

	 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	
		

AmericasBarometer: United States 2008
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Dear Politmetrix panelist:

You are being asked to participate in a research study. This research involves a survey of public opinion on being carried out by Vanderbilt University as part of a project that has funding from the Center for the Americas, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Development Program and the Inter-American Development Bank. The goal of the study is for us to learn of the opinions of people about different aspects of the local and national situation. The study is being conducted so that we can better understand what people think about their country although we cannot offer you any specific benefit. We plan to conduct a series of lectures and seminars based on the results of what people say. We will never disclose your individual opinion. Rather, we will talk about national trends and patterns.

You have been randomly selected to participate in this survey. You will not be paid for your participation, but your participation will not cause you to incur any expenses.

This survey is completely voluntary and it will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Your answers will be kept confidential. Your address will not be recorded. We will not ask for your name and nobody will ever be able to learn how you responded. You can leave any questions unanswered, and you may stop the interviews at any time.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dominique Zephyr whose phone number is 615.343.2097

Do you wish to participate? Yes No [if “no” study terminates]

Country: 1. Mexico 2. Guatemala 3. El Salvador 4. Honduras 5. Nicaragua 6. Costa Rica 7. Panama 8. Colombia 9. Ecuador 10. Bolivia 11. Peru 12. Paraguay 13. Chile 14. Uruguay 15. Brazil 16. Venezuela 17. Argentina 21. Dominican Republic 22. Haiti 23. Jamaica 24. Guyana 25. Trinidad 40. USA 41. Canada	COUNTRY	41
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First, to begin....		SOCT1
SOCT1. How would you describe the country's economic situation? Would you say that it is very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad or very bad?		SOCT1
(1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad (8) Doesn't know		

SOCT2. Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago? (1) Better (2) Same (3) Worse (8) Doesn't know	SOCT2
IDIO1. How would you describe your overall economic situation? Would you say that it is very good, good, neither good nor bad, bad or very bad? (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad (8) Doesn't know	IDIO1
IDIO2. Do you think that your economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago? (1) Better (2) Same (3) Worse (8) Doesn't know	IDIO2

Now, moving on to a different subject, sometimes people and communities have problems that they cannot solve by themselves, and so in order to solve them they request help from a government official or agency. In order to solve your problems have you ever requested help or cooperation from...?				
	Yes	No	DK/DR	
CP2. A member of Congress?	1	2	8	CP2
CP4A. A local public official (e.g., a mayor, a councilperson, county official) ?	1	2	8	CP4A
CP4. Any federal, state agency or public institution?	1	2	8	CP4

Now let's talk about your city, town, municipal or metropolitan council...				
NP1. Have you attended a city, town, municipal or metropolitan council meeting in the past 12 months? (1) Yes (2) No (8) Doesn't know/Doesn't remember				NP1
NP2. Have you sought assistance from or presented a request to any office, official or councilperson of the city, town, municipality or metropolitan council within the past 12 months? (1) Yes (2) No (8) Doesn't know/Doesn't remember				NP2
SGL1. Would you say that the services the municipality is providing to the people are...? [Read options] (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad (8) Doesn't know				SGL1

	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a year	Never	DK	
CP5. Now, changing the subject. In the last 12 months have you tried to help to solve a problem in your community or in your neighborhood? Please, tell me if you have done it at least once a week, once or twice a month, once or twice a year or never.	1	2	3	4	8	CP5

I am going to read a list of groups and organizations. Please tell me if you attend their meetings at least once a week, once or twice a month, once or twice a year, or never.

	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a year	Never	DK/DR	
CP6. Meetings of any religious organization? Do you attend them...	1	2	3	4	8	CP6
CP7. Meetings of a parent/teacher association at school? Do you attend them....	1	2	3	4	8	CP7
CP8. Meetings of a community improvement committee or association? Do you attend them...	1	2	3	4	8	CP8
CP9. Meetings of an association of professionals, trades people, business people, or farmers? Do you attend them...	1	2	3	4	8	CP9
CP10. Meetings of a labor union? Do you attend them...	1	2	3	4	8	CP10
CP13. Meetings of a political party or political organization? Do you attend them...	1	2	3	4	8	CP13

LS3. Changing the subject, in general how satisfied are you with your life? Would you say that you are...? (1) Very satisfied (2) Somewhat satisfied (3) Somewhat dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied (8) DK	LS3
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IT1. Now, speaking of the people from here, would you say that people in this community are generally very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy or untrustworthy...? [Read options] (1) Very trustworthy (2) Somewhat trustworthy (3) not very trustworthy (4) untrustworthy (8) DK	IT1
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IT1A. How much do you trust people that you meet for the first time? [Read options] (1) Trust them completely (2) Somewhat trust them (3) Trust them a little (4) Do not trust them at all (8) DK	IT1A
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IT1B. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? (1) Most people can be trusted (2) One can't be too careful in dealing with people (8) DK/DR	IT1B
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Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. I am going to read you pairs of desirable qualities. Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:	AB1
AB1. (1) INDEPENDENCE or (2) RESPECT FOR ELDERS (8) Do not know (Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:)	AB2
AB2. (1) CURIOSITY or (2) GOOD MANNERS (8) Do not know (Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:)	AB3
AB3. (1) OBEDIENCE or (2) SELF-RELIANCE (8) Do not know (Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:)	AB4
AB4. (1) BEING CONSIDERATE or (2) WELL BEHAVED (8) Do not know	

L1. (Left-Right Scale) Now, to change the subject.... On this card there is a 1-10 scale that goes from left to right. Nowadays, when we speak of political leanings, we talk of those on the left and those on the right. In other words, some people sympathize more with the left and others with the right. According to the meaning that the terms "left" and "right" have for you, and thinking of your own political leanings, where would you place yourself on this scale? Mark the box that comes closest to your own position.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L1
Left										Right
										(DK=88)

Collect Card # 1

IMMIG1. To what degree do you agree that the government of the United States provide social services such as healthcare, education, housing, to foreigners who come to live or work in this country? [Read options] (1) Strongly agree (2) Somewhat agree (3) Neither agree nor disagree (4) Somewhat disagree (5) Strongly Disagree (8) DK	IMMIG1
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IMMIG2. Would you say that the people who come to live here from other countries do the jobs that Americans do not want to do, or generally do they take jobs away from Americans? (1) Do the jobs that Americans do not want to do (2) Take jobs away from Americans (8) DK/DR	IMMIG2
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PROT2. And now thinking about the last 12 months, have you participated in a demonstration or protest march? Have you done it sometimes, almost never or never?	(1) Sometimes	(2) Almost never	(3) Never	(8) DK	PROT2
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VIC1. Now changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? (1) Yes (2) No (8) DK/DR	VIC1
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AOJ8. In order to apprehend criminals do you think that the police should always respect the law or that occasionally they can skate close to the limits of the law? (1) They should always respect the law (2) Can act on the margins occasionally (8)DK/DR	AOJ8
AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live, and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe? (1) Very safe (2) Somewhat safe (3) Somewhat unsafe (4) Very unsafe (8) DK/DR	AOJ11

Now we will use this 7-point scale; each point indicates a score that goes from 1, meaning NOT AT ALL, to 7, meaning A LOT. For example, if I asked you to what extent do you like watching television, if you don't like watching it at all, you would choose a score of 1, and if, in contrast, you like watching television a lot, you would indicate the number 7. If your opinion is between not at all and a lot, choose an intermediate score.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all				A lot			Doesn't know

Note down a number 1-7, or 8 for those who don't know		
B1. To what extent do you think the courts in the United States guarantee a fair trial? (Read: If you think the courts do not ensure justice <u>at all</u> , choose number 1; if you think the courts ensure justice a lot, choose number 7 or choose a point in between the two.)		B1
B2. To what extent do you respect the political institutions of the United States?		B2
B3. To what extent do you think that citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system of the United States?		B3
B4. To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of the United States?		B4
B6. To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of the United States?		B6
B10A. To what extent do you trust the justice system?		B10A
B12. To what extent do you trust the Armed Forces?		B12
B13. To what extent do you trust the Congress?		B13
B14. To what extent do you trust the government in Washington?		B14
B18. To what extent do you trust the police?		B18
B21. To what extent do you trust the political parties?		B21
B21A. To what extent do you trust the President?		B21A
B31. To what extent do you trust the Supreme Court?		B31
B32. To what extent do you trust the local, municipal or metro government?		B32
B43. To what extent are you proud of being an American?		B43
B37. To what extent do you trust the mass media?		B37
B47. To what extent do you trust elections?		B47

Now, using the same scale, (<i>continue with 1-7 point scale</i>)			
N1. To what extent would you say the administration in Washington fights poverty?		N1	
N3. To what extent would you say the administration in Washington promotes and protects democratic principles?		N3	
N9. To what extent would you say the current administration in Washington fights government corruption?		N9	
N11. To what extent would you say the current administration in Washington improves citizen security?		N11	
N12. To what extent would you say the current administration in Washinton fights unemployment?		N12	

Now I am going to read a series of sentences about American political parties and then I will ask your opinion. We will continue to use the same scale of 1 to 7 where 1 means not at all and 7 means a lot.

EPP1. Thinking of political parties in general, to what extent do American political parties represent their voters well? (8) DK/DR		EPP1	
EPP3. How often do political parties listen to the average person? (8) DK/DR		EPP3	
EC2. How much do the members in Congress waste time discussing and debating? (8) DK/DR		EC2	

M1. Speaking in general of the current administration in Washington, how would you rate the job performance of President Bush? (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad (8) DK/DR		M1	
M2. Now speaking of Congress. Thinking of members of Congress as a whole, without considering the political parties to which they belong, do you believe that the members of Congress are performing their jobs very well, well, neither well nor poorly, poorly, or very poorly? (1) Very well (2) Well (3) Neither well nor poorly (4) Poorly (5) Very poorly (8) DK/DR		M2	

Now we will use a similar scale, but this time 1 means “strongly disagree” and 7 means “strongly agree.” A number in between 1 and 7 represents an intermediate score. I am going to read various statements and I would like you to tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with these statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Strongly disagree			Strongly agree			Don't know	

Taking into account the current situation of this country, I would like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

POP101. It is necessary for the progress of this country that our Presidents limit the voice and vote of opposition parties, how much do you agree or disagree with that view?
(8)DK/DR **POP101**

POP102. When the Congress hinders the work of our government, our Presidents ministers should govern without the Congress. How much do you agree or disagree with that view?
(8) DK/DR **POP102**

POP103. When the Supreme Court hinders the work of our government, it should not be paid attention to by our Presidents. How much do you agree or disagree with that view?
(8) DK/DR **POP103**

POP107. The people should govern directly and **not** through elected representatives. How much do you agree or disagree?
(8) DK/DR **POP107**

POP109. In today's world there is a struggle between good and evil, and people must choose between one of the two. How much do you agree or disagree that such a struggle between good and evil exists?
(8) DK/DR **POP109**

POP110. Once the people decide what is right, we must prevent opposition from a minority. How much do you agree or disagree with that view?
(8) DK/DR **POP110**

POP113. Those who disagree with the majority represent a threat to the interests of the country. How much do you agree or disagree with that view?
(8) DK/DR **POP113**

EFF1. Those who govern this country are really interested in what people like me think. How much do you agree or disagree? **EFF1**

EFF2. I feel that I understand the most important political issues of this country. How much do you agree or disagree. **EFF2**

1-7

ING4. Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these statements? **ING4**

PN2. Despite our differences, we Americans have many things that unite us as a country. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement? **PN2**

DEM23. Democracy can exist without political parties. How much do you agree or disagree or disagree with this statement? **DEM23**

SAA1. Since not everyone has equal abilities, the country as a whole suffers when the government tries to level things out too much. How much do you agree or disagree or disagree with this statement? **SAA1**

WT3. To curb terrorism, how strongly would you agree or disagree to requiring that all citizens carry a national identity card at all times to show a police officer on request? **WT3**

Now I am going to read some items about the role of the national government. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements. We will continue using the same scale from 1 to 7.

ROS1. The United States government, instead of the private sector, should own the most important businesses and industries of the country. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?	ROS1
ROS2. The United States government, more than individuals, is the most responsible for ensuring the well-being of the people. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?	ROS2
ROS3. The United States government, more than the private sector, has the primarily responsible for creating jobs. To what extent to do you agree or disagree with this statement?	ROS3
ROS4. The United States government should implement firm policies to reduce income inequality between the rich and the poor. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?	ROS4

PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the form of democracy in the United States? (1) Very satisfied (2) Satisfied (3) Dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied (8) DK/DR	PN4
PN5. In your opinion, is the United States very democratic, somewhat democratic, not very democratic or not at all democratic? (1) Very democratic (2) Somewhat democratic (3) Not very democratic (4) Not at all democratic (8) DK/DR	PN5

Now we are going to use another scale. The new scale has a 10-point scale, which goes from 1 to 10, where 1 means that you strongly disapprove and 10 means that you strongly approve. I am going to read you a list of some actions that people can take to achieve their political goals and objectives. Please tell me how strongly you would approve or disapprove of people taking the following actions.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88
Strongly disapprove								Strongly approve		Doesn't know

	1-10, 88
E5. Of people participating in legal demonstrations. How much do you approve or disapprove?	E5
E8. Of people participating in an organization or group to try to solve community problems. How much do you approve or disapprove?	E8
E11. Of people working for campaigns for a political party or candidate. How much do you approve or disapprove?	E11
E3. Of people participating in a group working to violently overthrow an elected government. How much do you approve or disapprove?	E3
E16. Of people taking the law into their own hands when the government does not punish criminals. How much do you approve or disapprove?	E16

The following questions are to find out your opinion about the different ideas of people who live in country. Please continue using the 10 point scale.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88
Strongly disapprove					Strongly approve					Doesn't know

	1-10, 88	
D1. There are people who only say bad things about the American form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people's right to vote ? Please read me the number from the scale: <i>[Probe: To what degree?]</i>		D1
D2. How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views? Please read me the number.		D2
D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the American form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office ?		D3
D4. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television to make speeches ?		D4
D5. And now, changing the topic and thinking of homosexuals, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?		D5

DEM2. With which of the following statements do you agree with the most: (1) For people like me, it doesn't matter whether a regime is democratic or non-democratic. (2) Democracy is preferable to any other form of government (3) Under some circumstances an authoritarian government may be preferable to a democratic one. (8) DK/DR	DEM2
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	INAP Did not try or did not have contact	No	Yes	DK/DR	
Now we want to talk about your personal experience with things that happen in everyday life...					
EXC2. Has a police officer ask you for a bribe during the past year?		0	1	8	EXC2
EXC6. During the past year did any government employee ask you for a bribe?		0	1	8	EXC6
EXC11. During the past year did you have any official dealings with the town/city/municipality/country government? If the answer is No → mark 9 If it is Yes→ ask the following: During the past year, to process any kind of document (like a permit, for example), did you have to pay any money in addition to that required by law?	9	0	1	8	EXC11
EXC13. Are you currently employed? If the answer is No → mark 9 If it is Yes→ ask the following: At your workplace, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the past year?	9	0	1	8	EXC13
EXC14. During the past year, have you had any dealings with the courts? If the answer is No → note down 9 If it is Yes→ ask the following:	9	0	1	8	EXC14

	INAP Did not try or did not have contact	No	Yes	DK/DR	
Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts within the past year?					
EXC15. Have you used any public health services during the past year? If the answer is No → mark 9 If it is Yes→ ask the following: In order to receive attention in a hospital or a clinic during the past year, did you have to pay a bribe?	9	0	1	8	EXC15
EXC16. Have you had a child in school during the past year? If the answer is No → mark 9 If it is Yes→ ask the following: Have you had to pay a bribe at school during the past year?	9	0	1	8	EXC16
EXC18. Do you think given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?		0	1	8	EXC18

EXC7. Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is [Read] (1) Very common, (2) Common, (3) Uncommon, or (4) Very uncommon? (8) DK/DR					EXC7
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VB2. Did you vote in the last presidential election of 2004? (1) Voted [Continue] (2) Did not vote [Go to VB50] (8) DK [Go to VB50]					VB2
VB3. Who did you vote for in the last presidential election? (1) George Bush (2) John Carey (3) Other (8) DK (9) Inap, did not vote					VB3
VB50. Generally speaking, men are better political leaders than women. How much do you agree with that statement? (1) Agree very much (2) Agree (3) Disagree (4) Disagree very much (8) DK/DR					
[DO NOT ASK TO REPUBLICANS] USVB12A. Regardless of whether you have already voted or not, if the Democratic primary election were being held today would you vote for Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama? (1) Clinton (2) Barack (8) DK (9) Inap (Republican)					USVB12A

Now we will once again use a 7-point scale, with 1 meaning “not at all” and 7 meaning “a lot”

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all				A lot			Don't know

Using this 7-point scale...	
WE1. How worried are you that there will be a severe economic recession in this country in the next 12 months?	WE1
WE2. How worried are you that you or someone in your household will lose or not be able to find a job in the next 12 months?	WE2
WT1. How worried are you that there will be terrorist attacks in this country in the next 12 months?	WT1
WT2. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of terrorism?	WT2
TORTURE. With which of these opinions do you agree more: (1) In order to protect us, when the CIA catches terrorists red-handed, it should be allowed to use torture to get information. (2) Even when the CIA catches terrorists red-handed, it should not be allowed to use torture to get information. (8) DK/DR	TORTURE

POL2. How often do you discuss politics with other people? (Read the options) (1) Daily (2) A few times a week (3) A few times a month (4) Rarely (5) Never (8) DK/DR	POL2
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Q10D. The salary that you receive and your total family income (1) Is good enough for you, you can save from it (2) Is just enough for you, so that you do not have major problems (3) Is not enough for you, you are stretched (4) Is not enough for you, you are having a hard time (8) [Don't read] DK/DR	
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ED. And now to finish up, for statistical purposes, how many years of education have you completed? _____

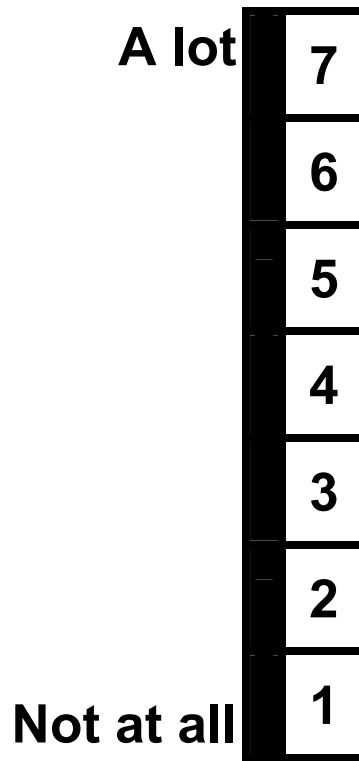
OCUP4A. How do you mainly spend your time? Are you currently... [Read the options] (1) Working? (2) Not working, but have a job? (3) Actively looking for a job? (4) A student? (5) Taking care of the home? (6) Retired, a pensioner or permanently disabled to work (7) Not working and not looking for a job? (8) [Don't read] DK/DR	OCUP4A
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Card # 1

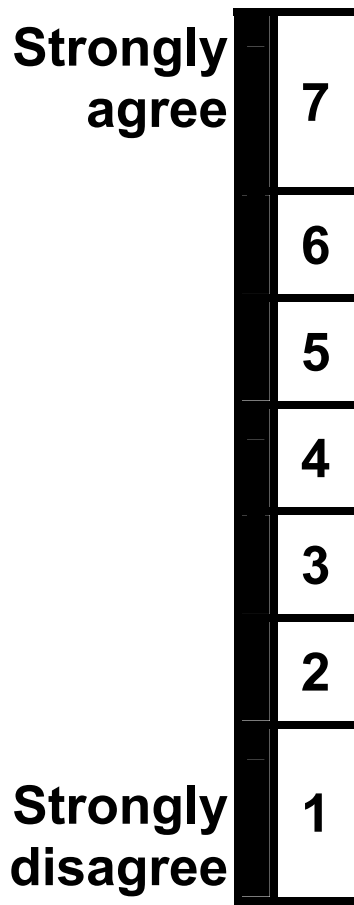
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Left **Right**

Card "A"



Card "B"



Card "C"

Strongly approve	10
	9
	8
	7
	6
	5
	4
	3
	2
Strongly disapprove	1