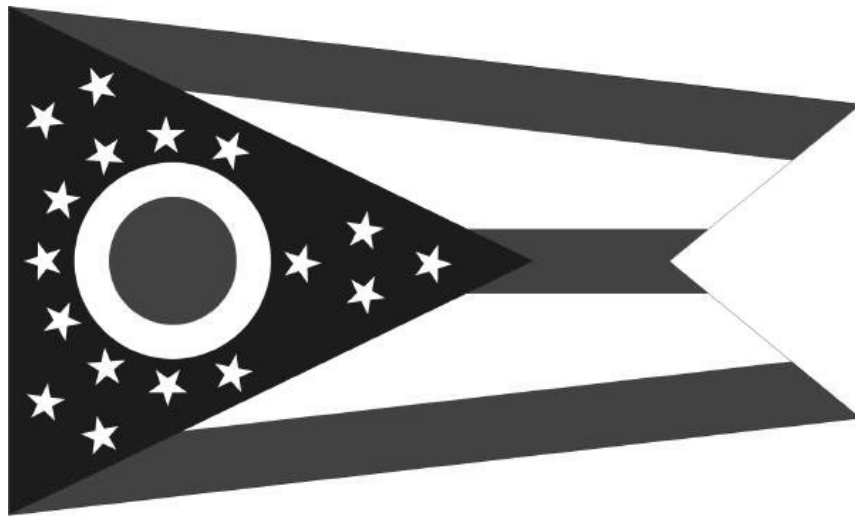
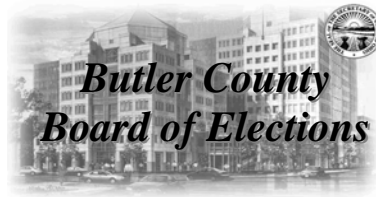

The Ohio Poll Worker Survey

*A Survey of Poll Workers in Ohio's
March 4, 2008 Primary Election*



This non-partisan study is cosponsored by:



HAVA
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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

About This Survey

We are conducting an important survey of election workers who were hired for Ohio's March 4, 2008 primary election. It is important that we survey those who were trained to work at the polls on Election Day. Our goal is to learn more about your experience as a poll worker and to identify any problems that arose in your training or on Election Day.

Your participation in this survey is **voluntary** and your responses will remain **completely confidential**. Your responses will be used to help us understand the voting process and to inform policy makers about best practices.

After a national search we selected the Center for Survey Research (CSR) at the University of Virginia (UVA) to administer the survey. If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Jim Ellis, Director of Research, UVA CSR at (434) 243-5222 or J. Quin Monson, Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University at (801) 422-3702.

In accordance with federal regulations that govern academic research, the above named researchers have submitted this survey for review and received approval from the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) at their respective universities. The IRB reviews the materials to ensure that risks to participants involved in research are minimized. If you have complaints about this survey that you cannot resolve by contacting the above named researchers, please contact the University of Virginia Institutional Review Board Office for Social and Behavioral Sciences at (434) 924-5999 or Dr. Christopher Dromey, Chair of the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects at Brigham Young University at (801) 422-3841.

Instructions

- 1. Please thoughtfully respond to each question.**
- 2. When you are finished, place the survey in the provided envelope.**
- 3. Mail your completed survey to:**

The Ohio Poll Worker Survey
Center for Survey Research
University of Virginia
PO Box 400767
Charlottesville VA 22904-4767

The Ohio Poll Worker Survey

Please answer the following questions about your experience as a poll worker in Ohio's March 4, 2008 primary election.

First, we would like to know your general thoughts about being poll worker.

Q1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your job as a poll worker?

- 1. Very satisfied
- 2. Somewhat satisfied
- 3. Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4. Very dissatisfied

Q2. Thinking about your decision to be a poll worker, please mark whether each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important in your decision to be a poll worker.

Please select ONE number per line.

	Very Important ▼	Somewhat Important ▼	Not Very Important ▼	Not at All Important ▼
a. I found it exciting.	1	2	3	4
b. I wanted to learn about politics and government.	1	2	3	4
c. I was asked by someone in my political party.	1	2	3	4
d. I like to be with people who share my ideals.	1	2	3	4
e. I think it is my duty as a citizen.	1	2	3	4
f. I am the kind of person who does my share.	1	2	3	4
g. I wanted to make some extra money.	1	2	3	4
h. I received recognition from people I respect.	1	2	3	4
i. I can be with people I enjoy.	1	2	3	4
j. I did not want to say no to someone who asked.	1	2	3	4

Q3. How were you first recruited as a poll worker? Were you recruited by:

- 1. A political party official
- 2. Another poll worker
- 3. An advertisement in the local media
- 4. A teacher or professor
- 5. An official job posting by the county
- 6. At work or business
- 7. I wasn't recruited by anyone, I volunteered
- 8. Some other way (*Please specify*) _____

We are interested in learning more about the training you received before you worked as a poll worker and your opinions about the quality of this training.

Q4. Your local election official sponsored in-person training sessions for election workers prior to the March 4, 2008 primary election to teach workers about election procedures and how to use the touchscreen voting machines. How many in-person training sessions did you attend?

- 0. Zero training sessions
- 1. One training session
- 2. Two training sessions
- 3. Three or more training sessions

Q5. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the training session or sessions that you attended?

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

Q6. Thinking back on your in-person training, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Please select ONE number per line.

	Strongly Agree ▼	Agree ▼	Neither Agree nor Disagree ▼	Disagree ▼	Strongly Disagree ▼
a. I was able to spend enough time practicing on the voting machine.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The training session was too long.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The training session was boring.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The training session spent enough time covering election law and procedures.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The training was easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	5
f. The training prepared me well for Election Day.	1	2	3	4	5
g. After the training, I was confident in my ability to do my job on Election Day.	1	2	3	4	5
h. The instructions we received from the election officials for opening the polls were clear.	1	2	3	4	5
i. The instructions we received from the election officials for closing the polls at the end of the day were clear.	1	2	3	4	5
j. The instructions for what types of voter identification I could accept were clear.	1	2	3	4	5
k. The instructions for when to allow voters to cast a provisional ballot were clear.	1	2	3	4	5

Q7. Did you receive any manuals, booklets, videos or DVDs at your in-person training session to help you learn more about the election procedures?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q8**
- 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q9 BELOW**

Q8. If YES, how much of the material did you read or watch prior to Election Day?

- 1. All of it
- 2. Most of it
- 3. Some of it
- 4. None of it

Q9. Did you notice any differences between how you learned to use the voting machines in training and how the voting machines operated on Election Day?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q10**
- 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q11 BELOW**

Q10. If YES, to what extent did the training differ from the actual procedures?

- 1. The training was a lot different
- 2. The training was somewhat different
- 3. The training was just a little bit different

Q11. A small number of poll workers were invited to participate in an additional on-line training using a computer. Were you asked to participate in the on-line training?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q12**
- 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q19**

Q12. Did you complete the additional on-line training?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **SKIP TO Q14**
- 2. No ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q13**

Q13. If you answered NO, please indicate all the reasons why you did not complete the on-line training:

- 1. I did not have enough time
- 2. I do not like working with computers
- 3. I did not have easy access to a computer
- 4. I thought I already had enough training to complete my assignments
- 5. I simply forgot to complete the on-line training
- 6. I started the on-line training but was not able to complete it
- 7. Other (*Please specify*) _____

SKIP TO Q19

Q14. Did you complete the on-line training before or after you attended the in-person training session?

- 1. Before the in-person training
- 2. After the in-person training

Q15. Thinking back on your on-line training, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Please select ONE number per line.

	Strongly Agree ▼	Agree ▼	Neither Agree nor Disagree ▼	Disagree ▼	Strongly Disagree ▼
a. The on-line training session was too long.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The on-line training session was boring.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The on-line training made me feel even better prepared for Election Day.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The on-line training helped me to remember important information related to my job as a poll worker.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I had a better experience on Election Day because I completed the on-line training.	1	2	3	4	5
f. I knew how to manage the voting machines better after completing the on-line training.	1	2	3	4	5
g. The on-line training experience made no difference in how I performed my job as a poll worker.	1	2	3	4	5
h. The on-line training was easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	5

Q16. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your on-line training experience?

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

Q17. In the next election, how important do you think it would be for all poll workers to participate in on-line training?

- 1. Very important
- 2. Somewhat important
- 3. Not very important
- 4. Not at all important

Q18. Thinking about your decision to complete the on-line training course, please mark whether each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important in your decision to complete the on-line training. Please select ONE number per line.

	Very Important ▼	Somewhat Important ▼	Not Very Important ▼	Not at All Important ▼
a. I was asked by elections officials to complete the on-line training.	1	2	3	4
b. I will be paid \$15 for completing the on-line training.	1	2	3	4
c. I thought it would be interesting.	1	2	3	4
d. I wanted to learn more about using a computer.	1	2	3	4

We would like to know more about your experience on Election Day.

Q19. Did you work as a poll worker in the March 4, 2008 primary election?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **SKIP TO Q21 BELOW**
- 2. No ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q20**

Q20. If you answered NO, what was the most important reason you did not work at the polls on Election Day? Please select only ONE.

- 1. The training wasn't good enough
- 2. Concerned about operating voting equipment / Equipment too complicated
- 3. Did not think I could do a good job
- 4. Pay was too low
- 5. Illness / Poor health
- 6. Day was too long
- 7. Difficulty with transportation / Ride to the poll
- 8. Difficulty with child care
- 9. Had to work other job
- 10. Other (*Please specify*) _____

Q21. How confident are you that votes in the March 4, 2008 primary election were recorded accurately?

- 1. Very confident
- 2. Somewhat confident
- 3. Not very confident
- 4. Not at all confident

Q22. Were you missing any supplies at your polling location?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q23. Did your polling location have all the workers it needed?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q24. How confident did you feel about your knowledge of what types of identification you could accept from voters?

- 1. Very confident
- 2. Somewhat confident
- 3. Not very confident
- 4. Not at all confident
- 5. It was never my responsibility to check voter identification

Q25. Thinking back on your experience during the most recent election, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Please select ONE number per line.

	Strongly Agree ▼	Agree ▼	Neither Agree nor Disagree ▼	Disagree ▼	Strongly Disagree ▼
a. There were problems setting up the voting machines in my precinct.	1	2	3	4	5
b. There were problems shutting down the machines at the end of the day and reporting the results.	1	2	3	4	5
c. There were problems with the touchscreen voting machines throughout the day.	1	2	3	4	5
d. There were problems with the paper ballots.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Generally speaking, voters were satisfied with the touchscreen voting machines.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Voters who asked to use paper ballots instead of machines seemed satisfied.	1	2	3	4	5
g. The poll workers in my precinct worked well together.	1	2	3	4	5
h. The voting process went smoothly at my polling location.	1	2	3	4	5
i. I was confused when voters wanted to change their party ballot preference.	1	2	3	4	5
j. The touchscreen voting machines are reliable.	1	2	3	4	5
k. The touchscreen voting machines provide voters with enough privacy as they vote.	1	2	3	4	5
l. I thought the touchscreen voting machines were easy to use.	1	2	3	4	5
m. Sometimes I am not sure I am doing my job correctly because the laws keep changing.	1	2	3	4	5

Q26. Did you or any other election worker at your polling place need to call the county election office at any time during the Election Day?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q27. On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “very poor” and 10 being “excellent”, how would you rate the overall performance of your fellow poll workers? You can use any number from 1 to 10.

_____ number between 1 and 10

Q28. How confident did you feel about your knowledge of the different types of party primary and issues ballots?

- 1. Very confident
- 2. Somewhat confident
- 3. Not very confident
- 4. Not at all confident
- 5. It was never my responsibility to distribute ballots

Q29. How many voters asked to use a paper ballot instead of the touchscreen voting machine?

- 1. Most of them
- 2. Some of them
- 3. A few of them
- 4. None of them ⇒ **SKIP TO Q31 BELOW**
- 5. It was never my responsibility to distribute ballots ⇒ **SKIP TO Q31 BELOW**

CONTINUE TO Q30

Q30. Which did you find easier to work with — paper ballots or the touchscreen voting machines?

- 1. Paper ballots
- 2. Touchscreen voting machines
- 3. No difference

We would like to gather some basic information about you to help us understand the elections process better. Again, all of your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

Q31. In what year were you born?

19 ____

Q32. Are you:

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

Q33. In what role did you work at the polls in the 2008 primary? Please mark all that apply.

- 1. Poll manager / Assistant poll manager
- 2. Touchscreen technician
- 3. Receiving judge
- 4. Poll book judge
- 5. Ballot judge
- 6. Something else (*Please specify*) _____

Q34. Including the March 4, 2008 primary election, in how many elections have you worked as a poll worker? (If you are not sure, give the best estimation possible.)

_____ number of elections

Q35. How likely are you to work as a poll worker in the next election?

- 1. Very likely
- 2. Somewhat likely
- 3. Not too likely
- 4. Not at all likely

Q36. Generally speaking, how comfortable do you feel using a computer?

- 1. Very comfortable
- 2. Somewhat comfortable
- 3. Not very comfortable
- 4. Not at all comfortable

Q37. How often do you use the Internet?

- 1. Once or more a day
- 2. A few times a week
- 3. A few times a month
- 4. Hardly ever
- 5. Never

Q38. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a(n):

- 1. Strong Democrat
- 2. Not so strong Democrat
- 3. Independent leaning Democrat
- 4. Independent
- 5. Independent leaning Republican
- 6. Not so strong Republican
- 7. Strong Republican
- 8. Other
- 9. Don't know

Q39. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- 1. Elementary school only
- 2. Some high school, but did not finish
- 3. Completed high school
- 4. Some college, but did not finish
- 5. Two-year college degree / A.A. / A.S.
- 6. Four-year college degree / B.A. / B.S.
- 7. Some graduate work
- 8. Completed Masters or professional degree
- 9. Advanced graduate work or PhD

Q40. Not counting religious organizations, how many civic or community organizations—like the Kiwanis Club, PTA, or League of Women Voters—do you belong to?

- 0. Zero
- 1. One or two
- 3. Three or four
- 5. Five or more

Q41. How would you describe your current employment status?

- 1. Employed full time ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q42**
 - 2. Employed part time ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q42**
 - 3. Unemployed / Looking for work
 - 4. Student
 - 5. Homemaker
 - 6. Retired
- ⇒ **SKIP TO Q43 BELOW**

Q42. If you are currently employed, did you have to take time off from your regular job to work at the polls on Election Day?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q43. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

- 1. Just about always
- 2. Most of the time
- 3. Only some of the time
- 4. Almost never

Q44. Would you describe yourself as:

- 1. American Indian / Native American
- 2. Asian
- 3. Black / African American
- 4. Hispanic / Latino
- 5. White / Caucasian
- 6. Pacific Islander
- 7. Other

Q45. What do you expect your 2008 family income from all sources before taxes to be?

- 1. Under \$25,000
- 2. \$25,000 - \$39,999
- 3. \$40,000 - \$49,999
- 4. \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 5. \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 6. \$100,000 - \$124,999
- 7. \$125,000 - \$149,999
- 8. Over \$150,000

Q46. The researchers who conducted this poll may want to call some people back and ask further questions. Would that be OK?

- 1. Yes ⇒ **CONTINUE TO Q47**
- 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q48 BELOW**

Q47. What is the best phone number at which to reach you?

_____ phone number

Q48. Do you have any additional comments about your experience as a poll worker? Please share them in the space provided below.

THANK YOU!

We want to thank you for your cooperation with this survey. Your opinions and participation will help make elections in Ohio even better.

Please use the enclosed envelope to return your completed survey to:

The Ohio Poll Worker Survey
Center for Survey Research
University of Virginia
PO Box 400767
Charlottesville VA 22904-4767