

---

---

# The Utah Poll Worker Survey

*A Survey of Poll Workers in Utah's  
June 27, 2006 Primary Election*



---

---

**This non-partisan study  
is cosponsored by:**



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC &  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

# About This Survey

---

We are conducting an important survey of election workers who were hired for Utah's June 27, 2006 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.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Thad Hall, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Utah at (801) 585-7344 or Quin Monson, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Brigham Young University at (801) 422-8017.

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 Utah Institutional Review Board Office at (801) 581-3655 or Dr. Renea Beckstrand, Chair of the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects at Brigham Young University at (801) 422-3873.

## **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 Utah Poll Worker Survey  
Institute of Public and International Affairs  
University of Utah  
260 S. Central Campus Drive  
Room 214  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

# The Utah Poll Worker Survey

Please answer the following questions about your experience as a poll worker in Utah's June 27, 2006 primary election

***First, we'd like to know your general impressions of the June 27 primary election***

**Q1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your job as an election worker in the most recent election?**

- 1. Very Satisfied
- 2. Somewhat Satisfied
- 3. Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 4. Very Dissatisfied

**Q2. How confident are you that votes in the June 27, 2006 primary election were recorded accurately?**

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

**Q3. How would you compare the touchscreen voting system to the punch card system that had been used previously at your polling place?**

- 1. Touchscreen is much better.
- 2. Touchscreen is somewhat better.
- 3. Touchscreen is somewhat worse.
- 4. Touchscreen is much worse.
- 5. I never worked as a poll worker with the punch card voting system.

***We are interested in knowing how you became a poll worker and how long you have been working in this job.***

**Q4. 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 a neighborhood precinct caucus meeting
- 7. I wasn't recruited by anyone, I sought the job on my own
- 8. Some other way? *(please specify)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Q5. Thinking about your decision to be a poll worker, please mark if 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

**Q6. At any time during the training and recruiting process, did you consider not working at the polls on Election Day?**

1. Yes  
 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q8**

**Q7. If you answered YES, what was the most important reason you considered not working at the polls on Election Day? Please select only ONE.**

1. The training wasn't good enough  
 2. Concerned about operating new voting equipment / new equipment too complicated  
 3. Did not think I could do a good job  
 4. Pay was too low  
 5. Poor health / Illness  
 6. Day was too long  
 7. Difficulty with transportation / ride to the poll  
 8. Difficulty with child care  
 9. Other (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q8. How likely are you to work as a poll worker in the next time election?**

1. Very likely  
 2. Somewhat likely  
 3. Not very likely  
 4. Not at all likely

**Q9. 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

**Q10. In what election year did you first work as a poll worker? (If you are not sure, give the best estimation possible.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ year

**Q11. Including the June 27, 2006 primary election, in how many elections total have you worked as a poll worker? (If you are not sure, give the best estimation possible.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ number of elections

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

**Q12. Your local election official sponsored training sessions for election workers prior to the election to teach workers about election procedures and how to use the new touch-screen voting machines. How many training sessions did you attend?**

- 0. Zero training sessions
- 1. One training session
- 2. Two training sessions
- 3. Three training sessions
- 4. More than three training sessions

**Q13. Did you receive any manuals, booklets, or video/DVD at your training session to help you learn more about the election procedures?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q15 ON NEXT PAGE**

**Q14. If YES, how much of the materials 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

**Q15. Thinking back on your 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 able to spend enough time practicing on the voting machine.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The training sessions were too long.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The training sessions were boring.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The training sessions 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 I 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 when to ask a voter for his or her identification before voting were clear.	1	2	3	4	5
k. The instructions for securing the voting machines [or ballots] were clear.	1	2	3	4	5
l. The instructions for reconciling the number of voters voting and the number of ballots cast were clear.	1	2	3	4	5

**Q16. 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  
 2. No ⇒ **SKIP TO Q18 ON NEXT PAGE**

**Q17. If YES, to what extent did the training differ from the actual procedures?**

1. It was a lot different  
 2. It was somewhat different  
 3. It was just a little bit different

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

**Q18. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor and 5 being excellent, how would you personally rate your polling facility in regards to the following?  
Please select ONE number per line.**

	Very Poor ▼				Excellent ▼
a. Accessibility for people with disabilities	1	2	3	4	5
b. Condition of the facility	1	2	3	4	5
c. Noise level of the facility	1	2	3	4	5
d. Availability of parking at facility	1	2	3	4	5
e. Adequate space to operate the polls	1	2	3	4	5
f. Temperature	1	2	3	4	5

**Q19. Were you missing any supplies at your polling location?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

**Q20. Did your polling location have all the workers it needed?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

**Q21. Did you need to call the county election office at any time during the Election Day?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

**Q22. How often did you ask voters to present identification before allowing them to vote?**

- 1. All of the time
- 2. Most of the time
- 3. Only some of the time
- 4. Hardly at all
- 5. Never ⇒ **SKIP TO Q24 ON NEXT PAGE**

**Q23. What is the most common reason why you asked voters to present identification before they voted? Please select only ONE.**

- 1. Trouble hearing / Easier to read name from ID
- 2. Verify identity of first-time voter
- 3. Verify identity of provisional voter
- 4. It's required by law to verify the identity of voters
- 5. To prevent fraud
- 6. I did not recognize the voter
- 7. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q24. 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 your 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. Generally speaking, voters were satisfied with the touchscreen voting machines.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The poll workers in my precinct worked well together.	1	2	3	4	5
f. The touchscreen voting machines are reliable.	1	2	3	4	5
g. The touchscreen voting machines provide voters with enough privacy as they vote.	1	2	3	4	5
h. I thought the new touch screen voting machines were easy to use.	1	2	3	4	5
i. Sometimes I am not sure I am doing my job correctly because the laws keep changing.	1	2	3	4	5

**Q25. Did you have any difficulty with the printer spools or loading paper in the printer at your polling place?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

**Q26. Did you have any difficulty with the card encoder at your polling place?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

***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.***

**Q27. What year were you born?**

19 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**Q28. Are you:**

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

**Q29. 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

**Q30. 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

**Q31. Would you describe yourself as:**

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

**Q32. What, if any, is your religious preference?**

- 1. Protestant
- 2. Catholic
- 3. LDS / Mormon
- 4. Jewish
- 5. Other
- 6. No preference / No religious affiliation
- 7. Prefer not to say

**Q33. How active do you consider yourself in the practice of your religious preference?**

- 1. Very active
- 2. Somewhat active
- 3. Not very active
- 4. Not active
- 5. Does not apply / Prefer not to say

**Q34. 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

**Q35. What do you expect your 2006 family income 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. Over \$100,000

**Q36. How would you describe your current employment status? Are you employed full time, employed part time, looking for work, a student, a homemaker, or retired?**

- 1. Employed full time
- 2. Employed part time
- 3. Unemployed / Looking for work
- 4. Student
- 5. Homemaker
- 6. Retired

⇒ SKIP TO Q38 ON NEXT PAGE

**Q37. If you are currently employed, did you take time off from your job to work at the polls or was Election Day your regular day off?**

- 1. I took time off.
- 2. Election Day was my day off.

**Q38. 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

**Q39. 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

**Q40. 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

**Q41. In what role did you work at the polls in the 2006 primary?**

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

**Q42. Did you work at the polling location where you would normally vote, or were you at a different location?**

- 1. I worked at the polling location where I normally vote.
- 2. I worked at a different polling location.

**Q43. A researcher from Brigham Young University or the University of Utah may want to call some people back and ask further questions. Would that be OK?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No     ⇒ **SKIP TO Q45 ON BACK COVER**

**Q44. What is the best phone number to reach you at?**

\_\_\_\_\_ phone number

**Q45. 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 Utah even better.*

Please return your completed survey to:

The Utah Poll Worker Survey  
Institute of Public and International Affairs  
University of Utah  
260 S. Central Campus Drive  
Room 214  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112