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Media, Institutions and Voting: Perceptions of Nonmetropolitan Nebraskans: 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Media, Institutions and Voting: Perceptions of Nonmetropolitan Nebraskans

2017 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Nebraska Rural Poll Research Report 17-3 September 2017.

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at http://ruralpoll.unl.edu

Funding for this project was provided by the Cooperative Extension Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agricultural Economics. Additionally, in-kind support was provided by the University of Nebraska Rural Futures Institute.

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Executive Summary

Today, people have many different sources of news. However, Americans have been increasingly distrustful of media as of late. And, while their confidence in other institutions had similarly declined in recent years, Gallup reported an uptick this year. Given all this, how much do rural Nebraskans trust various information sources? How much confidence do they have in various government institutions and systems? Do they favor various election law policies? Do they perceive any voting problems in last year's election? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,972 responses to the 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 22nd annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about media, institutions and voting. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by community size, age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Rural Nebraskans most trust information received from local news sources (TV and newspapers) and public sources (PBS and public radio).*** They least trust information from social networking sites and Internet blogs. Just over eight in ten rural Nebraskans trust information from their local TV news organizations and their local newspapers either some or a lot. Four in ten do not trust at all information received from Internet news blogs and just over one-third (36%) do not trust social networking sites at all.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans are somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize news that is made up.*** Almost one-quarter (23%) of rural Nebraskans are very confident and just under six in ten (59%) are somewhat confident.
  - ✓ *Persons age 30 to 49 are more likely than different age groups to be confident in their ability to recognize fake news.* Approximately nine in ten persons (88%) age 30 to 49 are very or somewhat confident in their ability to recognize news that is made up, compared to 72 percent of persons age 65 and older.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans have confidence in their local institutions (public safety agencies in their community; public schools in their community; and voting and election systems in their county).*** Over one-half of rural Nebraskans have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in public safety agencies in their community (76%), public schools (K – 12) in their community (65%) and voting and election systems in their county (52%). On the other hand, over one-quarter of rural Nebraskans have very little confidence in the following national institutions: U.S. House of Representatives (32%), U.S. Senate (31%) and the Presidency and executive branch of government (28%).
  - ✓ *Older persons are more likely than younger persons to have confidence in the voting and election systems in their county.* Seven in ten persons (70%) age 65 and older have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their county's voting and election systems, compared to just under one-half (49%) of persons age 19 to 29.
  - ✓ *Persons living in the South Central region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to have confidence in their local/municipal government.* Over one-half (53%) of South Central residents have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local/municipal government, compared to just over one-third (34%) of Panhandle residents.

- ✓ *In general, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have confidence in their local public safety agencies (police department, fire department, etc.).* Just over eight in ten persons living in or near the largest communities have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local public safety agencies. In comparison, approximately seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 have confidence in these agencies.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans support early voting, requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot and automatic voter registration.*** At least three-quarters support requiring a photo identification in order to vote (86%) and early voting (giving all voters the chance to cast their ballot prior to Election Day) (77%). Just over one-half (53%) support automatic voter registration (whereby all citizens are automatically registered to vote at age 18). Almost one-half (46%) support online voter registration.
  - ✓ *Younger persons are more likely than older persons to support requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot.* At least nine in ten persons under the age of 40 support this policy, compared to 79 percent of persons age 65 and older.
  - ✓ *Younger persons are more likely than older persons to support automatic voter registration (all citizens are automatically registered to vote at age 18).* Over six in ten persons (64%) age 19 to 29 support automatic voter registration, compared to 39 percent of persons age 65 and older.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans believe both votes being cast by people not eligible to vote and eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote were either a minor or major problem in last year's election.*** Over one-third of rural Nebraskans (36%) believe votes being cast by people not eligible to vote was a major problem. Over four in ten (43%) believe it was a minor problem. Fewer rural Nebraskans perceive eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote as a problem. Two in ten (20%) believe this was a major problem and just under four in ten (39%) think it was a minor problem.
  - ✓ *Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to think ineligible voters was a major problem in last year's election.* Six in ten (60%) of workers with these types of occupations believe ineligible voters was a major problem, compared to 23 percent of persons with management, professional or education occupations.
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to believe eligible voters not being allowed to vote was a problem in last year's election.* Approximately six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 500 or more think this was either a minor or major problem, compared to one-half (50%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500.

Introduction

Today, people have many different sources of news. However, Americans have been increasingly distrustful of media as of late. And, while their confidence in other institutions had similarly declined in recent years, Gallup reported an uptick this year. Given all this, how much do rural Nebraskans trust various information sources? How much confidence do they have in various government institutions and systems? Do they favor various election law policies? Do they perceive any voting problems in last year's election? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,972 responses to the 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 22nd annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about media, institutions and voting.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,972 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.[1] A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to 6,244 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being; community; food shopping; the agricultural economy; and media, institutions and voting. This paper reports only results from the media, institutions and voting section.

A 32% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project manager approximately ten days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately ten days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 20 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2011 - 2015 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

1 In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Sixty-eight percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 69 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 42 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-seven percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-seven percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-eight percent of the respondents report their 2016 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Fifty-eight percent report incomes over $50,000.

Seventy-eight percent were employed in 2016 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Eighteen percent are retired. Thirty-seven percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Seventeen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Trust in Media

How much do rural Nebraskans trust the information they get from various sources? Respondents rated how much they trust 17 sources of information.

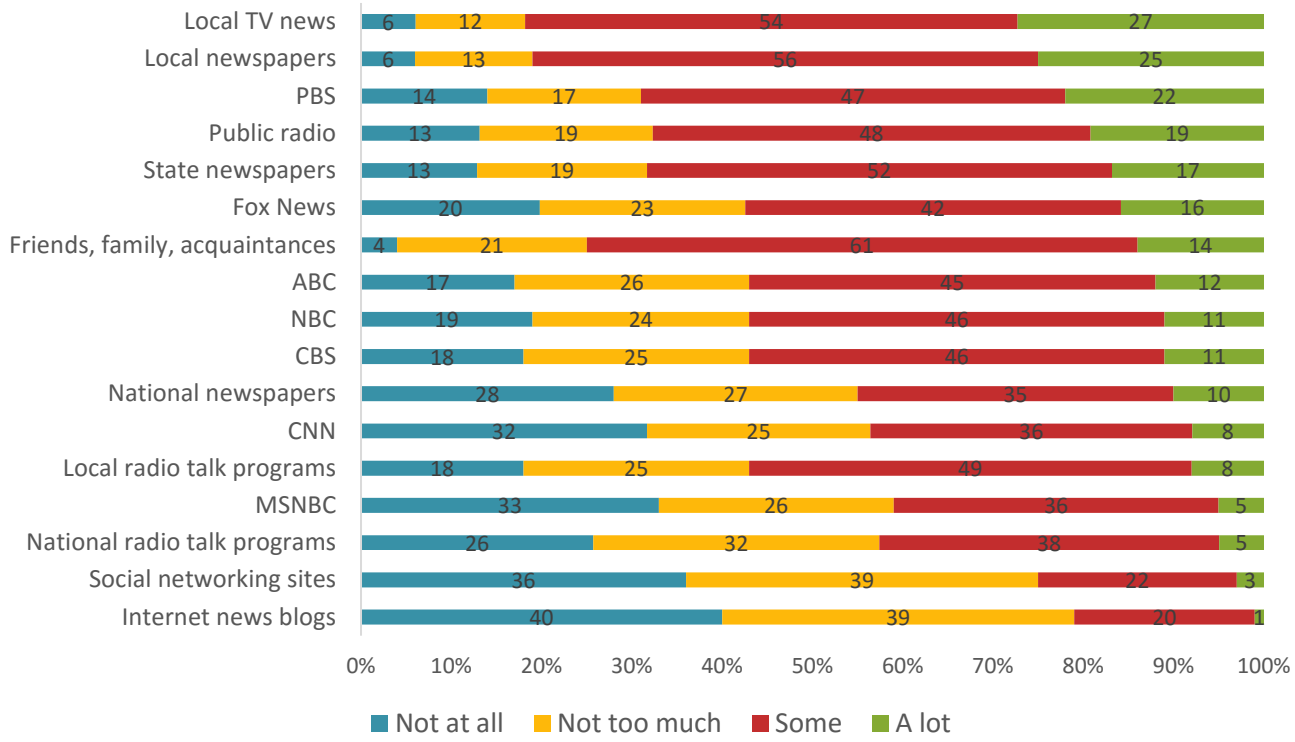
Rural Nebraskans most trust information received from local news sources (TV and newspapers) and public sources (PBS and public radio). They least trust information from social networking sites and Internet blogs. Just over eight in ten rural Nebraskans trust information from their local TV news organizations and their local newspapers either some or a lot (Figure 1). Four in ten do not trust at all information received from Internet news blogs and just over one-third (36%) do not trust social networking sites at all.

Trust in various information sources differs by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to trust information from the following a lot: CNN, ABC, NBC, PBS, national newspapers, state newspapers, and friends/family/acquaintances. However, persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are the group most likely to trust the information they get from Fox News a lot.

When examining responses by region, many differences exist (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Residents of the North Central region are the regional group *least* likely to say they trust the information they get from CNN a lot. Residents of the Panhandle join the residents of the North Central region as the groups *least* likely to trust the information they get from the following a lot: ABC, CBS, and NBC. As an example, 16 percent of residents of the Southeast region trust a lot the information they get from ABC, compared to approximately six percent of the residents of both the Panhandle and North Central regions. Panhandle residents are the group *least* likely to trust a lot the information they get from their local TV news organizations, state newspapers and local newspapers. Six percent of Panhandle residents trust the information a lot they get from state

Figure 1. *Trust in Information Sources*

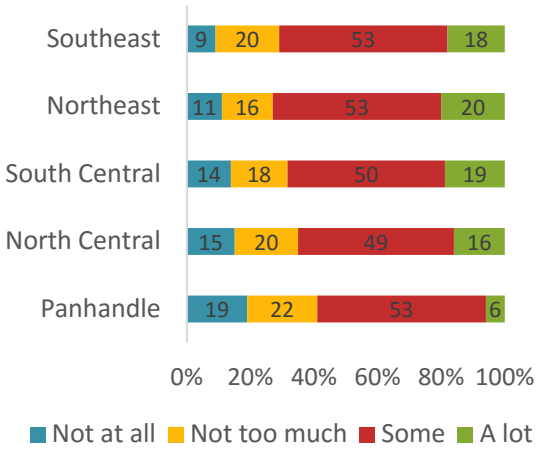


newspapers, compared to approximately 16 percent of residents from the other regions of the state (Figure 2).

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to trust information they get from local TV news organizations, national newspapers and local newspapers.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to trust information either some or a lot from the following sources: CNN, MSNBC, national newspapers, state newspapers, national radio talk programs, local radio talk programs, and Internet news blogs. As an example, almost one-half (49%) of persons age 19 to 29 trust the information from CNN either some or a lot, compared to 39 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Figure 2. *Trust in State Newspapers by Region*



Persons age 40 and older are more likely than persons under the age of 40 to trust the information from Fox News as well as from friends, family and acquaintances either some or a lot. Approximately six in ten persons age 40 and older trust the information from Fox News either some or a lot, compared to 50 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

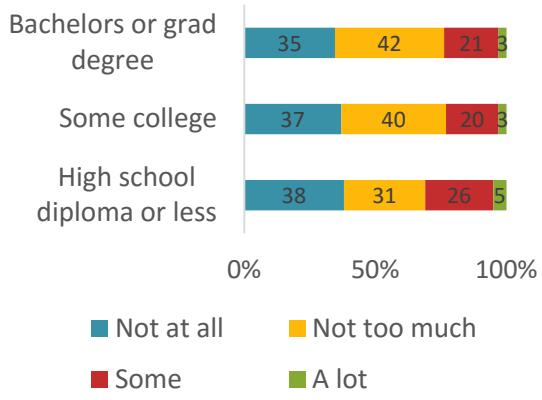
Person age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to trust the information either some or a lot from ABC and NBC. Persons age 50 to 64 are the group most likely to trust information from public radio. Social networking sites are trusted most by persons age 40 to 49.

Females are more likely than males to trust information either some or a lot from the following sources: CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, national newspapers, state newspapers, local newspapers, public radio, local radio talk programs, and social networking sites. As an example, one-half (50%) of females trust information from national newspapers either some or a lot, compared to 39 percent of males.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to trust either some or a lot their local TV news organizations, national newspapers, and state newspapers. And, this group is most likely to trust information from PBS a lot.

Persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to trust information from their friends, family and acquaintances; social networking sites; and Internet news blogs. As an example, 31 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education trust information from social networking sites either some or a lot (Figure 3). In comparison, approximately 23 percent of persons with at least some college education trust social networking either some or a lot.

Figure 3. *Trust in Social Networking Sites by Education Level*



Persons with some college education (but not a four year degree) are the group *least* likely to trust information from CNN, MSNBC, NBC, and public radio.

Widowed persons are more likely than persons with other marital statuses to trust information from CBS and NBC a lot. Married persons are the group most likely to trust information from their local TV news organizations either some or a lot. Persons who are divorced or separated join the married respondents as most likely to trust information from state newspapers. Persons who are divorced or separated are the group most likely to trust national radio talk programs and Internet news blogs. Persons who have never married are the marital group *least* likely to trust information from Fox News and local newspapers.

When comparing responses by occupation, persons with food service or personal care occupations are the group most likely to trust information from the following sources either some or a lot: CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS. This group was also most likely to trust a lot information from their local newspapers, social networking sites and Internet news blogs.

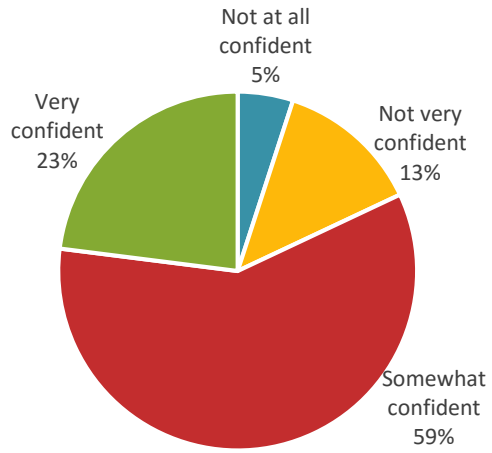
Persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are the group most likely to trust information from Fox News and their local TV news organizations. Almost seven in ten persons with these types of occupations (69%) trust information from Fox News either some or a lot, compared to 52 percent of persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the occupation group most likely to trust information either some or a lot from national newspapers, public radio and national radio talk program. Persons with management, professional or education occupations join this group as most likely to trust information from state newspapers. Persons with occupations in agriculture are the group most likely to trust information from friends, family and acquaintances.

Next, respondents were asked how confident they are in their ability to recognize news that is made up (non-factual). Most rural Nebraskans are somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize news that is made up. Almost one-quarter (23%) of rural Nebraskans are very confident and just under six in ten (59%) are somewhat confident (Figure 4).

The ability to recognize made-up news differs by community size, region and many individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize fake news. Eighty-five percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more are somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize made up news, compared to 76 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.

Figure 4. *Confidence in Ability to Recognize Made Up News*



Persons age 30 to 49 are more likely than different age groups to be confident in their ability to recognize fake news. Approximately nine in ten persons (88%) age 30 to 49 are very or somewhat confident in their ability to recognize news that is made up, compared to 72 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to be somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize made up news include: Panhandle residents, persons with higher household incomes, males, persons who have never married, persons with higher education levels and persons with production, transportation and warehousing occupations.

Confidence in Institutions

Next, rural Nebraskans' confidence in various institutions was examined. Respondents were asked to indicate how much confidence they have in a list of 12 institutions.

Most rural Nebraskans have confidence in their local institutions (public safety agencies in their community; public schools in their community; and voting and election systems in their

county). Over one-half of rural Nebraskans have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in public safety agencies in their community (76%), public schools (K – 12) in their community (65%) and voting and election systems in their county (52%) (Figure 5). On the other hand, over one-quarter of rural Nebraskans have very little confidence in the following national institutions: U.S. House of Representatives (32%), U.S. Senate (31%) and the Presidency and executive branch of government (28%).

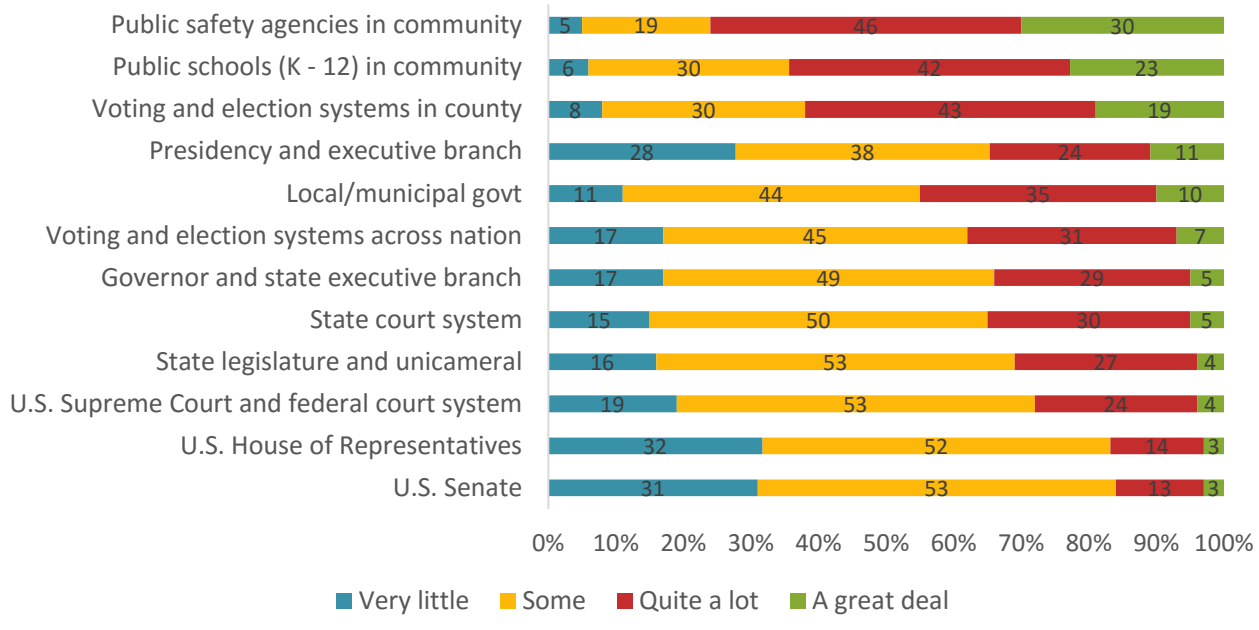
Confidence in these institutions is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Many differences emerge.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Presidency and executive branch of government. Just under four in ten (38%) of persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Presidency and executive branch, compared to 26 percent of persons with incomes under $20,000.

Other groups that are most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Presidency include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999, males, persons with some college education (but not a four year degree), married persons, persons with sales or office support occupations, persons with occupations in agriculture, and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations.

When looking at confidence with the U.S. Senate, certain groups are most likely to have *very little* confidence in it: persons living in or near the largest communities, males, persons who have never married, persons with construction, installation or maintenance

Figure 5. *Confidence in Institutions*



occupations and persons with occupations classified as other.

Similarly, most of those same groups are more likely than others to have *very little* confidence in the U.S. House of Representatives: persons living in or near the largest communities, males, persons who have never married, and persons with occupations classified as other.

Persons living in the South Central region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to have confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system. One-third (33%) of persons living in the South Central region have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court, compared to 22 percent of persons living in the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court include: persons with higher household incomes; persons age 40 or older; persons with at least a four year college degree; married persons; widowed persons; persons with management, professional or education occupations; persons with sales or office support occupations; and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Males are more likely than females to have confidence in the Governor and state executive branch of government. Almost four in ten (38%) of males have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Governor and state executive branch, compared to 30 percent of females.

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Governor and state executive branch of government include: persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons, widowed persons, persons with sales or office support occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture. When comparing the responses by region, residents of both the North Central and Southeast regions are *less* likely than residents of other regions of the state to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the Governor and state executive branch.

Persons with either sales or office support occupations or occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to have confidence in the state legislature and unicameral. Approximately four in ten persons with these types of occupations have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the state legislature and unicameral. In comparison, only five percent of persons with occupations classified as other share this opinion.

The other groups most likely to have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the state legislature and unicameral include: residents of the South Central region, residents of the Northeast region, persons with higher household incomes, persons age 65 and older, persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons and widowed persons.

Residents of both the South Central and Northeast regions of the state are more likely than persons living in different regions of the state to have confidence in the state court system. Just under four in ten persons living in the South Central and Northeast regions have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the state court system, compared to 26 percent of persons living in the North Central region of the state.

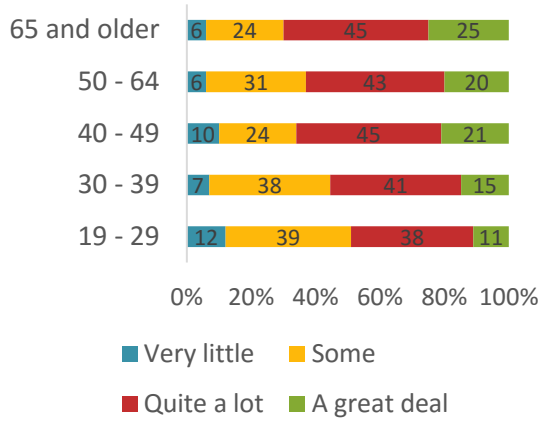
Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the state court system include: persons with the highest household incomes, persons age 65 and older,

males, persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons, widowed persons, persons with occupations in agriculture and persons with management, professional or education occupations.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to have confidence in the voting and election systems in their county. Seven in ten persons (70%) age 65 and older have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their county's voting and election systems, compared to just under one-half (49%) of persons age 19 to 29 (Figure 6).

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their county's voting and election systems include: persons living in or near communities with populations under 10,000; persons with higher household incomes; males; persons with higher education levels; married persons; persons with sales or office support occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture. Residents of the Northeast region are *less* likely than residents of other regions of the state to have confidence in their county's voting and election systems.

Figure 6. *Confidence in Your County's Voting and Election Systems by Age*

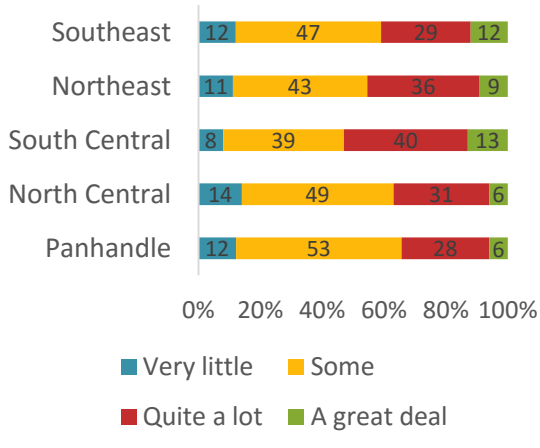


Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have confidence in the voting and election systems across the nation. Over four in ten persons (43%) with household incomes of $60,000 or more have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the nation's voting and election systems, compared to just under one-quarter (24%) of persons with household incomes under $20,000.

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the nation's voting systems include: persons age 40 to 49, persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons, and persons with management, professional or education occupations.

Persons living in the South Central region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to have confidence in their local/municipal government. Over one-half (53%) of South Central residents have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local/municipal government, compared to just over one-third (34%) of Panhandle residents

Figure 7. *Confidence in Local/Municipal Government by Region*



(Figure 7).

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local/municipal government include: persons with higher household incomes, persons age 65 and older, persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons, widowed persons, persons with sales or office support occupations, and persons with management, professional or education occupations.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have confidence in their local public schools. Eight in ten persons with these types of occupations (80%) have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in their local public schools (K – 12), compared to 60 percent of persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Other groups most likely to have confidence in their local public schools (K – 12) include persons with higher household incomes and persons age 19 to 29. Residents of both the Panhandle and North Central regions are *less* likely than persons living in other regions to have confidence in their local public schools. Just over two-thirds (68%) of persons from the other regions have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their public schools, compared to 50 percent of Panhandle residents and 55 percent of residents of the North Central region. When comparing responses by education level, persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree) are the group *least* likely to have confidence in their public schools.

In general, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have confidence in their local public safety agencies (police department, fire department, etc.). Just over eight in ten persons living in or near the largest communities have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local public safety agencies. In comparison, approximately seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 have confidence in these agencies.

Other groups most likely to have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their public safety agencies in their community include: residents of the South Central region, persons with higher household incomes, persons age 19 to 29, persons age 65 and older, persons with at least a four year college degree, married persons, widowed persons, and persons with management, professional or education occupations.

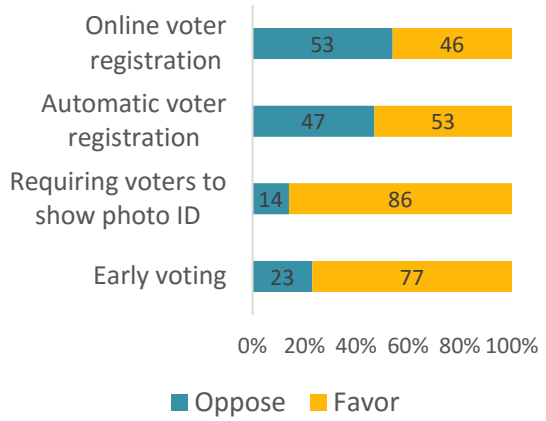
Voting

Finally, respondents were asked two questions about voting. The first asked if they favor or oppose four different election law policies.

Most rural Nebraskans support early voting, requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot and automatic voter registration. At least three-quarters support requiring a photo identification in order to vote (86%) and early voting (giving all voters the chance to cast their ballot prior to Election Day) (77%) (Figure 8). Just over one-half (53%) support automatic voter registration (whereby all citizens are automatically registered to vote at age 18). Almost one-half (46%) support online voter registration.

Support for these policies is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Some differences emerge.

Figure 8. *Support for Election Law Policies*



Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to support early voting. Approximately eight in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more support this policy, compared to 71 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to support early voting. Almost nine in ten persons age 19 to 29 (88%) support early voting, compared to 66 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to support early voting include persons with higher household incomes and persons with higher education levels. When comparing responses by occupation, persons with the following types of occupations were *less* likely than persons with different occupations to support it: persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to support requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot. At least nine in ten persons under the age of 40 support this policy, compared to 79 percent of persons age 65 and older.

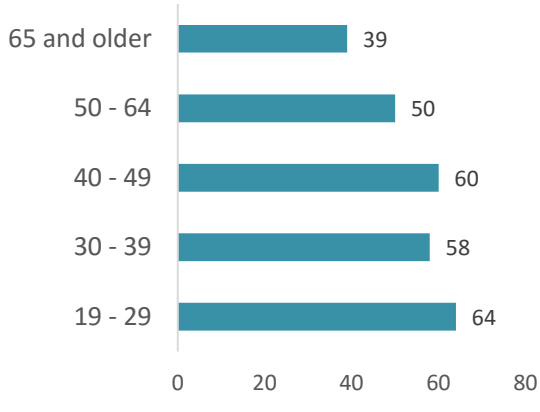
Persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree) are more likely than persons with both more and less education to support requiring photo identification in order to vote.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to support automatic voter registration (all citizens are automatically registered to vote at age 18). Over six in ten persons (64%) age 19 to 29 support automatic voter registration, compared to 39 percent of persons age 65 and older (Figure 9).

Other groups most likely to support automatic voter registration include persons with higher household incomes and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to support online voter registration. Just over one-half (52%) of Southeast region

Figure 9. *Support for Automatic Voter Registration by Age*



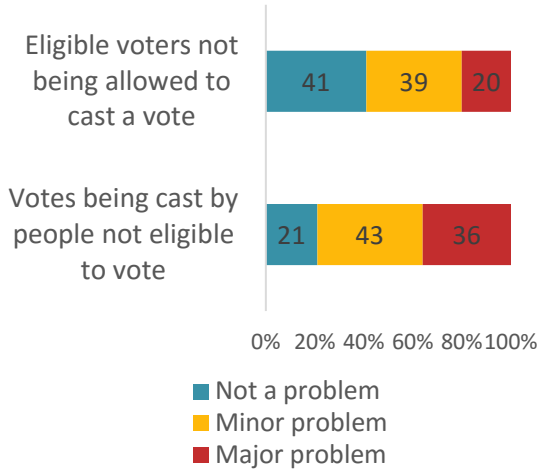
residents support online voter registration, compared to 35 percent of the Panhandle residents.

Other groups most likely to support online voter registration include: persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, persons with higher education levels and persons with healthcare support and public safety occupations. When comparing responses by community size, persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are the group *least* likely to support online voter registration.

Finally, respondents were asked their perceptions of problems in last year's election. Most rural Nebraskans believe both votes being cast by people not eligible to vote and eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote were either a minor or major problem in last year's election. Over one-third of rural Nebraskans (36%) believe votes being cast by people not eligible to vote was a major problem (Figure 10). Over four in ten (43%) believe it was a minor problem. Fewer rural Nebraskans perceive eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote as a problem. Two in ten (20%) believe this was a major problem and just under four in ten (39%) think it was a minor problem.

These perceptions differ by community size and some individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to believe votes being cast by ineligible voters was a problem in last year's election. At least eight in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 10,000 believe ineligible voters was either a minor or major problem, compared to 74 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Figure 10. *Perceptions of Problems in Last Year's Election*

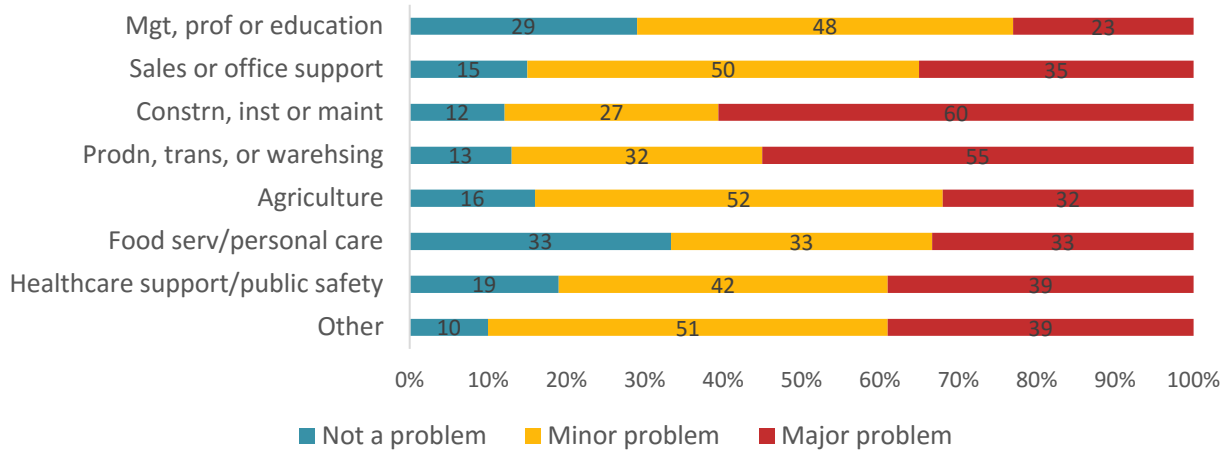


Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to think ineligible voters was a major problem in last year's election. Almost one-half (48%) of persons with household incomes under $20,000 think this was a major problem, compared to 33 percent of persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe ineligible voters was a major problem in last year's election. Over four in ten (43%) of persons with less than a four year college degree believe ineligible voters was a major problem, compared to 26 percent of persons with at least a four year degree.

Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to think ineligible voters was a major problem in last year's election. Six in ten (60%) of workers with these types of occupations believe ineligible voters was a major problem, compared to 23 percent of persons with management,

Figure 11. *Perception of Problem of Ineligible Voters in Last Year's Election by Occupation*



professional or education occupations (Figure 11).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to believe eligible voters not being allowed to vote was a problem in last year's election. Approximately six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 500 or more think this was either a minor or major problem, compared to one-half (50%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to believe eligible voters not being allowed to vote was a problem in last year's election. Approximately two-thirds (66%) of persons with household incomes under $20,000 think this was either a minor or major problem, compared to 58 percent of persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to think eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote was a problem in last year's election include: females; persons with lower education levels; persons who are divorced or separated; persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations; and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Conclusion

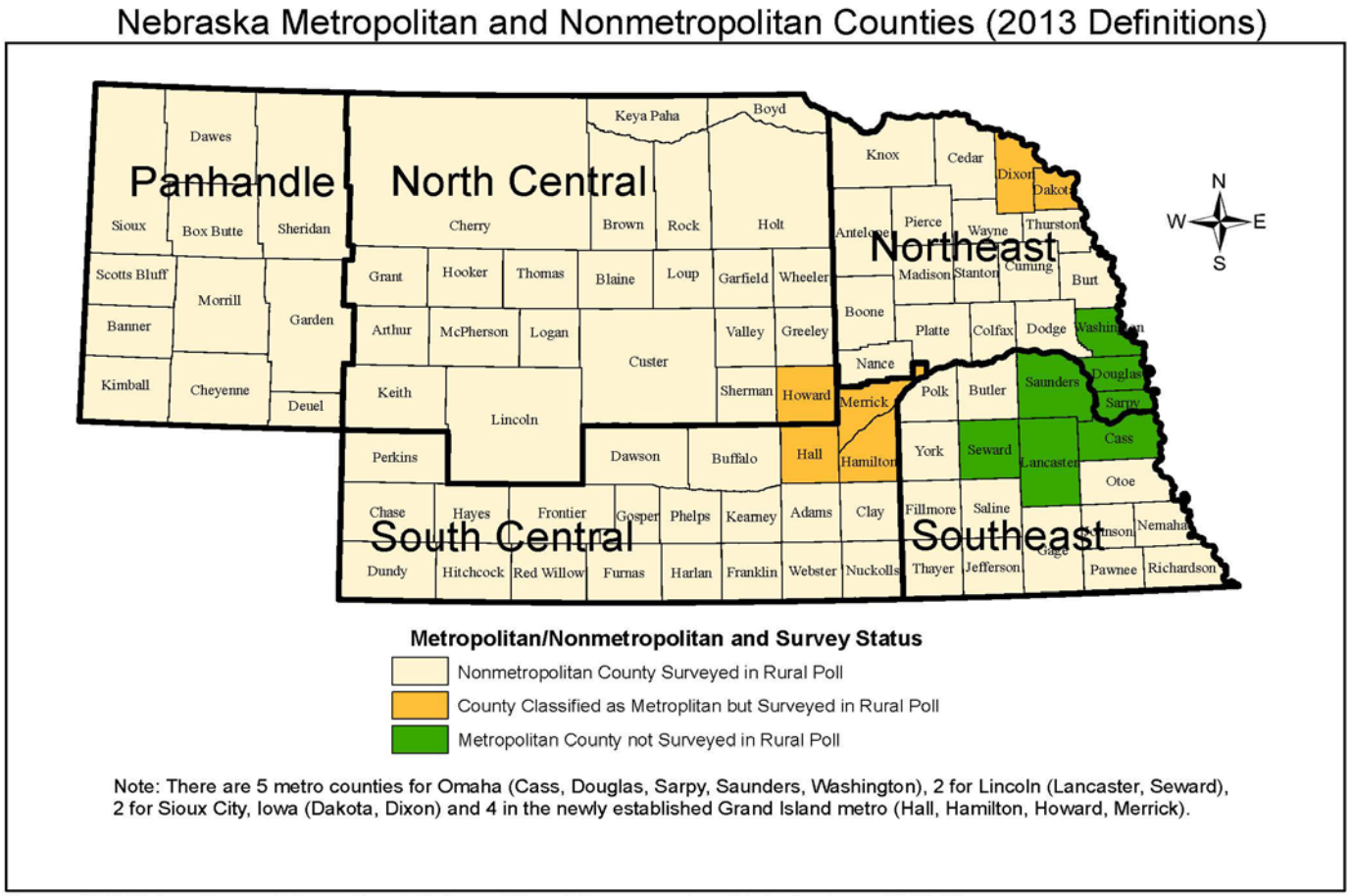
Rural Nebraskans most trust information received from local news sources (TV and newspapers) and public sources (PBS and public radio). They least trust information from social networking sites and Internet blogs. Most rural Nebraskans are somewhat or very confident in their ability to recognize news that is made up.

Most rural Nebraskans have confidence in their local institutions (public safety agencies in their community; public schools in their community; and voting and election systems in their county). On the other hand, over one-quarter of rural Nebraskans have very little confidence in the following national institutions: U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate and the Presidency and executive branch of government.

Most rural Nebraskans support early voting, requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot and automatic voter registration. Almost one-half support online voter registration.

Most rural Nebraskans believe both votes being cast by people not eligible to vote and eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote were either a minor or major problem in last year's election. Over one-third of rural Nebraskans believe votes being cast by people not eligible to vote was a major problem. Over four in ten believe it was a minor problem. Fewer rural Nebraskans perceive eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote as a problem. Two in ten believe this was a major problem and just under four in ten think it was a minor problem.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13

Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents[1] Compared to 2011 – 2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska**

	2017 Poll	*2016 Poll*	*2015 Poll*	*2014 Poll*	*2013 Poll*	*2012 Poll*	*2011 - 2015 ACS*
Age : [2]							
20 - 39	32%	31%	31%	32%	31%	31%	31%
40 - 64	44%	45%	45%	46%	44%	44%	44%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	24%	24%
Gender: [3]							
Female	56%	59%	58%	57%	51%	61%	51%
Male	44%	41%	42%	43%	49%	39%	49%
Education: [4]							
Less than 9th grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	7%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	18%	21%	22%	18%	23%	22%	33%
Some college, no degree	22%	21%	23%	23%	25%	25%	26%
Associate degree	16%	19%	15%	16%	15%	15%	11%
Bachelors degree	25%	23%	24%	24%	22%	24%	13%
Graduate or professional degree	16%	14%	13%	16%	12%	11%	5%
Household Income: [5]							
Less than $10,000	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
$10,000 - $19,999	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	10%	11%
$20,000 - $29,999	7%	11%	9%	8%	13%	11%	12%
$30,000 - $39,999	11%	11%	9%	14%	10%	10%	11%
$40,000 - $49,999	13%	11%	12%	12%	15%	12%	10%
$50,000 - $59,999	13%	11%	11%	13%	10%	13%	9%
$60,000 - $74,999	12%	14%	15%	13%	11%	14%	11%
$75,000 or more	34%	32%	32%	29%	29%	25%	28%
Marital Status: [6]							
Married	68%	69%	68%	68%	70%	70%	62%
Never married	13%	11%	13%	12%	12%	10%	18%
Divorced/separated	11%	10%	10%	12%	9%	11%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%	8%

[1] Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

[2] 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[3] 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[4] 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

[5] 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

[6] 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. *Trust in Information Sources by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	CNN					***MSNBC***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	32	25	36	8		33	26	36	5	
Community Size		(n = 1698)					(n = 1671)			
Less than 500	35	24	37	4		35	26	36	3	
500 - 999	27	31	35	7		30	24	38	7	
1,000 - 4,999	30	28	35	6		34	29	33	5	
5,000 - 9,999	31	19	42	7	$\chi^2 = 22.63$*	33	20	42	5	$\chi^2 = 15.31$
10,000 and up	32	22	36	10	(.031)	32	26	37	5	(.225)
Region		(n = 1733)					(n = 1707)			
Panhandle	40	18	34	8		45	19	33	3	
North Central	30	26	41	3		35	26	36	3	
South Central	28	29	35	8		32	29	34	5	
Northeast	33	23	36	8	$\chi^2 = 31.18$*	31	27	37	6	$\chi^2 = 29.48$*
Southeast	31	23	35	11	(.002)	31	20	41	8	(.003)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1647)					(n = 1623)			
Under $20,000	33	28	35	4		38	27	31	4	
$20,000 - $39,999	29	28	33	10		28	27	37	7	
$40,000 - $59,999	34	21	39	7	$\chi^2 = 13.88$	36	25	36	4	$\chi^2 = 11.59$
$60,000 and over	31	25	37	8	(.127)	33	25	37	6	(.238)
Age		(n = 1739)					(n = 1712)			
19 - 29	32	20	43	6		34	19	43	5	
30 - 39	29	25	36	9		28	28	41	4	
40 - 49	32	26	37	6		35	26	36	3	
50 - 64	30	25	38	7	$\chi^2 = 21.44$*	31	28	36	6	$\chi^2 = 39.34$*
65 and older	35	26	29	10	(.044)	37	27	28	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1733)					(n = 1705)			
Male	39	24	30	7	$\chi^2 = 43.50$*	41	26	29	4	$\chi^2 = 54.34$*
Female	25	25	41	8	(.000)	26	26	42	6	(.000)
Education		(n = 1727)					(n = 1699)			
High school diploma or less	31	24	37	9		30	25	41	5	
Some college	36	25	33	6	$\chi^2 = 17.69$*	38	26	32	4	$\chi^2 = 16.34$*
Bachelors or grad degree	27	25	39	9	(.007)	30	27	37	6	(.012)
Marital Status		(n = 1722)					(n = 1696)			
Married	32	26	35	7		34	27	35	5	
Never married	32	15	43	10		34	16	43	6	
Divorced/separated	31	28	33	9	$\chi^2 = 16.78$	28	31	36	5	$\chi^2 = 16.57$
Widowed	30	26	36	8	(.052)	33	26	34	7	(.056)
Occupation		(n = 1276)					(n = 1256)			
Mgt, prof or education	25	23	44	9		26	26	41	7	
Sales or office support	37	28	30	5		39	30	30	1	
Constrn, inst or maint	51	20	26	3		47	18	32	3	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	39	20	35	6		39	21	39	1	
Agriculture	35	29	33	4		34	31	33	3	
Food serv/pers. care	20	4	62	14		21	12	64	2	
Hlthcare supp/safety	21	26	46	7	$\chi^2 = 88.04$*	24	22	50	4	$\chi^2 = 69.30$*
Other	46	27	19	8	(.000)	39	33	22	6	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	Fox News					***ABC***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	20	23	42	16		17	26	45	12	
Community Size		(n = 1696)					(n = 1699)			
Less than 500	13	23	49	16		17	28	48	7	
500 - 999	18	19	41	22		20	22	48	10	
1,000 - 4,999	23	25	38	14		17	27	46	10	
5,000 - 9,999	17	19	45	19	$\chi^2 = 29.03$*	22	24	41	13	$\chi^2 = 24.33$*
10,000 and up	22	24	41	14	(.004)	14	25	45	16	(.018)
Region		(n = 1727)					(n = 1733)			
Panhandle	28	18	41	13		24	24	47	5	
North Central	19	26	42	14		19	28	47	6	
South Central	20	23	39	17		15	27	45	14	
Northeast	20	23	42	16	$\chi^2 = 15.00$	17	25	46	13	$\chi^2 = 28.19$*
Southeast	17	21	46	16	(.242)	17	24	43	16	(.005)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1642)					(n = 1650)			
Under $20,000	22	22	39	18		23	22	42	13	
$20,000 - $39,999	18	27	36	19		15	27	43	16	
$40,000 - $59,999	23	22	42	13	$\chi^2 = 14.17$	18	26	44	12	$\chi^2 = 11.75$
$60,000 and over	20	21	44	15	(.117)	17	25	48	11	(.228)
Age		(n = 1732)					(n = 1739)			
19 - 29	23	27	42	8		20	27	47	6	
30 - 39	23	26	43	8		16	20	54	11	
40 - 49	19	19	45	17		17	31	44	9	
50 - 64	19	22	42	17	$\chi^2 = 54.89$*	16	24	45	15	$\chi^2 = 37.12$*
65 and older	19	21	36	24	(.000)	18	25	41	16	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1727)					(n = 1732)			
Male	19	22	42	18	$\chi^2 = 4.57$	22	29	40	9	$\chi^2 = 47.87$*
Female	21	24	41	14	(.206)	13	23	50	14	(.000)
Education		(n = 1725)					(n = 1728)			
High school diploma or less	19	21	43	18		15	24	45	16	
Some college	18	23	43	15	$\chi^2 = 5.81$	20	26	43	11	$\chi^2 = 11.47$
Bachelors or grad degree	22	24	40	15	(.445)	15	26	48	11	(.075)
Marital Status		(n = 1717)					(n = 1725)			
Married	19	24	41	17		18	26	45	11	
Never married	27	20	44	9		18	26	43	14	
Divorced/separated	19	20	46	15	$\chi^2 = 19.73$*	15	22	50	13	$\chi^2 = 8.10$
Widowed	24	18	39	19	(.020)	16	24	43	17	(.524)
Occupation		(n = 1272)					(n = 1275)			
Mgt, prof or education	22	24	40	15		14	24	50	12	
Sales or office support	20	27	37	16		10	32	48	10	
Constrn, inst or maint	20	16	55	9		36	23	36	5	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	15	16	54	15		21	22	46	10	
Agriculture	18	24	41	17		19	33	43	5	
Food serv/pers. care	36	12	42	10		10	20	57	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	26	46	12	$\chi^2 = 34.04$*	13	21	50	16	$\chi^2 = 72.41$*
Other	19	19	43	19	(.036)	14	38	32	16	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	CBS					***NBC***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	18	25	46	11		19	24	46	11	
Community Size		(n = 1704)					(n = 1701)			
Less than 500	16	27	49	8		17	30	47	7	
500 - 999	19	21	50	10		21	21	51	7	
1,000 - 4,999	19	25	47	9		22	22	47	8	
5,000 - 9,999	23	23	41	13	$\chi^2 = 19.22$	23	23	40	13	$\chi^2 = 36.50$*
10,000 and up	15	27	44	14	(.083)	16	23	46	15	(.000)
Region		(n = 1739)					(n = 1736)			
Panhandle	27	21	45	6		29	19	47	5	
North Central	20	27	47	6		20	25	49	7	
South Central	15	28	45	13		17	23	47	12	
Northeast	17	26	46	12	$\chi^2 = 33.21$*	19	25	45	12	$\chi^2 = 26.34$*
Southeast	18	22	45	16	(.001)	18	25	44	13	(.010)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1650)					(n = 1649)			
Under $20,000	21	20	47	12		26	19	45	11	
$20,000 - $39,999	15	26	43	16		18	24	44	14	
$40,000 - $59,999	19	25	44	11	$\chi^2 = 12.06$	21	25	45	10	$\chi^2 = 11.74$
$60,000 and over	18	25	47	10	(.210)	18	23	49	10	(.229)
Age		(n = 1745)					(n = 1739)			
19 - 29	21	23	48	8		26	21	47	6	
30 - 39	18	23	50	10		17	22	52	9	
40 - 49	18	32	43	7		19	27	46	8	
50 - 64	17	23	46	15	$\chi^2 = 37.57$*	17	23	45	14	$\chi^2 = 36.02$*
65 and older	17	25	43	16	(.000)	19	23	42	15	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1739)					(n = 1736)			
Male	23	30	39	9	$\chi^2 = 46.98$*	25	28	40	8	$\chi^2 = 55.48$*
Female	14	22	51	13	(.000)	15	21	51	13	(.000)
Education		(n = 1735)					(n = 1728)			
High school diploma or less	14	25	46	14		15	24	49	13	
Some college	21	25	44	11	$\chi^2 = 12.16$	23	25	42	11	$\chi^2 = 17.58$*
Bachelors or grad degree	16	26	47	10	(.059)	17	23	49	11	(.007)
Marital Status		(n = 1729)					(n = 1724)			
Married	18	27	45	10		19	25	46	10	
Never married	22	20	45	13		26	19	42	12	
Divorced/separated	15	24	49	12	$\chi^2 = 17.40$*	15	25	49	11	$\chi^2 = 19.40$*
Widowed	15	22	44	19	(.043)	16	19	48	17	(.022)
Occupation		(n = 1279)					(n = 1278)			
Mgt, prof or education	14	25	51	11		15	21	52	12	
Sales or office support	15	26	51	8		19	29	44	9	
Constrn, inst or maint	36	22	36	5		35	24	34	7	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	20	25	46	8		24	21	46	9	
Agriculture	21	32	40	7		23	32	40	4	
Food serv/pers. care	12	22	55	12		10	12	66	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	16	18	51	15	$\chi^2 = 63.46$*	17	17	53	14	$\chi^2 = 72.06$*
Other	13	42	29	16	(.000)	16	32	37	16	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	PBS					***Local TV news organizations***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	14	17	47	22		6	12	54	27	
Community Size		(n = 1675)					(n = 1685)			
Less than 500	13	21	50	16		5	12	61	23	
500 - 999	14	17	49	20		4	14	54	29	
1,000 - 4,999	15	19	46	21		8	11	55	26	
5,000 - 9,999	16	16	44	24	$\chi^2 = 21.16$*	8	13	49	30	$\chi^2 = 16.60$
10,000 and up	13	13	47	27	(.048)	5	12	53	30	(.165)
Region		(n = 1711)					(n = 1716)			
Panhandle	22	15	46	18		11	7	66	16	
North Central	15	15	50	20		6	14	53	28	
South Central	13	18	46	24		5	12	54	30	
Northeast	13	17	45	25	$\chi^2 = 16.73$	5	15	53	28	$\chi^2 = 29.05$*
Southeast	13	17	48	22	(.160)	8	11	54	28	(.004)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1628)					(n = 1636)			
Under $20,000	21	19	41	19		17	18	45	20	
$20,000 - $39,999	13	17	47	22		7	16	57	21	
$40,000 - $59,999	15	17	47	22	$\chi^2 = 11.48$	7	15	46	33	$\chi^2 = 76.47$*
$60,000 and over	13	15	49	24	(.244)	4	8	60	28	(.000)
Age		(n = 1714)					(n = 1723)			
19 - 29	15	18	55	12		3	14	53	30	
30 - 39	13	16	48	23		6	12	56	26	
40 - 49	13	17	48	22		6	12	60	22	
50 - 64	15	15	45	25	$\chi^2 = 28.82$*	6	10	55	29	$\chi^2 = 19.27$
65 and older	15	18	40	27	(.004)	9	13	49	30	(.082)
Gender		(n = 1708)					(n = 1716)			
Male	18	18	46	18	$\chi^2 = 26.85$*	7	12	57	24	$\chi^2 = 8.10$*
Female	11	16	47	26	(.000)	6	12	52	30	(.044)
Education		(n = 1706)					(n = 1711)			
High school diploma or less	13	18	50	20		8	15	48	29	
Some college	16	19	47	19	$\chi^2 = 19.52$*	8	13	57	22	$\chi^2 = 31.24$*
Bachelors or grad degree	12	15	46	27	(.003)	4	10	55	31	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1700)					(n = 1708)			
Married	13	17	47	23		5	10	57	28	
Never married	18	14	50	19		9	19	46	27	
Divorced/separated	14	17	47	22	$\chi^2 = 8.02$	8	15	54	24	$\chi^2 = 23.12$*
Widowed	14	18	42	26	(.532)	8	13	50	29	(.006)
Occupation		(n = 1266)					(n = 1269)			
Mgt, prof or education	11	15	46	28		4	9	57	30	
Sales or office support	13	21	44	22		9	13	50	29	
Constrn, inst or maint	26	10	58	6		8	18	57	17	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	14	13	54	19		6	8	61	25	
Agriculture	17	22	45	17		4	14	58	25	
Food serv/pers. care	8	10	50	32		6	15	38	42	
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	15	49	27	$\chi^2 = 63.98$*	9	16	45	30	$\chi^2 = 40.48$*
Other	8	11	61	19	(.000)	6	8	50	36	(.007)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	National newspapers					***State newspapers***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	28	27	35	10		13	19	52	17	
Community Size		(n = 1650)					(n = 1676)			
Less than 500	29	33	35	3		10	27	51	13	
500 - 999	29	27	36	8		14	17	55	14	
1,000 - 4,999	31	27	32	11		15	17	50	18	
5,000 - 9,999	32	21	37	11	$\chi^2 = 31.72$*	12	18	52	18	$\chi^2 = 26.46$*
10,000 and up	24	27	38	12	(.002)	12	16	52	19	(.009)
Region		(n = 1686)					(n = 1711)			
Panhandle	28	27	35	9		19	22	53	6	
North Central	24	33	36	8		15	20	49	16	
South Central	30	26	34	11		14	18	50	19	
Northeast	29	25	37	9	$\chi^2 = 10.23$	11	16	53	20	$\chi^2 = 32.31$*
Southeast	27	28	35	11	(.596)	9	20	53	18	(.001)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1607)					(n = 1625)			
Under $20,000	41	28	25	7		26	19	40	16	
$20,000 - $39,999	28	29	38	6		12	18	54	16	
$40,000 - $59,999	27	32	32	9	$\chi^2 = 41.67$*	15	20	47	18	$\chi^2 = 35.45$*
$60,000 and over	27	22	38	13	(.000)	10	17	55	18	(.000)
Age		(n = 1692)					(n = 1717)			
19 - 29	23	31	34	13		8	23	51	18	
30 - 39	23	26	40	10		11	16	56	18	
40 - 49	28	24	38	10		14	17	53	17	
50 - 64	27	25	39	9	$\chi^2 = 38.49$*	12	19	52	17	$\chi^2 = 25.34$*
65 and older	37	30	25	8	(.000)	19	19	47	16	(.013)
Gender		(n = 1685)					(n = 1711)			
Male	32	29	32	7	$\chi^2 = 25.18$*	13	21	54	13	$\chi^2 = 20.02$*
Female	25	26	38	12	(.000)	13	17	50	21	(.000)
Education		(n = 1681)					(n = 1706)			
High school diploma or less	29	30	36	6		16	19	50	15	
Some college	32	31	32	5	$\chi^2 = 58.28$*	14	22	50	14	$\chi^2 = 28.53$*
Bachelors or grad degree	25	23	37	15	(.000)	10	15	55	21	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1675)					(n = 1703)			
Married	28	28	34	10		12	18	54	16	
Never married	28	24	38	10		12	25	42	21	
Divorced/separated	23	25	41	11	$\chi^2 = 14.74$	11	17	57	15	$\chi^2 = 27.51$*
Widowed	39	27	27	7	(.098)	23	17	43	17	(.001)
Occupation		(n = 1242)					(n = 1264)			
Mgt, prof or education	19	24	39	18		8	13	57	22	
Sales or office support	36	24	36	3		15	17	50	19	
Constrn, inst or maint	41	26	31	2		19	28	48	5	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	30	31	38	2		11	24	53	12	
Agriculture	32	35	27	6		11	28	52	9	
Food serv/pers. care	24	27	33	16		15	13	43	30	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	16	55	8	$\chi^2 = 118.21$*	10	13	54	23	$\chi^2 = 74.14$*
Other	26	34	23	17	(.000)	8	24	54	14	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	Local newspapers					***Public radio***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	6	13	56	25		13	19	48	19	
Community Size		(n = 1702)					(n = 1666)			
Less than 500	5	14	53	28		15	17	49	20	
500 - 999	5	10	62	23		11	24	48	18	
1,000 - 4,999	6	13	57	25		16	16	50	18	
5,000 - 9,999	9	14	60	17	$\chi^2 = 18.49$	11	24	42	23	$\chi^2 = 16.73$
10,000 and up	6	14	53	27	(.102)	12	20	49	20	(.160)
Region		(n = 1738)					(n = 1701)			
Panhandle	7	17	62	14		14	20	48	18	
North Central	4	12	58	27		13	20	51	17	
South Central	6	14	52	28		14	19	45	22	
Northeast	7	12	55	27	$\chi^2 = 24.32$*	14	17	49	20	$\chi^2 = 8.66$
Southeast	7	14	59	20	(.018)	12	21	51	16	(.732)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1652)					(n = 1620)			
Under $20,000	12	20	47	21		19	22	48	12	
$20,000 - $39,999	5	15	55	25		12	22	47	18	
$40,000 - $59,999	6	14	54	26	$\chi^2 = 19.88$*	13	18	48	21	$\chi^2 = 10.72$
$60,000 and over	6	12	58	25	(.019)	13	19	47	21	(.295)
Age		(n = 1742)					(n = 1708)			
19 - 29	1	16	59	24		9	23	49	19	
30 - 39	6	13	55	27		11	18	53	19	
40 - 49	7	11	61	21		14	20	49	17	
50 - 64	7	13	55	25	$\chi^2 = 24.18$*	15	15	50	21	$\chi^2 = 21.83$*
65 and older	6	15	51	29	(.019)	16	20	42	22	(.039)
Gender		(n = 1735)					(n = 1701)			
Male	6	16	58	20	$\chi^2 = 21.61$*	16	20	46	17	$\chi^2 = 15.31$*
Female	6	12	54	29	(.000)	11	18	50	21	(.002)
Education		(n = 1731)					(n = 1697)			
High school diploma or less	7	15	50	28		13	18	52	18	
Some college	7	10	61	22	$\chi^2 = 20.52$*	15	20	50	15	$\chi^2 = 19.38$*
Bachelors or grad degree	5	15	54	26	(.002)	12	19	45	24	(.004)
Marital Status		(n = 1727)					(n = 1692)			
Married	6	12	58	24		13	17	50	20	
Never married	8	20	45	27		13	26	42	19	
Divorced/separated	6	15	58	21	$\chi^2 = 23.63$*	13	20	48	20	$\chi^2 = 11.96$
Widowed	6	17	47	30	(.005)	14	22	44	20	(.216)
Occupation		(n = 1276)					(n = 1254)			
Mgt, prof or education	5	12	59	24		12	19	45	23	
Sales or office support	9	12	53	26		15	18	49	18	
Constrn, inst or maint	7	18	54	20		21	23	46	11	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	8	9	63	19		14	14	58	14	
Agriculture	1	16	64	19		12	22	47	18	
Food serv/pers. care	10	10	41	41		9	18	41	32	
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	9	49	34	$\chi^2 = 45.95$*	10	13	53	24	$\chi^2 = 33.33$*
Other	11	11	63	16	(.001)	11	24	49	16	(.043)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	National radio talk programs					*Local radio talk programs*				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	26	32	38	5		18	25	49	8	
Community Size		(n = 1660)					(n = 1658)			
Less than 500	24	29	40	7		16	22	54	9	
500 - 999	24	36	37	4		16	29	47	8	
1,000 - 4,999	26	35	35	4		19	26	48	8	
5,000 - 9,999	27	32	37	4	$\chi^2 = 12.23$	21	29	45	5	$\chi^2 = 11.31$
10,000 and up	25	30	40	6	(.428)	17	24	50	9	(.502)
Region		(n = 1693)					(n = 1692)			
Panhandle	33	24	38	5		21	24	47	9	
North Central	24	32	40	5		13	25	55	8	
South Central	25	33	36	6		18	27	45	10	
Northeast	25	31	39	5	$\chi^2 = 14.52$	18	22	52	9	$\chi^2 = 17.33$
Southeast	24	36	38	3	(.269)	19	30	45	6	(.138)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1616)					(n = 1612)			
Under $20,000	35	25	36	4		26	21	46	7	
$20,000 - $39,999	23	38	34	5		16	29	48	8	
$40,000 - $59,999	28	30	37	5	$\chi^2 = 16.57$	18	25	48	10	$\chi^2 = 10.79$
$60,000 and over	23	32	40	5	(.056)	17	26	49	8	(.290)
Age		(n = 1701)					(n = 1696)			
19 - 29	20	34	42	5		9	26	54	11	
30 - 39	26	30	40	4		16	25	51	8	
40 - 49	21	33	41	5		17	24	52	7	
50 - 64	25	32	38	5	$\chi^2 = 24.77$*	19	23	48	10	$\chi^2 = 39.39$*
65 and older	33	31	30	5	(.016)	25	28	40	7	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1694)					(n = 1692)			
Male	25	34	36	5	$\chi^2 = 3.77$	18	28	48	6	$\chi^2 = 13.21$*
Female	26	30	39	5	(.287)	18	23	49	10	(.004)
Education		(n = 1689)					(n = 1689)			
High school diploma or less	26	32	36	6		19	22	49	10	
Some college	25	34	35	5	$\chi^2 = 8.02$	18	24	49	9	$\chi^2 = 8.73$
Bachelors or grad degree	25	30	41	4	(.237)	17	28	48	7	(.189)
Marital Status		(n = 1685)					(n = 1684)			
Married	25	33	37	5		17	25	50	8	
Never married	28	26	41	5		19	25	48	9	
Divorced/separated	21	28	45	7	$\chi^2 = 18.78$*	17	23	51	9	$\chi^2 = 11.18$
Widowed	35	32	28	4	(.027)	26	30	38	6	(.264)
Occupation		(n = 1248)					(n = 1248)			
Mgt, prof or education	25	31	40	5		17	28	46	8	
Sales or office support	37	31	29	3		30	21	45	3	
Constrn, inst or maint	18	38	33	11		15	25	54	6	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	22	37	38	3		12	25	56	8	
Agriculture	21	35	40	4		12	24	56	8	
Food serv/pers. care	24	27	47	2		18	18	51	13	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	26	47	7	$\chi^2 = 39.37$*	13	22	55	10	$\chi^2 = 35.99$*
Other	22	36	42	0	(.009)	14	27	54	5	(.022)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	Friends, family, acquaintances					***Social networking sites***				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*	*Not at all*	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	4	21	61	14		36	39	22	3	
Community Size		(n = 1704)					(n = 1692)			
Less than 500	3	16	68	13		36	33	25	5	
500 - 999	1	24	65	10		39	38	22	1	
1,000 - 4,999	5	21	61	13		36	41	21	2	
5,000 - 9,999	3	24	55	17	$\chi^2 = 26.42$*	45	33	20	2	$\chi^2 = 24.48$*
10,000 and up	4	23	57	17	(.009)	33	43	20	4	(.017)
Region		(n = 1738)					(n = 1728)			
Panhandle	4	22	63	11		43	35	19	3	
North Central	2	21	67	10		39	35	23	4	
South Central	4	22	59	16		38	37	22	3	
Northeast	3	22	60	16	$\chi^2 = 25.40$*	33	43	22	3	$\chi^2 = 13.38$
Southeast	8	20	58	14	(.013)	34	43	21	2	(.342)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1653)					(n = 1646)			
Under $20,000	6	16	64	14		43	33	22	2	
$20,000 - $39,999	2	18	67	14		32	40	24	4	
$40,000 - $59,999	3	26	59	12	$\chi^2 = 22.68$*	36	41	20	3	$\chi^2 = 9.98$
$60,000 and over	4	21	59	16	(.007)	38	38	21	3	(.352)
Age		(n = 1743)					(n = 1735)			
19 - 29	3	29	59	9		30	48	17	5	
30 - 39	4	26	56	15		33	44	21	2	
40 - 49	5	19	65	12		36	34	27	4	
50 - 64	3	18	63	16	$\chi^2 = 31.62$*	35	40	22	3	$\chi^2 = 40.08$*
65 and older	5	18	59	18	(.002)	45	32	20	3	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1738)					(n = 1728)			
Male	3	22	61	14	$\chi^2 = 1.59$	44	36	18	3	$\chi^2 = 31.63$*
Female	4	21	60	15	(.662)	31	42	24	4	(.000)
Education		(n = 1732)					(n = 1724)			
High school diploma or less	4	17	60	19		38	31	26	5	
Some college	4	21	61	14	$\chi^2 = 14.36$*	37	40	20	3	$\chi^2 = 15.01$*
Bachelors or grad degree	3	24	61	12	(.026)	35	42	21	3	(.020)
Marital Status		(n = 1727)					(n = 1719)			
Married	4	20	61	15		36	40	21	3	
Never married	4	28	59	9		36	39	21	4	
Divorced/separated	3	17	65	15	$\chi^2 = 15.96$	33	39	25	4	$\chi^2 = 11.15$
Widowed	5	19	57	20	(.068)	45	27	23	4	(.265)
Occupation		(n = 1279)					(n = 1277)			
Mgt, prof or education	4	25	59	12		32	44	22	3	
Sales or office support	5	25	59	10		33	47	20	1	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	20	64	14		50	26	23	1	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	6	21	65	8		38	35	24	3	
Agriculture	1	16	71	12		37	35	24	4	
Food serv/pers. care	6	26	48	20		23	48	15	14	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	29	49	21	$\chi^2 = 45.66$*	27	53	19	1	$\chi^2 = 67.97$*
Other	6	19	50	25	(.001)	38	57	3	3	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	Internet news blogs				
	Not at all	*Not too much*	*Some*	*A lot*	*Significance*
Total	40	39	20	1	
Community Size		(n = 1674)			
Less than 500	41	34	24	1	
500 - 999	47	37	15	1	
1,000 - 4,999	39	41	19	1	
5,000 - 9,999	44	39	18	0	$\chi^2 = 25.26$*
10,000 and up	38	38	21	3	(.014)
Region		(n = 1712)			
Panhandle	40	39	17	3	
North Central	41	34	24	2	
South Central	40	39	20	2	
Northeast	42	38	20	0.4	$\chi^2 = 16.04$
Southeast	37	44	19	1	(.189)
Individual Attributes:					
Household Income Level		(n = 1633)			
Under $20,000	44	36	20	1	
$20,000 - $39,999	39	41	19	2	
$40,000 - $59,999	39	37	22	2	$\chi^2 = 4.83$
$60,000 and over	41	38	19	1	(.849)
Age		(n = 1717)			
19 - 29	37	38	24	1	
30 - 39	35	45	19	1	
40 - 49	38	39	22	1	
50 - 64	40	38	20	2	$\chi^2 = 28.19$*
65 and older	50	34	15	1	(.005)
Gender		(n = 1711)			
Male	46	33	20	1	$\chi^2 = 24.82$*
Female	36	43	20	2	(.000)
Education		(n = 1708)			
High school diploma or less	45	29	24	3	
Some college	40	42	17	1	$\chi^2 = 25.16$*
Bachelors or grad degree	39	40	20	2	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1703)			
Married	40	40	19	1	
Never married	39	37	21	3	
Divorced/separated	37	33	27	3	$\chi^2 = 17.54$*
Widowed	48	35	17	1	(.041)
Occupation		(n = 1265)			
Mgt, prof or education	36	40	23	2	
Sales or office support	43	47	9	1	
Constrn, inst or maint	54	27	19	0	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	45	36	19	0	
Agriculture	40	29	29	1	
Food serv/pers. care	24	46	18	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	29	52	18	0	$\chi^2 = 98.46$*
Other	47	44	9	0	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3. *Confidence in Recognizing Fake News by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	How confident are you in your ability to recognize news that is made up (non-factual)?				
	Not at all confident	*Not very confident*	*Somewhat confident*	*Very confident*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
			Percentages		
Total	5	13	59	23	
Community Size			(n = 1737)		
Less than 500	4	19	57	19	
500 - 999	5	15	65	16	
1,000 - 4,999	5	13	58	24	
5,000 - 9,999	4	11	60	25	$\chi^2 = 24.23$*
10,000 and up	4	11	58	27	(.019)
Region			(n = 1775)		
Panhandle	3	9	64	23	
North Central	6	17	55	23	
South Central	3	12	57	27	
Northeast	5	13	64	18	$\chi^2 = 29.18$*
Southeast	7	15	51	27	(.004)
Income Level			(n = 1687)		
Under $20,000	15	21	45	20	
$20,000 - $39,999	6	17	57	21	
$40,000 - $59,999	3	12	59	26	$\chi^2 = 68.95$*
$60,000 and over	3	11	62	25	(.000)
Age			(n = 1779)		
19 - 29	1	15	52	32	
30 - 39	2	7	56	34	
40 - 49	4	7	67	21	
50 - 64	5	15	59	21	$\chi^2 = 102.86$*
65 and older	8	21	57	15	(.000)
Gender			(n = 1773)		
Male	4	11	59	26	$\chi^2 = 12.81$*
Female	5	15	59	21	(.005)
Marital Status			(n = 1765)		
Married	4	13	61	23	
Never married	2	8	60	30	
Divorced/separated	5	17	52	26	$\chi^2 = 56.32$*
Widowed	13	23	52	12	(.000)
Education			(n = 1769)		
H.S. diploma or less	10	16	57	17	
Some college	3	16	59	22	$\chi^2 = 60.94$*
Bachelors degree	3	10	59	28	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 1293)		
Mgt, prof or education	2	10	56	33	
Sales or office support	2	12	67	19	
Constrn, inst or maint	4	11	66	19	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	3	8	73	17	
Agriculture	3	15	59	22	
Food serv/pers. care	13	23	49	15	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	9	68	18	$\chi^2 = 66.56$*
Other	5	11	62	22	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4. *Confidence in Institutions by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Presidency and executive branch of government					***U.S. Senate***				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	28	38	24	11		31	53	13	3	
Community Size		(n = 1726)					(n = 1723)			
Less than 500	20	45	26	9		28	60	9	4	
500 - 999	26	32	31	11		33	50	15	2	
1,000 - 4,999	24	40	23	12		26	58	15	2	
5,000 - 9,999	28	40	23	9	$\chi^2 = 34.15$*	32	57	8	3	$\chi^2 = 32.52$*
10,000 and up	34	34	21	11	(.001)	37	46	15	2	(.001)
Region		(n = 1761)					(n = 1763)			
Panhandle	30	37	27	6		32	50	15	2	
North Central	20	43	24	13		31	54	13	3	
South Central	30	35	24	11		30	53	14	3	
Northeast	27	38	25	10	$\chi^2 = 17.28$	32	53	14	2	$\chi^2 = 11.09$
Southeast	30	38	20	12	(.139)	33	56	8	3	(.521)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1677)					(n = 1676)			
Under $20,000	28	46	16	10		31	56	11	1	
$20,000 - $39,999	33	34	25	8		32	55	11	2	
$40,000 - $59,999	30	39	21	11	$\chi^2 = 20.27$*	35	51	11	3	$\chi^2 = 8.33$
$60,000 and over	25	37	26	12	(.016)	30	53	14	3	(.501)
Age		(n = 1769)					(n = 1768)			
19 - 29	29	39	24	8		30	52	15	3	
30 - 39	26	43	23	9		26	62	11	2	
40 - 49	23	36	25	16		34	51	12	4	
50 - 64	30	37	24	10	$\chi^2 = 19.53$	33	53	13	2	$\chi^2 = 17.98$
65 and older	30	36	24	11	(.077)	33	52	13	2	(.116)
Gender		(n = 1762)					(n = 1761)			
Male	25	37	28	11	$\chi^2 = 12.46$*	35	51	12	2	$\chi^2 = 12.14$*
Female	30	39	21	10	(.006)	28	56	13	3	(.007)
Education		(n = 1757)					(n = 1756)			
High school diploma or less	30	37	24	9		36	50	12	2	
Some college	22	39	26	13	$\chi^2 = 16.86$*	33	53	12	2	$\chi^2 = 12.05$
Bachelors or grad degree	31	37	22	10	(.010)	27	55	15	3	(.061)
Marital Status		(n = 1753)					(n = 1751)			
Married	25	38	26	12		30	53	15	2	
Never married	38	36	19	8		41	53	4	2	
Divorced/separated	30	39	21	11	$\chi^2 = 25.51$*	32	55	9	4	$\chi^2 = 33.00$*
Widowed	33	40	18	9	(.002)	32	54	11	3	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1290)					(n = 1286)			
Mgt, prof or education	32	37	19	11		29	54	15	2	
Sales or office support	25	32	32	12		27	52	17	4	
Constrn, inst or maint	17	38	39	6		41	51	8	0	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	15	44	28	13		30	59	8	4	
Agriculture	21	37	31	12		26	52	18	4	
Food serv/pers. care	35	45	14	6		23	71	6	0	
Hlthcare supp/safety	30	39	21	11	$\chi^2 = 56.26$*	31	49	17	3	$\chi^2 = 37.16$*
Other	37	32	29	3	(.000)	42	53	3	3	(.016)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	U.S. House of Representatives					*The U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system*				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	32	52	14	3		19	53	24	4	
Community Size		(n = 1717)					(n = 1717)			
Less than 500	28	59	10	4		20	55	20	5	
500 - 999	33	50	15	2		19	53	23	4	
1,000 - 4,999	27	55	16	3		18	55	24	3	
5,000 - 9,999	32	56	9	3	$\chi^2 = 33.17$*	18	51	25	7	$\chi^2 = 9.54$
10,000 and up	38	46	15	1	(.001)	19	51	26	5	(.656)
Region		(n = 1753)					(n = 1755)			
Panhandle	33	50	16	2		20	52	23	4	
North Central	31	53	15	2		23	52	21	4	
South Central	31	52	14	3		14	53	27	6	
Northeast	33	51	15	1	$\chi^2 = 19.47$	19	51	27	3	$\chi^2 = 29.68$*
Southeast	30	57	8	4	(.078)	22	56	18	4	(.003)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1668)					(n = 1672)			
Under $20,000	35	50	14	1		28	49	21	3	
$20,000 - $39,999	32	55	11	2		21	50	25	4	
$40,000 - $59,999	34	51	11	4	$\chi^2 = 12.56$	20	52	21	6	$\chi^2 = 27.69$*
$60,000 and over	29	53	15	2	(.183)	14	54	27	4	(.001)
Age		(n = 1757)					(n = 1758)			
19 - 29	30	50	15	5		21	53	21	5	
30 - 39	26	60	13	2		13	66	18	3	
40 - 49	34	51	11	4		17	53	24	6	
50 - 64	33	53	13	2	$\chi^2 = 22.36$*	21	48	27	4	$\chi^2 = 34.72$*
65 and older	32	50	16	2	(.034)	20	48	28	5	(.001)
Gender		(n = 1753)					(n = 1755)			
Male	35	50	13	2	$\chi^2 = 8.67$*	19	53	22	5	$\chi^2 = 5.18$
Female	29	54	14	3	(.034)	18	52	26	4	(.159)
Education		(n = 1749)					(n = 1749)			
High school diploma or less	35	50	13	2		26	50	22	3	
Some college	32	53	12	3	$\chi^2 = 4.61$	21	52	23	4	$\chi^2 = 42.08$*
Bachelors or grad degree	30	53	15	3	(.595)	12	55	27	6	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1743)					(n = 1745)			
Married	31	52	16	2		17	53	26	4	
Never married	40	51	5	4		26	52	17	5	
Divorced/separated	31	55	11	3	$\chi^2 = 27.60$*	18	58	18	6	$\chi^2 = 23.59$*
Widowed	30	55	12	3	(.001)	20	49	25	5	(.005)
Occupation		(n = 1280)					(n = 1280)			
Mgt, prof or education	31	53	15	2		10	57	28	6	
Sales or office support	30	48	19	3		16	52	27	6	
Constrn, inst or maint	38	55	8	0		26	64	10	1	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	21	65	7	7		19	57	18	7	
Agriculture	28	51	17	4		20	47	27	6	
Food serv/pers. care	23	70	6	0		15	62	21	2	
Hlthcare supp/safety	33	47	17	3	$\chi^2 = 51.34$*	20	58	19	4	$\chi^2 = 54.01$*
Other	41	57	3	0	(.000)	26	58	16	0	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	Governor and state executive branch of government					***State legislature and unicameral***				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	17	49	29	5		16	53	27	4	
Community Size		(n = 1720)					(n = 1722)			
Less than 500	12	53	27	8		14	54	25	7	
500 - 999	18	49	28	5		15	51	30	5	
1,000 - 4,999	16	50	31	3		15	53	28	4	
5,000 - 9,999	21	46	29	5	$\chi^2 = 20.15$	13	55	28	3	$\chi^2 = 15.22$
10,000 and up	20	48	28	5	(.064)	18	53	25	3	(.230)
Region		(n = 1754)					(n = 1758)			
Panhandle	21	42	34	3		17	55	26	2	
North Central	16	53	27	3		18	53	26	4	
South Central	15	49	29	7		14	52	28	6	
Northeast	17	48	31	4	$\chi^2 = 25.06$*	13	54	30	3	$\chi^2 = 23.42$*
Southeast	23	51	22	5	(.015)	21	53	20	5	(.024)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1671)					(n = 1673)			
Under $20,000	20	57	21	3		21	58	20	1	
$20,000 - $39,999	17	54	24	5		14	60	21	5	
$40,000 - $59,999	20	45	31	5	$\chi^2 = 16.21$	18	53	23	6	$\chi^2 = 34.15$*
$60,000 and over	16	49	30	5	(.063)	14	52	31	4	(.000)
Age		(n = 1763)					(n = 1765)			
19 - 29	18	48	27	6		17	51	24	8	
30 - 39	17	55	24	4		14	58	24	4	
40 - 49	17	49	29	5		18	52	27	3	
50 - 64	20	48	28	4	$\chi^2 = 15.01$	17	54	25	4	$\chi^2 = 21.29$*
65 and older	15	46	33	6	(.241)	14	51	32	3	(.046)
Gender		(n = 1756)					(n = 1756)			
Male	16	47	32	6	$\chi^2 = 10.04$*	15	52	28	4	$\chi^2 = 2.09$
Female	19	51	26	4	(.018)	16	55	26	4	(.554)
Education		(n = 1753)					(n = 1754)			
High school diploma or less	19	51	27	3		19	57	21	3	
Some college	16	52	27	5	$\chi^2 = 15.07$*	17	56	24	3	$\chi^2 = 28.88$*
Bachelors or grad degree	17	45	32	6	(.020)	13	50	32	6	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1746)					(n = 1748)			
Married	17	47	32	5		15	52	30	4	
Never married	23	55	17	5		20	61	15	4	
Divorced/separated	18	54	23	5	$\chi^2 = 26.64$*	20	53	22	5	$\chi^2 = 28.02$*
Widowed	13	53	30	5	(.002)	11	58	28	4	(.001)
Occupation		(n = 1283)					(n = 1283)			
Mgt, prof or education	17	50	27	6		13	53	29	6	
Sales or office support	16	40	40	5		13	47	34	6	
Constrn, inst or maint	14	53	29	4		17	60	20	4	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	15	55	27	3		11	65	20	5	
Agriculture	10	47	36	7		12	49	33	6	
Food serv/pers. care	17	60	23	0		13	72	15	0	
Hlthcare supp/safety	25	51	21	3	$\chi^2 = 40.13$*	23	52	24	2	$\chi^2 = 53.22$*
Other	22	51	27	0	(.007)	24	71	5	0	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	State court system					***Voting and election systems in your county***				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	15	50	30	5		8	30	43	19	
Community Size		(n = 1711)					(n = 1724)			
Less than 500	16	53	25	6		8	31	41	21	
500 - 999	15	47	29	9		6	30	48	16	
1,000 - 4,999	14	50	32	4		5	30	45	20	
5,000 - 9,999	11	52	33	4	$\chi^2 = 15.75$	12	23	47	18	$\chi^2 = 25.48$*
10,000 and up	15	50	29	6	(.203)	9	33	38	20	(.013)
Region		(n = 1743)					(n = 1760)			
Panhandle	11	58	28	3		9	25	54	12	
North Central	22	53	23	3		10	31	42	18	
South Central	13	48	31	8		6	31	41	23	
Northeast	13	49	35	3	$\chi^2 = 49.70$*	9	33	41	17	$\chi^2 = 24.24$*
Southeast	20	50	25	6	(.000)	8	28	42	22	(.019)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1660)					(n = 1674)			
Under $20,000	27	48	24	1		14	38	37	11	
$20,000 - $39,999	20	50	27	3		13	30	41	15	
$40,000 - $59,999	14	55	22	9	$\chi^2 = 70.66$*	8	31	42	20	$\chi^2 = 43.45$*
$60,000 and over	11	48	36	5	(.000)	5	29	44	22	(.000)
Age		(n = 1750)					(n = 1767)			
19 - 29	15	50	26	9		12	39	38	11	
30 - 39	12	60	24	4		7	38	41	15	
40 - 49	18	48	30	4		10	24	45	21	
50 - 64	16	49	31	4	$\chi^2 = 32.15$*	6	31	43	20	$\chi^2 = 59.13$*
65 and older	13	46	35	5	(.001)	6	24	45	25	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1743)					(n = 1761)			
Male	13	49	32	7	$\chi^2 = 11.02$*	5	26	46	22	$\chi^2 = 29.72$*
Female	17	51	29	4	(.012)	10	33	40	17	(.000)
Education		(n = 1740)					(n = 1755)			
High school diploma or less	21	48	28	3		15	33	39	13	
Some college	17	53	27	3	$\chi^2 = 57.52$*	8	30	46	16	$\chi^2 = 58.22$*
Bachelors or grad degree	10	48	33	9	(.000)	5	29	41	25	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1734)					(n = 1751)			
Married	13	50	32	5		6	29	45	21	
Never married	19	54	23	4		17	37	37	9	
Divorced/separated	23	49	24	4	$\chi^2 = 25.12$*	12	32	38	18	$\chi^2 = 59.26$*
Widowed	17	47	31	5	(.003)	9	32	40	19	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1277)					(n = 1289)			
Mgt, prof or education	12	49	32	7		4	32	40	24	
Sales or office support	9	56	29	6		4	26	51	19	
Constrn, inst or maint	17	58	22	3		7	41	40	12	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	13	57	20	9		8	35	44	13	
Agriculture	13	50	32	6		7	23	44	25	
Food serv/pers. care	20	50	28	2		18	39	35	8	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	47	32	2	$\chi^2 = 34.56$*	16	31	43	10	$\chi^2 = 74.28$*
Other	24	47	29	0	(.032)	16	26	37	21	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	Voting and election systems across the nation					***Local/municipal government***				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	17	45	31	7		11	44	35	10	
Community Size		(n = 1715)					(n = 1708)			
Less than 500	15	47	28	9		8	44	38	10	
500 - 999	16	49	28	7		10	50	28	13	
1,000 - 4,999	15	45	35	6		11	43	37	10	
5,000 - 9,999	22	38	34	6	$\chi^2 = 17.53$	10	51	30	10	$\chi^2 = 19.33$
10,000 and up	19	44	29	8	(.131)	14	42	34	9	(.081)
Region		(n = 1752)					(n = 1745)			
Panhandle	21	41	33	4		12	53	28	6	
North Central	19	43	33	6		14	49	31	6	
South Central	15	46	30	9		8	39	40	13	
Northeast	17	46	31	6	$\chi^2 = 11.85$	11	43	36	9	$\chi^2 = 37.05$*
Southeast	18	47	28	8	(.458)	12	47	29	12	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1669)					(n = 1660)			
Under $20,000	29	47	23	1		19	48	26	7	
$20,000 - $39,999	18	48	30	4		14	49	30	7	
$40,000 - $59,999	16	47	28	9	$\chi^2 = 37.98$*	12	45	33	10	$\chi^2 = 35.63$*
$60,000 and over	15	42	35	8	(.000)	8	42	38	12	(.000)
Age		(n = 1760)					(n = 1751)			
19 - 29	20	48	23	9		9	52	29	11	
30 - 39	17	48	31	4		7	51	35	7	
40 - 49	17	38	38	8		17	40	34	10	
50 - 64	16	48	30	7	$\chi^2 = 25.10$*	12	44	36	8	$\chi^2 = 42.30$*
65 and older	16	45	31	8	(.014)	10	39	37	14	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1752)					(n = 1746)			
Male	17	43	33	7	$\chi^2 = 2.62$	12	43	33	11	$\chi^2 = 5.60$
Female	17	47	29	7	(.454)	10	46	35	9	(.133)
Education		(n = 1747)					(n = 1740)			
High school diploma or less	24	45	28	4		17	47	28	9	
Some college	19	48	30	4	$\chi^2 = 54.43$*	12	47	34	7	$\chi^2 = 51.71$*
Bachelors or grad degree	13	43	33	11	(.000)	7	41	38	14	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1744)					(n = 1736)			
Married	14	45	33	8		10	42	37	11	
Never married	27	48	21	4		14	57	23	6	
Divorced/separated	23	42	29	6	$\chi^2 = 38.84$*	13	48	33	6	$\chi^2 = 37.46$*
Widowed	18	49	28	5	(.000)	10	42	32	16	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1286)					(n = 1278)			
Mgt, prof or education	11	42	37	11		6	42	39	13	
Sales or office support	13	45	34	8		4	47	38	12	
Constrn, inst or maint	19	58	20	4		15	52	27	5	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	23	45	25	7		16	53	21	10	
Agriculture	16	41	33	9		9	44	34	13	
Food serv/pers. care	25	59	16	0		12	61	22	4	
Hlthcare supp/safety	25	42	30	3	$\chi^2 = 65.54$*	16	46	35	3	$\chi^2 = 73.14$*
Other	29	42	26	3	(.000)	26	43	29	3	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	Public schools (K - 12) in your community					***Public safety agencies (police department, fire department, etc.) in your community***				
	Very little	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*	*Very little*	*Some*	*Quite a lot*	*A great deal*	*Significance*
						Percentages				
Total	6	30	42	23		5	19	46	30	
Community Size		(n = 1709)					(n = 1718)			
Less than 500	8	27	43	22		4	25	42	29	
500 - 999	4	33	39	24		9	23	42	27	
1,000 - 4,999	4	28	47	21		4	18	52	26	
5,000 - 9,999	5	28	40	27	$\chi^2 = 15.17$	5	25	42	28	$\chi^2 = 45.81$*
10,000 and up	6	32	39	24	(.232)	4	15	45	36	(.000)
Region		(n = 1742)					(n = 1753)			
Panhandle	8	33	43	17		4	27	49	20	
North Central	9	37	39	16		7	22	46	25	
South Central	3	29	43	25		3	14	46	37	
Northeast	6	27	43	25	$\chi^2 = 35.04$*	4	17	49	29	$\chi^2 = 52.63$*
Southeast	6	27	41	27	(.000)	6	25	39	31	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1661)					(n = 1667)			
Under $20,000	8	33	41	18		13	27	33	28	
$20,000 - $39,999	8	26	47	19		7	21	49	23	
$40,000 - $59,999	4	34	35	27	$\chi^2 = 29.95$*	4	20	47	29	$\chi^2 = 66.84$*
$60,000 and over	5	27	45	24	(.000)	3	15	48	35	(.000)
Age		(n = 1749)					(n = 1760)			
19 - 29	0	24	43	33		1	17	52	30	
30 - 39	5	37	36	22		4	22	47	26	
40 - 49	8	30	44	19		7	20	44	28	
50 - 64	8	31	44	18	$\chi^2 = 56.58$*	5	21	45	29	$\chi^2 = 36.41$*
65 and older	6	27	43	25	(.000)	4	16	45	35	(.003)
Gender		(n = 1744)					(n = 1752)			
Male	6	30	41	23	$\chi^2 = 0.58$	4	19	45	32	$\chi^2 = 7.14$
Female	5	29	43	23	(.900)	5	19	47	29	(.129)
Education		(n = 1740)					(n = 1749)			
High school diploma or less	6	29	45	21		7	23	41	30	
Some college	7	33	39	21	$\chi^2 = 17.08$*	6	23	42	29	$\chi^2 = 39.99$*
Bachelors or grad degree	4	27	44	25	(.009)	3	15	52	31	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1734)					(n = 1741)			
Married	5	29	43	23		4	18	47	31	
Never married	5	31	35	29		6	21	45	28	
Divorced/separated	6	36	43	16	$\chi^2 = 13.97$	7	29	42	22	$\chi^2 = 26.36$*
Widowed	6	27	42	25	(.123)	4	17	41	38	(.010)
Occupation		(n = 1280)					(n = 1284)			
Mgt, prof or education	4	27	44	25		4	15	52	30	
Sales or office support	6	28	46	20		6	20	42	31	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	30	40	25		8	14	42	35	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	32	37	23		2	24	46	28	
Agriculture	5	31	37	27		3	22	43	32	
Food serv/pers. care	2	19	38	42		8	25	33	35	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	27	47	25	$\chi^2 = 43.55$*	5	22	47	26	$\chi^2 = 61.39$*
Other	21	24	45	11	(.003)	8	40	26	26	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5. *Support for Election Law Policies by Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes.*

	In general, do you favor or oppose each of the following election law policies?			
	Early voting, which gives all voters the chance to cast their ballot prior to Election Day	*Requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their polling place in order to cast a ballot*	*Automatic voter registration, whereby citizens are automatically registered to vote at age 18*	*Online voter registration*
		Percentage answering "favor" for each		
Total	77	86	53	46
Community Size	(n = 1716)	(n = 1712)	(n = 1707)	(n = 1701)
Less than 500	71	89	53	42
500 - 999	75	87	49	48
1,000 - 4,999	79	87	54	49
5,000 - 9,999	79	86	52	37
10,000 and up	80	84	54	51
Significance level	(.028)*	(.259)	(.771)	(.007)*
Region	(n = 1751)	(n = 1746)	(n = 1741)	(n = 1733)
Panhandle	80	84	54	35
North Central	78	84	55	49
South Central	78	86	52	46
Northeast	73	88	50	46
Southeast	80	87	58	52
Significance level	(.180)	(.398)	(.233)	(.007)*
Income Level	(n = 1665)	(n = 1663)	(n = 1661)	(n = 1653)
Under $20,000	68	84	50	33
$20,000 - $39,999	78	86	49	42
$40,000 - $59,999	79	87	51	46
$60,000 and over	79	86	58	52
Significance level	(.026)*	(.796)	(.033)*	(.000)*
Age	(n = 1757)	(n = 1753)	(n = 1748)	(n = 1740)
19 - 29	88	92	64	69
30 - 39	85	90	58	59
40 - 49	80	87	60	50
50 - 64	73	85	50	41
65 and older	66	79	39	24
Significance level	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
Education level	(n = 1745)	(n = 1743)	(n = 1739)	(n = 1728)
High school diploma or less	68	83	50	34
Some college	77	91	52	42
Bachelors or grad degree	82	84	56	57
Significance level	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.167)	(.000)*
Occupation	(n = 1277)	(n = 1276)	(n = 1273)	(n = 1264)
Mgt, prof or education	86	85	61	61
Sales or office support	83	88	54	42
Constrn, inst or maint	66	93	43	31
Prodn/trans/warehsing	66	83	56	39
Agriculture	78	87	47	45
Food serv/pers. care	87	89	65	57
Hlthcare supp/safety	83	91	59	65
Other	84	92	40	41
Significance level	(.000)*	(.210)	(.001)*	(.000)*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 6. *Perceptions of Problems in Last Year's Election by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	In last year's election, do you think each of the following was not a problem at all, a minor problem or a major problem across the country?							
	Votes being cast by people not eligible to vote				***Eligible voters not being allowed to cast a vote***			
	Not a problem	*Minor problem*	*Major problem*	*Significance*	*Not a problem*	*Minor problem*	*Major problem*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	21	43	36		41	39	20	
Community Size		(n = 1731)				(n = 1728)		
Less than 500	20	46	34		50	34	16	
500 - 999	18	44	38		39	44	17	
1,000 - 4,999	18	45	37		35	41	23	
5,000 - 9,999	17	45	38	$\chi^2 = 17.99$*	40	35	25	$\chi^2 = 22.59$*
10,000 and up	26	39	35	(.021)	41	39	20	(.004)
Region		(n = 1734)				(n = 1733)		
Panhandle	20	41	40		36	43	21	
North Central	18	45	37		41	39	20	
South Central	25	43	32		45	37	18	
Northeast	18	43	39	$\chi^2 = 11.65$	39	40	22	$\chi^2 = 8.80$
Southeast	22	44	35	(.168)	39	39	22	(.360)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1649)				(n = 1650)		
Under $20,000	20	33	48		34	38	28	
$20,000 - $39,999	20	42	38		38	36	26	
$40,000 - $59,999	20	45	35	$\chi^2 = 14.37$*	40	39	21	$\chi^2 = 23.77$*
$60,000 and over	23	44	33	(.026)	43	42	16	(.001)
Age		(n = 1739)				(n = 1739)		
19 - 29	20	45	35		38	39	23	
30 - 39	25	46	29		35	43	22	
40 - 49	22	39	38		44	38	17	
50 - 64	18	44	38	$\chi^2 = 11.60$	41	38	21	$\chi^2 = 9.21$
65 and older	21	42	38	(.170)	43	38	19	(.325)
Gender		(n = 1734)				(n = 1733)		
Male	20	42	38	$\chi^2 = 2.96$	45	37	18	$\chi^2 = 12.67$*
Female	22	44	34	(.228)	37	41	22	(.002)
Education		(n = 1729)				(n = 1728)		
High school diploma or less	19	38	43		38	39	23	
Some college	15	42	43	$\chi^2 = 71.62$*	40	37	23	$\chi^2 = 19.44$*
Bachelors or grad degree	28	47	26	(.000)	44	42	15	(.001)
Marital Status		(n = 1725)				(n = 1726)		
Married	23	43	34		43	41	17	
Never married	19	39	42		38	29	33	
Divorced/separated	16	46	39	$\chi^2 = 10.72$	32	44	25	$\chi^2 = 39.29$*
Widowed	19	41	40	(.097)	40	39	21	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1283)				(n = 1284)		
Mgt, prof or education	29	48	23		41	42	17	
Sales or office support	15	50	35		42	42	15	
Constrn, inst or maint	12	27	60		45	36	20	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	13	32	55		30	37	33	
Agriculture	16	52	32		46	37	17	
Food serv/pers. care	33	33	33		41	33	26	
Hlthcare supp/safety	19	42	39	$\chi^2 = 103.43$*	31	41	28	$\chi^2 = 30.99$*
Other	10	51	39	(.000)	47	37	16	(.006)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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