

WKU Survey of Political Attitudes
Survey Script for Fall 2003

Hello. My name is _____ and I'm calling for the Western Kentucky University Survey of Political Attitudes. We are doing a campus wide survey of students and faculty to learn more about political behavior on campus. May I please speak with _____?

You were randomly selected to participate in this survey and your answers will be kept confidential. Your participation is voluntary, and if you feel a question is too personal you need not answer it. This interview will only take a few minutes. May I begin?

Potential Responses

Response: I don't have time.

Answer: as a Western student your response is very important to us. Is there a more convenient time that I could reach you?

Response: what is this for?

Answer: this research is strictly for academic purposes and is an effort to learn more about political attitudes on campus. It is not politically affiliated.

Response: will anyone know what my answers are?

Answer: the survey is confidential and your name will not be attached to your answers.

Response: how was I chosen?

Answer: your name was randomly selected from a pool of Western students.

Response: what are you going to do with this information?

Answer: the findings are for academic and instructional purposes. A summary of our findings will be released in late October. All data will be confidential and the responses will be anonymous.

I am going to begin with just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

1. Do you attend WKU or Bowling Green Community College?

2. *if attends WKU ask:* Do you live on campus?

3. Are you a full time student?

4. *If they attend WKU:* What year in school are you? First year, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student

5. Are you a resident of Kentucky?

5a. *If no:* What state do you consider yourself to be a resident of?

6. What is your major?

7. What is your race? Are you Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Asian, or some other?

I am now going to ask a series of questions relating to Political Participation.

8. Are you registered to vote?

8a. In what state are you registered to vote?

9. *If registered in Kentucky,* On Nov. 4, there will be elections for Kentucky governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor and other officeholders. As you feel today, will you definitely go to the polls on Nov.4 and vote in the election, or will you definitely vote, probably vote, probably not vote or definitely not vote?

10. *If the respondent is 19 or older:* Have you voted in any previous election?

11. *If the respondent is 19 or older:* Did you vote in the 2002 election?

12. How often do you discuss politics with family or friends? Daily, weekly, monthly, almost never

13. How often do you read news or magazine articles concerning political issues? Daily, weekly, monthly, almost never

14. How often do you watch the news or politically based programs on television? Daily, weekly, monthly, almost never

15. How informed do you consider yourself on current issues in politics? Not very well informed, somewhat informed, pretty informed, very informed

During the past 3 years, have you ever participated in any of the following activities?

16a. Attend a political speech?

16b. Volunteer for a political campaign?

16c. Boycott a product?

16d. Write a member of Congress?

16e. Volunteer your time for a non-profit organization or another charitable activity?

Next, I will ask several questions relating to current events and people in politics. If you do not know an answer feel free to indicate that you are unsure or that you don't know.

17. ask all respondents: Who is the governor of Kentucky? Answer: Paul Patton

17a. if not from Kentucky, also ask: Who is the governor from your home state?

Answer: IN – Joe Kernan TN – Phil Bredeson

18. There are currently 9 candidates running for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. List as many of the candidates as you can.

Answer: Clark, Dean, Edwards, Gephardt, Kerry, Kucinich, Lieberman, Moseley Braun, Sharpton

19. Who is the Democratic candidate for president who just recently dropped out of the race? Answer: Bob Graham

20. Who are the Republican and Democratic candidates running in the 2003 Kentucky Gubernatorial election? Answer: Democrat Ben Chandler, Republican Ernie Fletcher

21. Which state just held a recall election for governor? Answer: California

21a. if correct ask: Who was elected as governor of California? Answer: Schwarzenegger

22. Which party currently has the majority in the U.S. House? Answer: Republican

22a. How about the U.S. Senate? Answer: Republican

23. How many years are the terms of United States Representatives? Answer: 2

24. Who is the vice-president of the United States? Answer: Dick Cheney

25. Who is the U.S. Secretary of State? Answer: Colin Powell

26. How many U.S. Supreme Court Justices are there? Answer: 9

26a. Who is the current chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court? Answer: William Rehnquist

27. Who is the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? Answer: Dennis Hastert

28. Who is the Prime Minister of Great Britain? Answer: Tony Blair

29. Does the United States still have troops in Afghanistan? *Answer: Yes*

30. *if a local call:* Who is the U.S. representative for the congressional district that includes Bowling Green? *Answer: Ron Lewis*

Now, I am going to ask you some questions about your political preferences, starting with party identification and political ideology.

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

32. *If the respondent says they are a Democrat proceed as follows:*

I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Democratic primary for president in the next election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Democratic nomination for President in the year 2004. [ROTATED:Massachusetts Senator, John Kerry, Connecticut Senator, Joe Lieberman, North Carolina Senator, John Edwards, Missouri Congressman, Dick Gephardt, Former Vermont Governor, Howard Dean, the Reverend Al Sharpton, Ohio Congressman, Dennis Kucinich, Former Illinois Senator, Carol Moseley Braun, Retired General, Wesley Clark

33. *If registered in Kentucky - If the Nov. 4 election for governor and lieutenant governor were held today, would you vote for (rotating names) Democrats Ben Chandler for governor and Charlie Owen for lieutenant governor, or Republicans Ernie Fletcher for governor and Steve Pence for lieutenant governor?*

33a. *if supporting a particular slate ask:* Do you strongly support them or do you only moderately support them?

33b. *if undecided ask:* As of today who do you lean more toward (rotating names), Ben Chandler and Charlie Owen, or Ernie Fletcher and Steve Pence?

34. How much do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president — do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the way he is handling his job as president?

35. How much do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy — do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the way he is handling the economy?

36. How much do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq — do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the way he is handling the situation in Iraq?

37. In general, do you think the news media is -- too liberal, just about right, or too conservative?

37a. In general, do you consider yourself to be ideologically liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Let me ask about a proposal that has been considered by the current governor and the state legislature in Frankfort, and is an issue in the election for governor. The proposal would allow Kentucky racetracks to operate electronic slot machines year-round so they can compete with casinos in other states, and to help the horse industry and raise money for the state.

38a. Do you favor or oppose letting Kentucky racetracks operate slot machines?

38b. Do you strongly or only moderately (favor/oppose) this?

38c. What if the state's income from the slot machines was dedicated to classroom improvements in Kentucky's public schools, such as more pay for teachers, or hiring more teachers to reduce class sizes?

38d. Would you favor or oppose letting Kentucky racetracks operate slot machines if the state's revenue were dedicated to such classroom improvements?

Now, I am going to ask questions regarding your positions on various issues. For each of the following statements, indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the statement. You may also indicate that you are unsure or have no opinion.

39a. I am in favor of tougher punishments for corporate business crimes.

39b. I am in favor of government financing for congressional elections.

39c. Recreational marijuana use should be legalized in the United States.

39d. Medical marijuana use should be legalized in the United States.

39e. I support the use of need based educational vouchers which could be used by poorer students to help pay tuition at a private school as an alternative for attending public schools.

39f. I support the use of educational vouchers, regardless of financial need.

39g. I am in favor of stricter gun control laws.

39h. I am in favor of government financing for state legislative elections.

39i. Government should be more active in protecting the environment.

39j. I support federal government funded health insurance for all Americans.

39k. I am in favor of capital punishment.

CLOSING: THANK RESPONDENT!!

Thank you very much for your time. Have a nice day/evening.

or

Thank you for your participation. If you are interested, the findings will be released in late October.