

Online Politics and Young Voters 2006: The Use of Political Websites by American Youth and Effects on Political Engagement

Survey Item Wordings

(raw data file variable names appear in italics)

Political interest (*pint*):

Some people follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, even when there's not an election. Others aren't that interested. Would you say that you follow what's going on in politics and government most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

- 1) Most of the time
- 2) Some of the time
- 3) Hardly at all
- 4) Never

---

Browsing session

---

The next few questions deal with your OVERALL browsing session, including that first site you visited, as well as the other sites you may have visited while you were surfing the internet.

Session usefulness – thinking about election issues (*wsthink*):

Was your overall browsing session helpful to you in thinking about the major issues in the various races? Please make a selection from the choices below.

- 1) Not helpful at all
- 2) Somewhat helpful
- 3) Helpful
- 4) Very helpful

Session usefulness – thinking about the voting process (*wsvote*):

Was your overall browsing session helpful to you in understanding how to cast your ballot on election day (voter registration, polling places etc.)? Please make a selection from the choices below.

- 1) Not helpful at all
- 2) Somewhat helpful
- 3) Helpful
- 4) Very helpful

Wisconsin Ballot items (*elec1, elec2, elec3, elec4*):

A) In the upcoming Gubernatorial race in Wisconsin, which candidate do you prefer?

- 1) Jim Doyle (Democrat)
- 2) Mark Green (Republican)
- 3) Nelson Eisman (Green)
- 4) Don't know/No opinion

B) In the upcoming U.S. Senate race for Wisconsin, which candidate do you prefer?

- 1) Rae Voegler (Wisconsin Green)
- 2) Herbert H. "Herb" Kohl (Democrat)
- 3) Robert Gerald Lorge (Republican)
- 4) Ben J. Glatzel (Independent)
- 5) Don't know/No opinion

C) One of the items on the November Ballot in Wisconsin is a proposal to modify the Wisconsin State Constitution such that "marriage" will be defined specifically as a relationship between one man and one woman. Do you support this proposal, oppose it, or are you not sure?

- 1) Support it
- 2) Oppose it
- 3) Don't know/No opinion

D) Madison is located in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District. Which of the two candidates for U.S. House of Representatives do you prefer?

- 1) Tammy Baldwin (Democrat)
- 2) Dave Magnum (Republican)
- 3) Don't know/No opinion

Internet specific political efficacy (*webeff01, webeff02, webeff03, webeff04, webeff05, webeff06, webeff07, webeff08, webeff09, webeff10*):

The next part of the questionnaire deals with some of your attitudes about the internet and politics in general. In the following screens, you'll be presented with a variety of statements. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement using the scale provided. Click "Continue" or hit the SPACEBAR in order to access these statements.

(Responses: Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (7), Items randomized within group.)

I consider myself skillful in using the Internet to search for information on politics and public issues.

I don't feel very confident in my abilities to use the Internet for getting information about politics and public issues.

I am comfortable with my ability to use the internet to discuss politics with others.

I feel well-equipped to use the Internet to express myself politically.

I am uncomfortable with using the Internet for civic/political activities.

If I were concerned about a particular issue, I am confident I could use the Internet to express my concerns about it.

The Internet does nothing to give ordinary people more political influence.

The Internet allows ordinary people to have more say in government.

The internet allows ordinary people to better understand politics.

The Internet makes public officials care more about the concerns of ordinary people.