics on the internet?

- _____ (1) yes
- _____ (2) no
- _____ (9) don't know, no response

New: Have you contacted a state legislator or a local elected official about problem in your community?

- _____ (1) yes
- _____ (2) no
- _____ (9) don't know, no response

New: Have you joined a march or outdoor public gathering to protest about a political issue?

- _____ (1) yes
- _____ (2) no
- _____ (9) don't know, no response

24. **Make #1 Question** Would you say that you follow what's going on in West Virginia's government and public affairs most /of the time, some of the time, or hardly at all?

- _____ (1) most of the time
- _____ (2) some of the time
- _____ (3) hardly at all
- _____ (9) dk/nr

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

_____ (1) Republican

(If checked ask) Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- _____ (1) strong Republican
- _____ (2) not a very strong Republican
- _____ (9) dk/nr

_____ (2) Democrat

(If checked ask) Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- _____ (1) strong Democrat
- _____ (2) not a very strong Democrat
- _____ (9) dk/nr

_____ (3) Independent

(If checked ask) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican party or to the Democratic party?

- _____ (1) closer to the Republican party
- _____ (2) closer to the Democratic party
- _____ (3) Neither
- _____ (9) dk/nr

- _____ (4) No preference
- _____ (5) Other party----Name_____
- _____ (9) dk/nr

26. In general, when it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as a very strong liberal, a liberal, a moderate, a conservative, a very strong conservative, or what?

- _____ (1) very strong liberal
- _____ (2) a liberal
- _____ (3) a moderate
- _____ (4) a conservative
- _____ (5) a very strong conservative
- _____ (9) dk/nr

27. Who is the governor of West Virginia? (“Open ended,” do not read responses)

- _____ (1) **Jim Justice**
- _____ (2) other or dk/nr

28. Who is the Speaker of West Virginia’s House of Delegates? (“Open ended,” do not read responses)

- _____ (1)
- _____ (9) Other or dk/nr

CUT 29. What do you think about the job done by Senator Robert C. Byrd? Has he done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job ?

- _____ (1) excellent
- _____ (2) good
- _____ (3) fair
- _____ (4) poor
- _____ (9) dk/nr

Finally, a few questions so we can compare your responses to those of other West Virginians

30. What is the highest grade of school or year of college you have completed?

- _____ (1) Some high school or less (Grades 1-11)
- _____ (2) High School Graduate or GED
- _____ (3) Some college or technical school, no degree
- _____ (4) Bachelor’s or undergraduate degree
- _____ (5) Advanced or graduate degree
- _____ (9) dk/nr

31. In what year were you born?

- _____
- _____ (9) dk/nr

32. (If uncertain) What is your gender?

- (1) Female
- (2) Male
- (9) dk/nr

CUT 33. In what county do you live? (Check by county group and put county number in blank for that group)

- (1) Berkeley, (2) Grant, (3) Hampshire, (4) Hardy, (5) Jefferson, (6) Mineral, (7) Morgan, (8) Pendleton
- (9) Barbour, (10) Doddridge, (11) Harrison, (12) Lewis, (13) Marion, (14) Monongalia, (15) Preston, (16) Randolph, (17) Taylor, (18) Tucker, (19) Upshur
- (20) Brooke, (21) Hancock, (22) Marshall, (23) Ohio, (24) Wetzel
- (25) Calhoun, (26) Gilmer, (27) Jackson, (28) Pleasants, (29) Ritchie, (30) Roane, (31) Tyler, (32) Wirt, (33) Wood
- (34) Cabell, (35) Kanawha, (36) Mason, (37) Putnam, (38) Wayne
- (39) Boone, (40) Fayette, (41) Lincoln, (42) Logan, (43) McDowell, (44) Mingo, (45) Raleigh, (46) Wyoming
- (47) Greenbrier, (48) Mercer, (49) Monroe, (50) Pocahontas, (51)

Summers

- (52) Braxton, (53) Clay, (54) Nicholas, (55) Webster

CUT 34. Have you ever lived outside of West Virginia?

- (1) yes
- (2) no
- (9) dk/nr

35. Would you describe yourself as:

- (1) White or of European ancestry
- (2) Black or African American
- (3) American Indian
- (4) Hispanic or Latino
- (5) Asian or Pacific Islander
- (9) dk/nr

CUT 36. What is your marital status?

- (1) Married
- (2) Separated
- (3) Divorced
- (4) Widowed
- (5) Member of an unmarried couple
- (6) Single, never married

CUT 37. At present do you have any children 17 years of age or less living at home?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

38. In which of these categories, approximately, is your current yearly family income from all sources?

- (1) less than \$25,000
- (2) \$25,001 - \$50,000

- _____ (3) \$50,001 - \$75,000
- _____ (4) \$75,001 - \$100,000
- _____ (5) \$100,001 or more
- _____ (9) dk/nr

39. Is your religious preference Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?

_____ (1) Protestant.

If checked, What church or denomination is that? _____

_____ (2) Roman Catholic

_____ (3) Jewish

_____ (4) Other—Could you please name your faith? _____

_____ (5) None, No preference

_____ (9) dk/nr

Thank you for your assistance. Have a good day (evening)!