



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC &  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

# Who are Poll Workers and what is their Importance?: Results from a Field Study

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# Confidence and Voting

	Likely Voter	Possible Voter
<b>Very confident</b>	63% (374)	33% (61)
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	19% (116)	29% (54)
<b>Not too confident</b>	11% (63)	22% (42)
<b>Not At All confident</b>	8% (45)	16% (31)
<b>Total</b>	100% (598)	100% (188)

# Factors Affecting Confidence

	Not at all Confident	Not too Confident	Somewhat Confident	Very Confident
Median white voter	3.5	5.2	28.3	63.0
female	+1	+2	+6	-9
<b>Republican</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>+24</b>
<b>e-voter</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+9</b>	<b>-16</b>
Lever	+2	+2	+6	-10
punch card	+1	+2	+4	-7
<b>Absentee</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+9</b>	<b>-16</b>
No H.S. Degree	+7	+6	+5	-18
Advanced Degree	-2	-3	-7	+12
18-29	+1	+1	+4	-6
66+	-1	-1	-4	+6

# Poll Workers and Confidence

- Poll workers are the street-level bureaucrats of elections. Therefore, they
  - Affect decision making
  - Make policy
  - Affect implementation
  - Use their discretion
- All of this impacts the voter at the polls.

# Poll Workers and Fairness

- How confident are you that the electoral process in Utah produces fair election outcomes?
  - very confident increases from high school education or less (46.5%) through a graduate degree (60.0%).
  - 71% of Republican are very confident, compared to 29% of Democrats.
  - 71.2% those with excellent poll worker experience were very confident

# Who Are Poll Workers?

	Cuyahoga	3rd CD Utah
FEMALE	68.9	79.1
18—24	2.5	2.3
25—34	1.5	3.1
35—44	5.9	9.9
45—54	14.0	24.4
55—64	17.6	24.4
65—74	30.9	17.6
75—84	24.3	15.3
85+	3.2	3.1
HS Grad or Less	40.1	16.8
College	48.7 (11.3 PG)	67.9 (15.3 PG)
White	65.1	95.4
Black	29.8	0.8
Democrat	65.4	17.2
Republican	28.6	79.7
Uses Computers Daily	44.0	45.8
Uses Internet Daily	36.6	45.8

# How Recruited

How were you first recruited as a booth worker? Were you recruited by...		
	Ohio	Utah
A political party official	19.4	10.7
At a Neighborhood Precinct Caucus Meeting	**	39.7
Another booth worker	36.7	20.6
An advertisement in the local media	4.6	1.5
A teacher or professor	1.2	**
An official job posting by the county	6.0	2.3
Sought Out Position	**	13.7
Or some other way	32.1	11.5

# What Motivates Them

Percent Responding "Very Important"	Ohio	Utah
I am the kind of person who does my share.	81.2	59.5
I think it is my duty as a citizen.	73.8	68.7
I can be with people I enjoy.	54.3	32.8
I found it exciting.	39.3	23.7
I received recognition from people I respect.	38.9	12.2
I wanted to make some extra money.	38.3	26.0
I like to be with people who share my ideals.	38.1	28.2
I wanted to learn about politics and government.	32.3	29.8
I was asked by someone in my political party.	29.0	10.7
I did not want to say no to someone who asked.	18.8	3.8

# Training Experiences

	Cuyahoga	3 <sup>rd</sup> CD Utah
Percent attending 0-1 training sessions	68.7	49.6
The training was easy to understand (percent “strongly agree”).	15.7	24.4
The training prepared me well for Election Day (percent “strongly agree”).	13.9	23.7
Differences between how you learned to use the voting machines in training and how the voting machines operated on Election Day?	41.1	13.2
To what extent did the training differ from the actual procedures? (A lot)	28.2	6.3

# Satisfaction and Confidence

- Key Factors:
  - Use Internet Daily (positive)
  - Problems Shutting Down Computers (negative)
  - Very Prepared on Election Day (positive)