OREGON SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

VOTE BY MAIL SURVEY 1996

CODE CATEGORIES FOR RESPONSES TO OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

WHYNOBAL (Coded 1)
Since you are a registered voter, do you know why you didn't receive a ballot? Probe: Did you move?

1 Moved: Haven't changed my address/Wasn't in the area long enough/Wrong address/Changed mailing address

2 Registered to vote after cut-off date: (reference to 21 day period) Didn't have 21 days before election

3 Other: Forgot to mark the box/Picked up ballot

8 Don't know: Fell through the cracks/I have no idea/My kids get the mail/Everyone in the house but me got one/Error

9 Refused/No Answer

VOTEALO2 (Coded 2)
Who else was there? Please don't tell me their name, just their relationship to you.

1 Significant other: Spouse/Fiancé/Partner/Boyfriend/Girlfriend

2 Children: Grandchildren/Children that I babysit/Daycare children

3 Parents/Grandparents

4 Friends/Roommates

5 Employer/Co-workers

6 Other: Siblings/Aunt

8 Don't know

9 Refused/No Answer

VOTEWHO1 (Coded 1)
Who marked your ballot? (Please don't tell me their name, just tell me their relationship to you.)

1 Spouse

2 Child/Grandchild

3 Other: Mom

9 Refused/Don't know/No answer
Vote by Mail Survey -- Code Categories for Responses to Open Ended Questions

VOTEDIF2 (Coded 1)

What was difficult for you (in marking the ballot)?

1 Visual: Poor vision/Ballot hard to see/Need a bigger place to mark/holes too small/
Received two -- didn't pay attention to name on first one -- voted twice

2 Too Complicated: Too many steps/Difficult or confusing instructions/Couldn't understand/I'm used to punching not filling in/I mismatched it/Being sure I did it correctly

3 Trouble deciding between candidates: Not a good selection/No one to vote for

9 Refused/Don't know/No answer

VOTEWHO2 (Not Coded)

Who signed your ballot? (Please don't tell me their name, just tell me their relationship to you)
-- Not enough respondents answered this question to allow for coding --

VOTEWHER (Coded 1)

If R marked ballot: Where were you when you marked your ballot? If R did not mark ballot:
Where was your ballot marked?

1 Work: Also includes traveling on business

2 Someone else's house: Friend/Relative

3 Ballot drop off site: Library/Community building/Post Office

4 Traveling: On the road in a snowstorm/In New York/On a layover in Atlanta

5 Other: Car

8 Don't know

9 Refused/No answer

SENDDAY (Coded 1)

On what day (did you return your ballot/Was your ballot returned?)

1 Early: (January 12-19)

2 Midway: (January 20-27)

3 End: (After January 27)

8 Don't know

9 Refused/No answer
SENDIF2  (Coded 1)
(Were there/Have there been) any difficulties returning your ballot? If "yes" then asked: What were those?

1  Forgot to sign it
2  Drop box location unclear: Didn't know where a drop box or mailbox was/Difficulty finding new voting location
3  Other: It was cold/Confusing to have extra postcard for registering to always vote by mail/Didn't have a stamp/Forgot to put on stamps
8  Don't know
9  Refused/No answer

PREFER2  (Coded up to 5)
Why do you prefer (voting by mail/going to a polling place)?
(PART ONE: Vote by mail categories 1 - 19 -- PART TWO: Polling place categories 21 - 39)

1-19 PART ONE  Why do you prefer voting by mail?

1  Easier: More convenient/Less trouble/Simpler/Don't have to be there at a specific time/Handier/Less effort/Don't have to find a polling place/Easier even though it costs a stamp/I'm out of town a lot/Have more than one day/Longer time span to vote/I wouldn't make it to a poll/Don't have to go anywhere
2  Takes less time: No long lines /No crowds/Less time consuming/Takes more time to write down the information to take to the poll than to vote by mail
3  Kids: Don't have to worry about taking the kids or finding a baby-sitter
4  Bad weather not a problem: Don't have to worry about bad weather
5  Car related issues: No worries about transportation or a parking place/Saves gas
6  Elderly: Old age mention/Infirmities related to age/Poor health due to age
7  Disabled or poor health: (Not disabled by age) Handicap or poor health mention
8  Constraints of job: Work hours/Caretakers/Voting interrupts workday/Don't have to skip work
9  Distance to polling place: Work 30 miles from home/Too far to walk
10 More time to read ballot: Time to figure things out/Take my time/No pressure/ No rush/Comfort
11 More private: Not influenced by people around you/ More anonymous/No distractions
12 Higher turnout: More people can vote/Everyone can be represented easier/No excuse not to vote
13 Reduced cost: Postage costs less than driving/Costs the state less
14 Need a drop off box: As long as there is a drop off box/Don't want to pay postage
17 Other: Mail is reliable/Anyone who votes should be able to read the language - function in English/Voting by mail is a privilege and an honor/Less prone to fraud/ More accurate/New experience/Don't like voting booths
18 Don't know
19 Refused/No answer
Why do you prefer (voting by mail-going to a polling place)?

(PART ONE: Vote by mail categories 1 - 19 -- PART TWO: Polling place categories 21 - 39)

21-39 PART TWO Why do you prefer going to a polling place?

21 Easier: It is on the way home

22 Just like it better: (not specific) I prefer it/Accomplish more/Gives you an extra buzz/I think it is better/Feel more comfortable

23 Voting act demeaned: Just like a bill/Voting reduced to the same level as junk mail/Citizens need to show effort/Makes it special/Effort to get there is a very healthy process/Cost America something to vote and it should cost us something to have the right to vote like standing in line/If you don’t care enough to go to a polling place then you shouldn’t be voting/Adds dignity/Privilege to vote/Makes it seem more real to me - that I participate more fully/Feels more official/Patriotic/Anticlimactic

24 Tradition: More a part of the political process than vote by mail/The way I’ve done it all my life/Ritual of going/Habit/A loss of pageantry/A bit of Americana/The American way

25 Sense of community: Lose sense of community in a vote by mail/Gets me out/The energy of the polling place/More personal/A sense of being part of the system

26 Mail-in voters less informed: Lazy/Vote because it is easy not because they have taken time to become informed/People who don’t care vote/It is a matter of sincerity/Anyone can vote/We should go for quality not quantity

27 Less chance of fraud: More accurate/More honest/Real danger of fraud in mail/Sure people are not underage

28 No undue influence by another: No pressure by another/More private/Secret

29 Election period is too long: One day election seems more legitimate/More likely to vote on a one day election/Don’t get called many times by your party to vote/If you vote early you may change your mind

30 No campaigning after ballots go out: Shouldn’t be electioneering after ballots go out/Eliminates extended campaigning

31 Tendency to forget election: Put ballots aside/Forget to send it in/Easier to lose ballots/People don’t really look at what they receive in the mail/Overlooked in the mail/If it gets mailed to me it just sits around the house

32 Unreliability of mail: Mail is easily delayed or lost/Just don’t like the mail part/The mail isn’t safe/Somebody threw out my ballot/If you don’t get one in the mail it is a hassle to go find one

33 Cost: Have to buy a stamp/Doesn’t cost me anything/More cost effective

37 Other: It is more visual

38 Don’t know

39 Refused/No answer
POLPROB2  (Coded 2)
Do you have any difficulties which make it hard for you to get to a polling place? If "yes" then What are those (difficulties)?

1  Not convenient: Don't know where the polling place is/Not a place I usually go
2  Takes too much time: Crowds/Standing in line/I have a busy schedule
3  Kids: Have to worry about taking the kids or finding a baby-sitter/Responsibilities in the home
4  Bad weather not a problem: Have to worry about bad weather/Don't go out in bad weather
5  Car related issues: Have to worry about transportation/Have to find a parking place/I don't have a car/I don't drive
6  Elderly: (Old age mention) Infirmities related to age/Poor health due to age
7  Disabled or poor health: (Not disabled by age) Handicap mention/Poor health due to physical or mental illness/Agoraphobic
8  Constraints of job: Work hours/Caretakers
9  Distance to polling place:
97  Other: Multiple problems - not specified/I tend to procrastinate/I was drunk
98  Don't know
99  Refused/No answer

MARWHO  (Coded 1)
(If you vote,) for whom do you expect to vote?

1  Democrat
2  Bill Clinton
3  Republican: Republican candidate (not named)/Two or more named Republican candidates
4  Named candidate: One named candidate of any party (does not include Bill Clinton)
5  Anyone but Clinton: Who ever is running against Clinton/Not Clinton
6  Other: Mention of a third party such as the Libertarian candidate/Maybe a write in
7  Refused: Take the Fifth/None of your business
8  Don't know: Undecided/Undeclared/I'll have to see who the candidates are
9  No Answer: Respondents confused by question: Answers of Smith and Wyden