



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Objective Conditions at the Polling Location and their Effect on Voter Confidence

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Collaboration

- Funding
- Election Officials
- Academics
- Voters



JEHT foundation



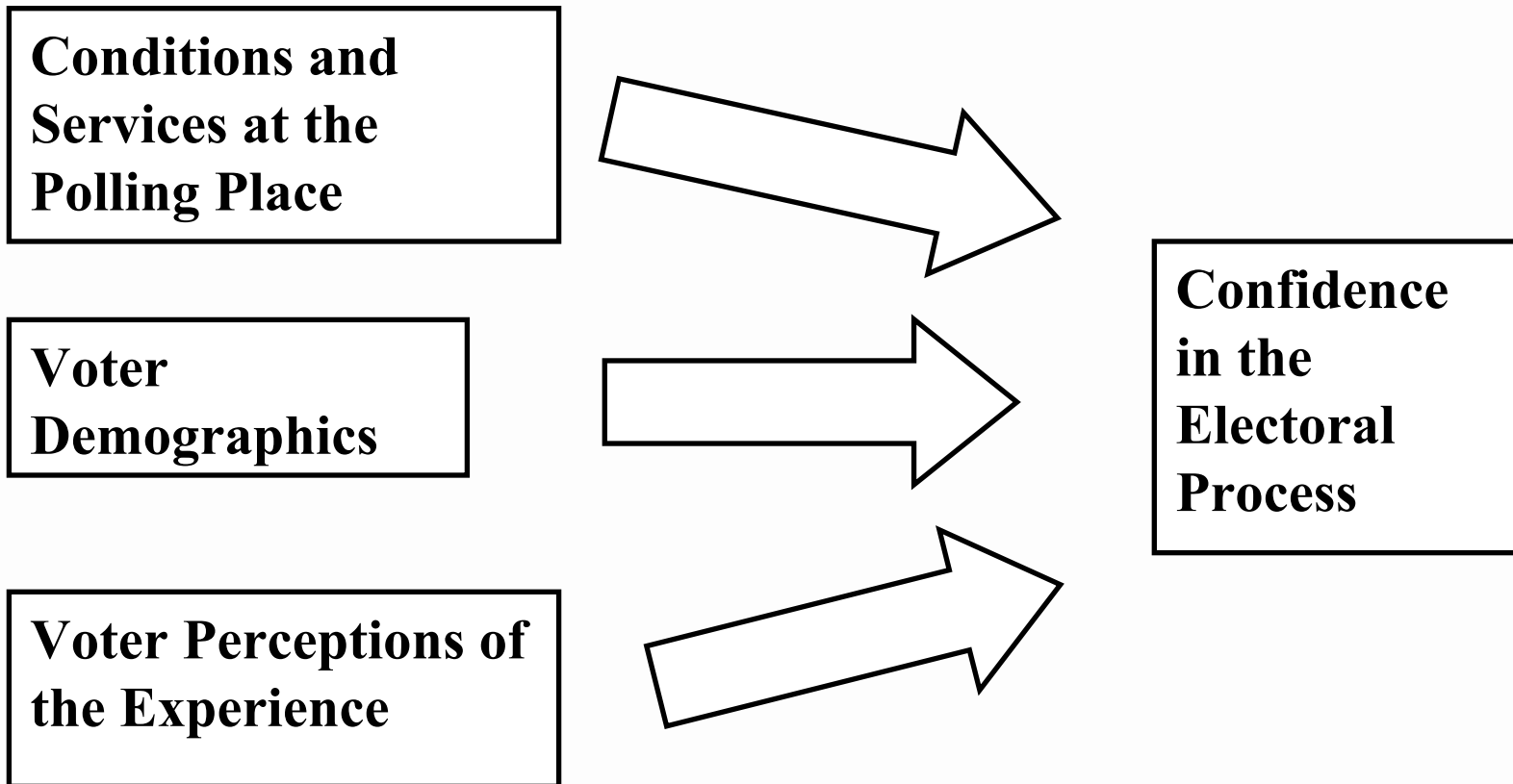


Study Design

- Exit polls
 - Primary in Utah 3rd congressional district
 - General Election Utah statewide and Franklin and Summit Counties in Ohio
- Poll worker surveys in all locations
- Structured Observation of polling locations in a sample of Utah and Ohio locations



Model of Voter Confidence





Satisfaction—fair outcome

- How confident are you that the current election process in [Ohio/Utah] produces fair election outcomes?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Very confident	43.5%	40.1%	64.1%
Somewhat confident	41.6%	46.5%	29.3%
Not too confident/ Not at all confident	14.9%	13.4%	6.6%



Satisfaction—counted accurately

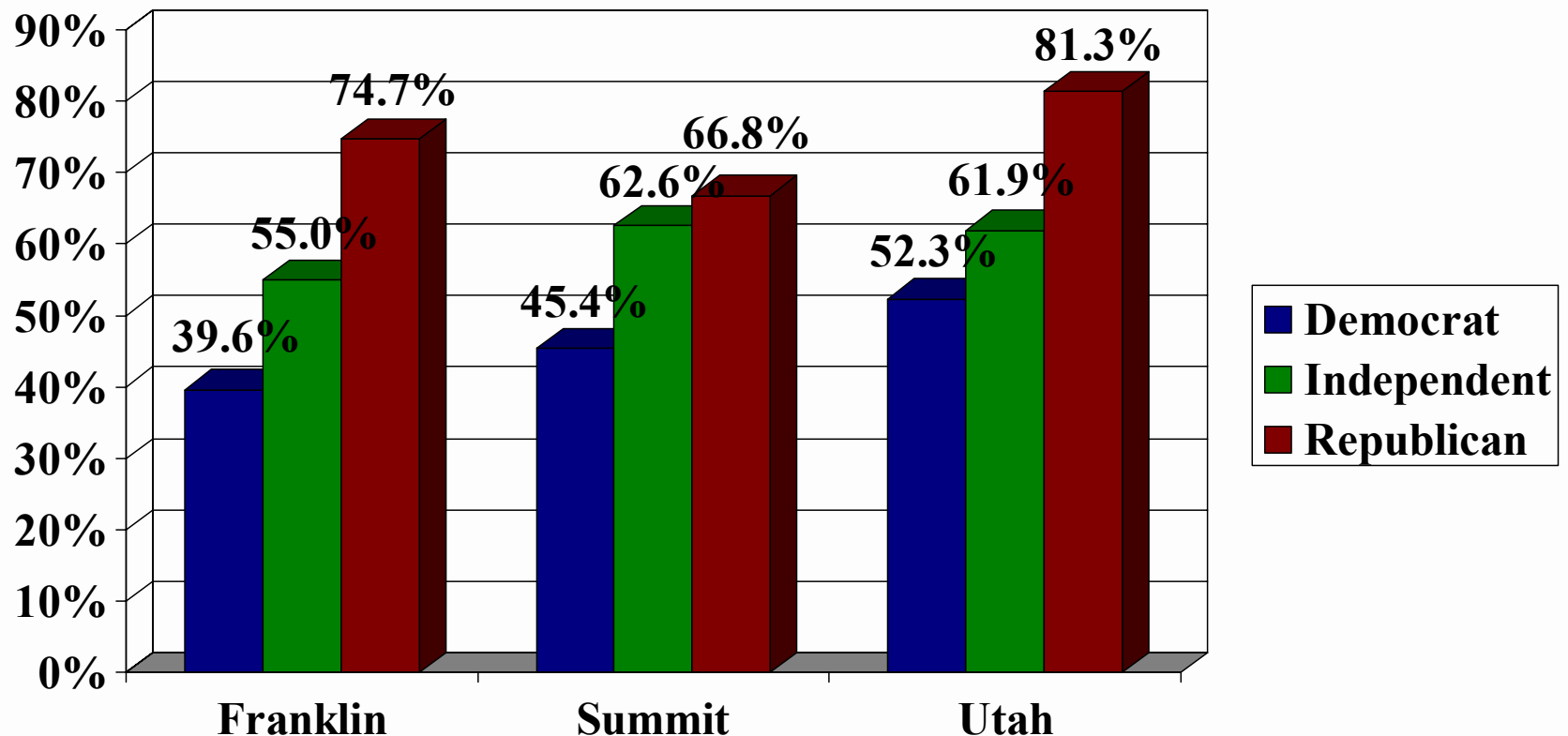
- How confident are you that your ballot will be counted accurately in this election?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Very confident	55.2%	54.7%	71.3%
Somewhat confident	34.5%	36.7%	24.0%
Not too confident/ Not at all confident	10.3%	8.6%	4.7%



Confidence by partisanship

- Voters who are very confident that their vote will be counted accurately





Polling Location Qualities— Electioneering

- Were any voters being contacted or offered literature within the 100-foot area?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	13.5%	17.2%	1.2%
No	86.5%	82.8%	98.8%



Polling Location Qualities— Recognition

- Were there any signs visible designating this as a voting place?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	58.1%	28%	88%
No	41.9%	72%	12%



Polling Location Qualities— Signage

- Does the polling location have signs posted on how to vote?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	96.2%	75.3%	69.4%
No	3.8%	24.7%	30.6%



Polling Location Qualities— Lighting

- Is the interior well lit?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	95.3%	89.4%	92.6%
No	4.7%	10.6%	7.4%



Polling Location Qualities— Privacy

- Voter-reported concerns about privacy while voting

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
I feel like I voted in privacy (Agree)	56.1%	58.4%	65.1%
How far apart are voting machines/booths (average feet as reported by observers)	3 ft.	1 ft.	3 ft.



Privacy and Confidence

- Voter confidence increases with sense of privacy while voting

FRANKLIN COUNTY		I voted in privacy		
		Disagree	Neither	Agree
Confident vote will be counted accurately	Very confident	43.3%	52.6%	64.3%
	Less than very confident	56.7%	47.3%	35.7%



Polling Location Qualities— Handicap Accessibility

- Was the entrance to the polling place wheel chair accessible?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	97.1%	88.2%	87%
No	2.9%	11.8%	13%



Handicap Accessibility Problems

- While you were there did you notice any problems accommodating voters with disabilities?

	Franklin	Summit	Utah
Yes	4.8%	10%	4.6%
No	95.2%	90%	95.4%



Polling Location Qualities— Machine Issues

- Many voters reported to polling stations that did not have all machines working

	Franklin	Utah
All machines were working	63.2%	86.0%
Not all, but at least three-fourths of all machines were working	20.8%	8.4%
Fewer than three-fourths of all machines were working	16.0%	5.6%



Machine Issues and Confidence

- Voters report greater confidence when higher percentages of machines are working

FRANKLIN COUNTY		How many machines were working?	
		Fewer than three-fourths	Three-fourths or more
Confident vote will be counted accurately	Very confident	48.5%	57.4%
	Less than very confident	51.5%	42.6%



Poll Workers Are Important to Voter Confidence

FRANKLIN COUNTY		Poll Worker Job Performance	
		Excellent	Less than very Excellent
Vote will be counted accurately?	Very Confident	61%	40%
	Less than Very Confident	39%	60%



Model of Confidence

- **Demographic Variables**

 - **Age (in years) +**

 - Education Level (ordinal)

 - Income Level (ordinal)

 - Male (dummy)

 - **Democrat (dummy) -**

 - **Republican (dummy) +**

 - Union household (dummy)

 - Black (dummy)

 - Daily internet access (dummy)

- **Conditions and Services**

 - **Excellent rating for poll worker (dummy) +**

 - **Aggregate measure of poll worker confidence in ballot count (ordinal) -**

- **Perceptions of Experience**

 - **Agree—instructions confusing (ordinal) -**

 - **Agree--voting machines easy to use (ordinal) +**

 - **Agree--voted in privacy (ordinal) +**

 - Agree--it took too much time to vote (ordinal)

 - **Level of information about touchscreen voting system (ordinal) +**

 - Problems using touchscreen system (dummy)

 - Viewed printed paper record (dummy)



Probability of Confidence

Voter Characteristics	Probability for Outcome Category			
	Not at all Confident	Not too Confident	Somewhat Confident	Very Confident
Average Respondent (baseline)	.02	.06	.37	.55
Republican, age 60, received a lot of information, rated poll worker excellent, instructions not confusing, touchscreen machines easy to use, voted in privacy	.00	.01	.08	.91
Democrat, age 25, received no information, rated poll worker less than excellent, instructions confusing, touchscreen machines not easy use, did not vote in privacy	.33	.37	.26	.04



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