2018 Local Election Poll Worker Survey

Page 1: Welcome

The 2018 Local Election Poll Worker Survey

This survey is organised by researchers at the Universities of East Anglia & Newcastle. We are interested in learning from your experience of the local election of May 2018. In particular, we'd like to know more about who was involved in running elections on the day and your experiences related to working at the elections.

Your responses are very important for helping us to understand the elections process. The responses will contribute to academic reports. The survey is being circulated to all local authorities holding elections this May and no individuals or local authorities will be identifiable from these responses. Your answers are anonymous and will be treated confidentially.

Please click ‘next’ to begin the survey. We anticipate the questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We hope you will find answering the questions interesting. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the researchers via their contact details below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.
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First, some general questions about your experience of being a poll worker

1. In what role did you work at the polls in the May 2018 local election?
   - 1. Presiding Officer
   - 2. Polling Clerk
   - 3. Information Officer
   - 4. Counting staff
   - 5. Other (please specify)

1.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

2. Including the May 2018 local elections, approximately how many elections have you worked at?

3. Thinking about your decision to be a poll worker, please indicate how important each of these reasons was in helping you decide to work on polling day.

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.
1. I wanted to experience the democratic process
2. I wanted to learn more about politics and government
3. I was asked by someone in a local group I attend
4. I like to be with people who share my ideals
5. I think it is my duty as a citizen
6. I am the kind of person who does my share
7. I wanted to make some extra money
8. I received recognition from people I respect
9. I can be with friends and like-minded people
10. It was different to the usual day at work

How were you recruited to work at the local election in 2018? Were you recruited by:

- A local council official
- Another poll worker
- An advertisement in the local media
- An official job posting by the council
- At work or business
- I wasn't recruited by anyone, I volunteered
- I was recruited as I have worked at previous elections
- Other (please specify)

If you selected Other, please specify:
Page 3: Training

We are now interested in learning more about the training you received before you worked as a poll worker in May 2018

5. How many training sessions did you attend prior to the day of the election?

- 1. None – I wasn’t offered any (Go to Q7)
- 2. None – I was offered but could/did not attend (Go to Q7)
- 3. One (Go to Q6)
- 4. Two (Go to Q6)
- 5. Three or More (Go to Q6)

6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of any in-person training session that you attended, or any material that you received?

Please don’t select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did not receive</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Talk/presentation from senior election official</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Video/DVD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Role-playing of scenarios</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Question and answer of possible scenarios</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. On the day training by the Presiding Officer</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6 / 24
6. Informal telephone conversation with election official

7. Booklets to read through

7. Did you receive any manuals, booklets, videos/DVDs or online material to help you learn more about election procedures?

☐ 1. None (go to Q9)
☐ 2. Manuals
☐ 3. Booklets
☐ 4. Video/DVD
☐ 5. Link to online material
☐ 6. Other (Please specify)

7.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

☐ 1. All of it
☐ 2. Most of it
☐ 3. Some of it
☐ 4. None of it

8. If yes, how much of the material did you read or watch prior to election day?

9. Thinking back on your training, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The training sessions were too long</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The training sessions were boring</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The training sessions spent enough time covering election law and procedures</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The training sessions were easy to understand</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The training prepared me well for election day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. After the training, I was confident in my ability to do my job on election day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The instructions we received from the election officials for opening the polls were clear</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The instructions we received from the election officials for closing the polls were clear</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The instructions for what types of voter identification I could accept were clear</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. The instructions for when to allow voters to cast a provisional ballot were clear

10. Did you notice any differences between your training and how the polling station operated on election day?

   ☐ 1. Yes, a lot
   ☐ 2. Somewhat
   ☐ 3. A little
   ☐ 4. None

11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your training experience?

   ☐ 1. Excellent
   ☐ 2. Good
   ☐ 3. Fair
   ☐ 4. Poor
We would now like to know more about your experience on election day.

12. Which local council were you working for on polling day?  *Required

13. How confident are you that ballot papers in the May 2018 local elections were issued correctly at your polling station?

- 1. Very confident
- 2. Somewhat confident
- 3. Not very confident
- 4. Not at all confident

14. Were you missing any of the following supplies at your polling station?

- 1. Everything was there
- 2. Electoral register
- 3. Ballot papers
- 4. Polling station signs
- 5. Other (please specify)

14.a. If you selected Other, please specify:
Thinking back on your experience during the May 2018 local election, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statements

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. There were problems setting up my polling station</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. There were problems closing the polling station</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The poll workers in my polling station worked well together</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The voting process went smoothly at my polling location</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The voting booths provide voters with enough privacy as they vote</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Election laws are too complex to understand quickly and easily</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. There were problems with queues at the polling station during the day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. There were problems with queues at the polling station towards the end of polling day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. Did your polling station have all the workers it needed?

- Yes
- No

17. Roughly how many times, if any, did your polling station experience any of the following problems on polling day?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2-5</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>More than 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. People asking to vote, who were not on the electoral register</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Members of political parties intimidating the public</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of political parties being where they should not be</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. People taking photos of ballot/polling stations</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. People asking to vote, whose identity I was unsure about</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Suspected cases of electoral fraud</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Disabled voters having problems with access to the polling station</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Disabled voters having problems completing ballot papers

18. If you experienced any other problems on polling day which are not listed above, please describe them here.

19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about ballot secrecy?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Maintaining the secrecy of the vote is of crucial importance</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. We had no problems maintaining the secrecy of the vote at our polling station</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The need for the secrecy of the vote is not well understood by voters</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. It is not clear to me why maintaining the secrecy of the vote is so important</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. With the current state of technology (e.g. mobile phones with internet & cameras) the secrecy of the vote is no longer so important

<p>| | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

20. Overall, how satisfied are you with how polling day went?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
Page 5: About Politics in General

We would now like to ask some questions about your thoughts on the political process more generally.

21. **How interested are you in the following issues?**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all interested</th>
<th>Not very interested</th>
<th>Neither interested or uninterested</th>
<th>Fairly interested</th>
<th>Very interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Politics generally</td>
<td></td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local issues</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. National issues</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. International issues</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. **Which of the following have you done in the last two – three years?**

- □ 1. Voted in the last local elections
- □ 2. Voted in the last general election
- □ 3. Signed a petition/signed an e-petition
- □ 4. Done voluntary work
- □ 5. Boycotted certain products for ethical, political or environmental reasons
- □ 6. Expressed my opinions online
- □ 7. Taken part in a march or demonstration
- □ 8. Been to any political meeting
- □ 9. Donated or paid membership fees to a political party
- □ 10. Contacted your local councillor or MP
- □ 11. Been an officer of a club or organisation
- □ 12. Written a letter to a newspaper editor
- □ 13. Taken part in an active political campaign
14. Stood for public office
15. None of these

23. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government to do what is right?

☐ 1. Just about always
☐ 2. Most of the time
☐ 3. Only some of the time
☐ 4. Almost never

24. Thinking generally, to what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following in Britain at the moment?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How British democracy works generally</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How the electoral process works on polling day</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The level of information people have about the electoral process</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Changes to how the electoral process works (e.g. individual registration; voter identification)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page 6: About You

We would like to gather some basic information about you to help us understand the elections process better. Again, all of your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

25. In what year were you born?

26. Are you?

- Male
- Female

27. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- 1. None
- 2. 'O' Levels or equivalent
- 3. 'A' Levels or equivalent
- 4. Higher education below degree level
- 5. Degree
- 6. Postgraduate degree
- 7. Other (please specify)

27.a. If you selected Other, please specify:
28. How many civic or community organisations – like the National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Parent Teacher Associations, Religious organisations or other such groups - do you belong to?

- 1. None
- 2. One or two
- 3. Three or four
- 4. Five or more

29. How would you describe your current employment status?

- Employee
- Self-employed
- Employer
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Looking after home
- in full time education

30. If you are currently employed, did you have to take time off from your regular job to work at the polls on election day?

- Yes
- No

31. If you are currently employed, do you currently work for the local council that was running the election?

- Yes
- No
32. What is your normal occupation?

- 1. Professional or technical work (e.g. doctor, accountant, schoolteacher, computer programmer)
- 2. Manager or administrator (e.g. company director, local authority officer, executive officer)
- 3. Clerical (e.g. clerk, secretary, telephone operator)
- 4. Sales (e.g. commercial traveller, shop assistant)
- 5. Foreman
- 6. Skilled manual work (e.g. plumber, electrician, fitter)
- 7. Semi-skilled or unskilled manual worker (e.g. machine operator, assembler, postman, waitress, labourer)
- 8. Other (Please specify)

32.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

33. Would you describe yourself as?

- 1. White British
- 2. Any other white background
- 3. White and Black Caribbean
- 4. White and Black African
- 5. White and Asian
- 6. Any other mixed background
- 7. Indian
- 8. Pakistani
- 9. Bangladeshi
- 10. Any other Asian background
11. Black Caribbean
12. Black African
13. Any other Black background
14. Chinese
15. Any other ethnic group
16. Prefer not to say

34. Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?

- Yes (Go to Q35)
- No (Go to Q37)
- Prefer not to say (Go to Q37)

35. If you answered yes to the last question, please indicate if any of the below apply to you

- Blind or sight loss
- Hearing loss
- Mobility – e.g. difficulty walking short distances or climbing stairs
- Manual dexterity
- Learning disability, where person learns in a different way – e.g. dyslexia
- Mental illness – eg schizophrenia, depression
- Speech impairment
- Cognitive disability – eg brain injury, autism, attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder or Asperger’s syndrome
- Other impairment – – eg epilepsy, cardiovascular conditions, asthma, cancer, facial disfigurement, sickle cell anaemia, or progressive condition such as motor neurone disease
- Prefer not to say
36. If you ticked any of the above was suitable provision made for you to act a poll worker on the day?

37. What do you expect your 2018 income from all sources before taxes to be?

- 1. Under £5,000
- 2. £5,000 - £9,999
- 3. £10,000-£19,999
- 4. £20,000-£29,999
- 5. £30,000-£39,999
- 6. Over £40,000

38. Overall, how satisfied were you with your job as a poll worker?

- 1. Very satisfied
- 2. Somewhat satisfied
- 3. Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4. Very dissatisfied

39. How likely are you to work as a poll worker at the next election?

- 1. Very likely
- 2. Somewhat likely
- 3. Not too likely
- 4. Not at all likely
40. The researchers who conducted this survey may want to contact some people to ask further questions. Would that be okay?

- Yes (Go to Q41)
- No (Go to Q42)

41. If you answered yes to the last question, please leave your name and the email address you can be contacted on here.

42. Do you have any additional comments about your experience as a poll worker? Please share them in the space provided below.

43. Thank you very much for your time in completing the survey. If you would like to find out more about the results and findings, please add your email address below:
Thank you for your time!

Overall results will be made available via www.electoralmanagement.com in due course.