

2023 Colorado Political Climate (CPC) Survey

Block 1: Informed Consent

#programming instruction: if respondent checks box to participate, advance to question #2; if not, end survey.

[question #1] [single choice: consent]

[Insert Consent Form Here]

Block 2: Voter Qs

[question #2] {single choice: voted}

#programming notes: please reverse answer options

Statewide Election Day in Colorado was November 7, 2023. Did you vote in these elections?

<1> Yes, I voted by returning the ballot that was mailed to me

<2> Yes, I voted in-person

<3> No, I did not vote

[question #3] {single choice: vote_follow-up}

#programming notes: if respondent selected <1> or <2> to question 2, please proceed to version 1 of question #3; if respondent selected <3> to question 2, please proceed to version 2 of question #3.

Q3_Version 1:

Which of these best describes **when** you voted?

- <1> I voted/returned my ballot on Election Day, November 7th
- <2> I voted/returned my ballot several days before Election Day
- <3> I voted/returned my ballot about a week before Election Day
- <4> I voted/returned my ballot well over a week before Election Day

Q3_Version 2:

Which of these describes why you did not vote? Please check all that apply.

- <1> I am not registered to vote
- <2> I do not think my vote makes a difference
- <3> I am not interested in politics
- <4> I forgot
- <5> I never received my ballot
- <6> The parties do not represent my values so I
don't see the point in voting
- <7> Other [text box]

Block 3: Elections

#programming note: please randomize the order in which questions 4a and 4b are presented

[question #4a] {single choice: presidential_choice_Trump}

#programming notes: please randomize options 1 and 2, but anchor “other” (3)

If next year’s election for President were held today and was between these candidates, would you vote for:

<1> Joe Biden, Democrat

<2> Donald Trump, Republican

<3 fixed> Some other candidate _____(text box)

[question #4b] {single choice: presidential_choice_DeSantis}

#programming notes: please randomize options 1 and 2, but anchor “other” (3)

If next year’s election for President were held today and was between these candidates, would you vote for:

<1> Joe Biden, Democrat

<2> Ron DeSantis, Republican

<3 fixed> Some other candidate _____(text box)

[question #5] {single choice: congress_choice}

#programming notes: please randomize options 1 and 2, but anchor “other” (3)

If next year’s election for U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district were held today, would you vote for:

- <1> The Democratic candidate
- <2> The Republican candidate
- <3 fixed> Some other candidate _____(text box)

Block 4: Leadership & Approval

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not sure).

Names

Q6: app_biden

Q7: app_polis

Q8: app_hickenlooper

Q9: app_bennet

Q10: app_boebert

How much do you approve or disapprove of the way that each of the following is handling their job?

- [q6] President Joe Biden
- [q7] Governor Jared Polis
- [q8] Senator John Hickenlooper
- [q9] Senator Michael Bennet
- [q10] Rep. Lauren Boebert

- <1> Strongly approve
- <2> Approve
- <3> Disapprove
- <4> Strongly disapprove
- <5 fixed> Not sure

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not sure).

Names

Q11: app_congress
Q12: app_sc
Q13: app_state
Q14: app_police
Q15: app_county

How much do you approve or disapprove of the way that each of the following is handling their job?

[q11] United States Congress

[q12] The US Supreme Court

[q13] Colorado State Legislature

[q14] Your local police department

[q15] The county officials where you live

<1> Strongly approve
<2> Approve
<3> Disapprove
<4> Strongly disapprove
<5 fixed> Not sure

Block 5: Threats to the First Amendment

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not sure).

Names:

Q16: threat_1
Q17: threat_2
Q18: threat_3
Q19: threat_4
Q20: threat_5

Thinking about some rights that are guaranteed by the US Constitution, how secure or threatened do you think each of the following are in the United States today?

[q16] Freedom of the press

[q17] Freedom to petition the government, meaning presenting requests to the government without fear of punishment

[q18] Freedom of speech

[q19] Freedom of religion

[q20] Freedom for people to assemble peacefully

<1> Very secure

<2> Somewhat secure

<3> Somewhat threatened

<4> Very threatened

<5 fixed> Not sure

Block 6: Election Fairness & Legitimacy; Mail Voting

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not sure).

Names:

Q21: elec_1

Q22: elec_2

Q23: elec_3

Q24: elec_4

Q25: elec_5

Q26: elec_6

Looking to next year's (2024) elections, how much do you agree with each of the following statements?

[q21] Elections across the country will be conducted fairly and accurately

[q22] Elections in Colorado will be conducted fairly and accurately

[q23] Across the US, all citizens who want to vote in the elections will be able to

[q24] In Colorado, all citizens who want to vote in the elections will be able to

[q25] Elections in Colorado are going to reflect the will of Coloradans

[q26] Elections in America are going to reflect the will of the American people

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Disagree
- <4> Strongly disagree
- <5 fixed> Not sure

Block Q27-Q31

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-6, but anchor 7 (Not sure).

Names:

Q27: mail_1

Q28: mail_2

Q29: mail_3

Q30: mail_4

Q31: mail_5

How much do you agree with each of the following statements **about the mail voting system in Colorado?**

[q27] When I talk to people during election season, I tend to know who has already returned their ballot

[q28] After I return my ballot, I generally mention that I've done so to other people

[q29] If I know someone has already returned their ballot, it changes the way I talk to them about the election

[q30] If I know someone has already returned their ballot, their perspective holds more weight with me

[q31] If I return my ballot well before Election Day, I worry that I may regret some of my decisions

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Slightly agree
- <4> Slightly disagree

- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree
- <7 fixed> Not sure

Block 7: Supreme Court, Age for Office

[question #32] {single choice: sc_logic}

#programmer: please randomly assign respondents version 1,2 or 3 with .33 probability.

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-6, but keep 7 fixed.

Q32_v1

How much do you agree with the following statement?

When interpreting the Constitution, the Supreme Court should base its rulings on Originalism.

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree
- <7 fixed> Not sure

Q32_v2

How much do you agree with the following statement?

When interpreting the Constitution, the Supreme Court should base its rulings on what the Constitution meant at the time of the founding.

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree
- <7 fixed> Not sure

Q32_v3

How much do you agree with the following statement?

When interpreting the Constitution, the Supreme Court should base its rulings on neutral legal principles.

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree
- <7 fixed> Not sure

[question #33] {single choice: age_limit}

#programmer: please randomly assign respondents to the v1, v2, or v3 version of Q33 with a .33 probability.

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-6.

Q33_v1

How much do you agree with the following statement?

There should be an age limit when it comes to running for federal office (the US House, the US Senate, or the Presidency).

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree

Q33_v2

How much do you agree with the following statement?

People over 70 should not be allowed to run for federal office (the US House, the US Senate, or the Presidency).

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree

Q33_v3

How much do you agree with the following statement?

People over 75 should not be allowed to run for federal office (the US House, the US Senate, or the Presidency).

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Somewhat agree
- <4> Somewhat disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree

Block 8: Partisanship & Ideology

#programmer: Please randomize the order of questions #34-35

Names

Q34: partisanship

Q35: ideology

[question #34] {single choice: partisanship}

#programming notes: please reverse answer options, but anchor 8 (other)

In general, do you usually think of yourself as a...

- <1>Strong Democrat
- <2>Democrat
- <3>Weak Democrat
- <4>Independent
- <5>Weak Republican
- <6>Republican
- <7>Strong Republican
- <8> Some Other Party [Text Box]

[question #35] {single choice: ideology}

#programming notes: please reverse answer options

When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as...

- <1>Extremely Liberal
 - <2>Liberal
 - <3>Slightly Liberal
 - <4>Moderate
 - <5>Slightly Conservative
 - <6>Conservative
 - <7>Extremely Conservative
-

Block 9: Proposition HH

Block Q36-40

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-6, but anchor 7 (Not sure).

Names:

Q36: hh_1

Q37: hh_2

Q38: hh_3

Q39: hh_4

Q40: hh_5

Proposition HH appeared on the 2023 Colorado state ballot and was defeated by voters. The language of the measure was as follows:

Shall the state reduce property taxes for homes and businesses, including expanding property tax relief for seniors, and backfill counties, water districts, fire districts, ambulance and hospital districts, and other local governments and fund school districts by using a portion of the state surplus up to the proposition HH cap as defined in this measure?

How much do you agree with each of the following statements **about Proposition HH?**

[q36] I was supportive of the proposition

[q37] I have a good understanding of what the proposition would have done

[q38] It was easy to find helpful information about the proposition

[q39] The language of the proposition is confusing

[q40] Most people I know had a good understanding of the proposition

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Slightly agree
- <4> Slightly disagree
- <5> Disagree
- <6> Strongly disagree
- <7 fixed> Not sure

Block 10: Trust & Economic Conditions

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options.

Names:

Q41: trust_fed

Q42: trust_colorado

Q43: trust_localgov

Q44: trust_police

How often do you trust each of the following to do what is in the public's best interest?

[q41] The Federal Government

[q42] Colorado State Government

[q43] Your Local Government

[q44] Your Local Police Department

- <1> Always
- <2> Most of the time
- <3> About half the time
- <4> Rarely
- <5> Never

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options.

Names:

Q45: econ_us

Q46: econ_colorado

Q47: econ_local

How would you rate the economic conditions in each of the following as of today?

[q45] The United States

[q46] Colorado

[q47] Your local community

<1> Excellent

<2> Good

<3> Average

<4> Fair

<5> Poor

Block 11: MIP

[question #48] {textbox: problem_us}

If you had to pick, what one issue do you think is the most important problem facing the United States today? Please write out the issue in the space provided. <small text box>

[question #49] {textbox: problem_colorado}

If you had to pick, what one issue do you think is the most important problem facing Colorado today? Please write out the issue in the space provided. <small text box>

Block 12: Gender Attitudes

Block Q50-Q54

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-5.

Names:

Q50: gen_att_1

Q51: gen_att_2

Q52: gen_att_3

Q53: gen_att_4

Q54: gen_att_5

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements?

[q50] It bothers me when a man does something that I consider 'feminine'

[q51] A man should always be tough and never back down in the face of trouble

[q52] A man should always refuse to get into a fight, even if there seems to be no way to avoid it

[q53] Men of high power and status are more appealing than men of low power and status

[q54] A man's behavior should be guided by reason and rationality, rather than emotion

<1> Strongly agree

<2> Agree

<3> Neither agree nor disagree

<4> Disagree

<5> Strongly disagree

Block 13: Policies & Issues

[question #55] {static: policyintro}

Now we would like to ask you about various policies and issues that have been in the news recently.

#programmer: please randomize order of questions 56-67

Names

Q56: olympics

Q57: marijuana

Q58: cost_living

Q59: tabor

Q60: blacklivesmatter

Q61: guns

Q62: climate

Q63: race

Q64: abortion_sc

Q65: covid

Q66: israel

Q67: ukraine

[question #56] {single choice: olympics}

#Programming note: please randomly assign respondents to either V1 or V2 of Q56 with .5 probability.

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-6, but anchor 7 (Not Sure)

56_V1:

Do you favor or oppose Denver entering a bid to host a future Winter Olympics?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Favor
- <3> Somewhat favor
- <4> Somewhat oppose
- <5> Oppose
- <6> Strongly oppose
- <7 fixed> Don't Know

56_V2:

Do you favor or oppose spending public funds to help Denver's chances of winning the host bid for a future Winter Olympics?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Favor

- <3> Somewhat favor
- <4> Somewhat oppose
- <5> Oppose
- <6> Strongly oppose
- <7 fixed> Don't Know

[question #57] {single choice: marijuana}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not Sure)

The ability for individuals 21 years of age and older to buy marijuana for recreational use is currently legal under Colorado law. How much do you favor or oppose the law that made recreational marijuana legal in Colorado?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #58] {single choice: cost_living}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-5.

How concerned personally are you about the cost of living in Colorado?

- <1> Very concerned
- <2> Concerned
- <3> Somewhat concerned
- <4> Not very concerned
- <5> Not at all concerned

[question #59] {single choice: tabor}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not Sure)

The Colorado Tax Payer Bill of Rights (also known as TABOR) limits the annual growth in state government spending based on the amount of population growth and inflation in the state. Some advocate keeping TABOR as law in Colorado while others advocate repealing it. How much do you favor or oppose TABOR remaining the law in Colorado?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #60] {single choice: blacklivesmatter}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not Sure)

Do you favor or oppose the movement known as “Black Lives Matter”?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #61] {single choice: guns}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not Sure)

How much do you favor or oppose the federal government making it more difficult for individuals to purchase a gun?

- <1> Strongly favor

- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #62] {single choice: climate}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options

How concerned are you personally about climate change?

- <1> Very concerned
- <2> Concerned
- <3> Somewhat concerned
- <4> Not very concerned
- <5> Not at all concerned

[question #63] {single choice: race}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options

How would you describe the current state of race relations in the United States?

- <1> Really good
- <2> Somewhat good
- <3> Somewhat bad
- <4> Really bad

[question #64] {single choice: abortion_sc}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options 1-4, but anchor 5 (Not Sure)

How much do you approve of the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn Roe v. Wade?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor

- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #65] {single choice: covid}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options

How concerned are you personally about coronavirus (covid)?

- <1> Very concerned
- <2> Concerned
- <3> Somewhat concerned
- <4> Not very concerned
- <5> Not at all concerned

[question #66] {single choice: Israel}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options, but anchor option #5 (not sure)

How much do you favor or oppose the US government sending aid to Israel in its war with Hamas?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

[question #67] {single choice: Ukraine}

#programming notes: please reverse order of response options, but anchor option #5 (not sure)

How much do you favor or oppose the US government sending aid to Ukraine in its war with Russia?

- <1> Strongly favor
- <2> Slightly favor
- <3> Slightly oppose
- <4> Strongly oppose
- <5 fixed> Not sure

Block 14: Renewable Energy

Block Q68-71

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a dynamic grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-7

Names:

Q68: re_1
Q69: re_2
Q70: re_3
Q71: re_4

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[q68] Wind and Solar energy ("renewables") are not a reliable source of energy generation

[q69] Wind and Solar energy ("renewables") receive too much in terms of subsidies (financial support) from the government

[q70] Oil and gas exploration and production should be expanded in Colorado

[q71] Oil and gas are the only sources of energy that we can count on in natural disasters

- <1>Strongly agree
- <2>Agree
- <3>Slightly agree
- <4>Neither agree nor disagree
- <5>Slightly disagree

<6>Disagree
<7>Strongly disagree

Block 15: Vignettes

[question #71] {text: intro_vignettes}

Please read the following information about a recent political event. We will then ask you a couple of questions about what you read.

[question #72] {text: vignettes}

#programmer: please randomly assign respondents to the v1 and v2 of Q72 with a .5 probability. Please record time spent on this page (latency).

Q72_v1

As you may remember, Representative Lauren Boebert was recently involved in a scandal over her behavior at a Denver theater that was caught on tape. Boebert issued a public apology in the days after the controversy, stating in part that “I simply fell short of my values on Sunday. That’s unacceptable and I’m sorry.”

Q72_v2

As you may remember, Representative Lauren Boebert was recently involved in a scandal over her behavior at a Denver theater that was caught on tape. Boebert was criticized after she was kicked out of a theatrical performance for vaping and publicly engaging in sexual conduct during the show with her date. The footage, widely circulated on social media, shows Boebert vaping, blowing smoke into the air, dancing in her seat, touching her date sexually, taking photos of the performance, and giving ushers the middle finger while being escorted out of the theater. Boebert made statements like, “Do you know who I am?” and “I will be contacting the mayor,” as she was being kicked out, according to an incident report. Boebert issued a public apology in the days after the controversy, stating in part that “I simply fell short of my values on Sunday. That’s unacceptable and I’m sorry.”

Block Q73-Q79

#programmer: Please ask these questions as a grid. Please randomize the order of the rows. Please reverse order of response options 1-4, but keep 5 (not sure) fixed.

Names:

Q73: lb_1

Q74: lb_2

Q75: lb_3

Q76: lb_4

Q77: lb_5

Q78: lb_6

Q79: lb_7

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements:

[q73] This politician should not be punished for their actions

[q74] This politician is a moral person

[q75] This politician is a leader

[q76] This politician is trustworthy

[q77] This news story is important

[q78] This politician did the right thing in apologizing

[q79] I have a problem with the way that our government is being run

<1> Strongly Agree

<2> Agree

<3> Disagree

<4> Strongly Disagree

<5 fixed> Not sure

[question #80] {single choice: manip_check}

#programming notes: please randomize the order of the response options

The story you just read was about which of the following:

<a> A scandal involving Lauren Boebert

 A scandal involving Jared Polis

<c> A scandal involving Michael Bennet

<d> A scandal involving Diana DeGette

[end of questions]

END STATEMENT

#programming note: please present the following to all respondents upon completion of the survey

Debriefing Statement:

Thank you for participating in this study.

This study was designed to understand Coloradans' priorities and their preferences with respect to politics and public affairs. Sometimes respondents were presented with different versions of questions so that we can see how question wording matters for responses.

The news story is intended to help us better understand how people evaluate political figures after scandals.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact Dr. A. Edward Sokhey at: anand.sokhey@colorado.edu. Thanks again for your participation!

[end of survey]