

Supporting Statement B

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Study of the Feasibility and Advisability of Establishing a Program of Free Return or Reduced Postage for Absentee Ballots

Survey of Registered Voters

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The respondent universe for this study includes all adults aged 18 years who reside in one of the 50 U.S. states. The sample will be 1,200 respondents, and we aim to obtain a response rate of 30%. This is the first collection for the EAC of this kind.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

The survey will be conducted by phone in both English and Spanish using random digit dialing (RDD) technology. In RDD surveys, telephone exchanges in the United States are selected at random according to the specifications of the sampling plan. The last digits needed to complete the phone number are generated completely at random. This design ensures full implementation of the sampling plan and ensures that those with listed and unlisted numbers have an equal chance of being included in the sample. Within each contacted household, a respondent will be selected among all adults in the household aged 18 years and who are citizens.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

To maximize the chances of making contact with a potential respondent, as many as 10 attempts will be made to complete an interview at every sampled household, and calls will be staggered over times of the day and days of the week.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press has used these questions in previous surveys, thus through other organizations these questions have already been refined.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

1. Karen Lynn-Dyson
Research Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Avenue, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 566-3100
klynndyson@eac.gov

2. Dr. Karen Buerkle
Senior Researcher
Applied Research Center on Democracy and Elections
IFES
1101 15th St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 350-6741
kbuerkle@ifes.org