



Standard Survey Variables for CivicPulse Surveys

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This document contains a summary of the standard variables provided to all contributors to CivicPulse surveys. These variables consist of five categories: (1) survey metadata, (2) demographics for policymaker positions only, (3) demographics for all positions, (4) constituent demographics, and (5) survey weights.

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Survey Metadata Variables

StartDate

The time and date when the survey was started.

EndDate

The time and date when the survey was completed. For respondents that did not complete the survey, this variable records the time of their last activity on the survey.

Finished

1 = Respondent completed the survey

0 = Respondent did not complete the survey

Gov_type

A variable indicating the government position of the respondent. Its values are: "county," "municipality," and "township."

State

A variable indicating which state the respondent resides in.

Demographics for Policymaker Positions Only

Ideo_5

In general, do you think of yourself as:

- Very conservative
- Somewhat conservative
- Moderate, middle of the road
- Somewhat liberal
- Very liberal
- Not sure

Party

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a ...

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- Other party (please specify): ____

Party_indep

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

- Democratic Party

- Republican Party
- Neither

Demographics for All Positions

Sex¹

What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

Age

In what year were you born?

- (1910 or earlier, 1911-1915, ... , 2006 or later)

Education

What is the last grade of school you completed?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate
- Technical/trade school
- Some college
- College graduate
- Some graduate school
- Graduate degree

White_nonhispanic

Respondents are asked their race and ethnicity using questions taken from the US Census (see below). To maintain respondent confidentiality, the original answers to these questions are not provided. Instead, we construct 'White_nonhispanic' which takes on a '1' if they indicate being non-Hispanic and White, and '0' if they identify as Hispanic or non-white.

Ethnicity

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

¹ We use first-name matching to historical Social Security Administration data to determine respondent sex. Respondents who cannot be matched with at least 95% confidence are given this question.

Race

Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? Please check all that apply.

- White
- Black/African American
- Asian/Asian American (includes East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander)
- Native American
- Other (please specify):_

Constituent Demographics

To provide additional information about the constituents which respondents represent, we match respondents' geographic locations to the U.S. Census (97% match rate). Using this method, we provide four variables about respondents' constituents: the proportion of the population that is college-educated (College_prop), the proportion living in an urban area (Urban_prop), and the population size (Population). To ensure confidentiality of the respondent, each variable is binned into terciles.

College_prop

The proportion of 25-years-or-older residents in the given geographic unit who have completed a 4-year, post-secondary degree. This data is taken from American Community Survey.

Urban_prop

The proportion of residents in the given geographic unit who reside in an urban area. This data is taken from the 2010 Census.

Population

The total number of residents living in the given geographic unit. This data is taken from the American Community Survey.

Voteshare_pres_2020

The proportion of the votes, by county, for Joe Biden in the 2020 Presidential election.

Note: Each sub-county government is matched to the relevant county in which it is contained.

Survey Weights

Unlike with surveys of the U.S. mass public--which rely on Census demographic data about the aggregate U.S. population to generate weights--we do not have demographic data about the aggregate population of elected local government officials (with the exception of gender, which we can code based on first names). However, we can mitigate some of the possible survey sample bias by reweighting based on the demographics of *constituent areas*. To this end, we employ a conventional post-stratification raking procedure using the Census variables listed in

the previous section. We follow the methodology outlined in DeBell and Krosnick (2009) for the American National Election Study (ANES).²

² <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/26b8/ab6c0dd7e50c09c6af32a3c7469b080b63af.pdf>