

Summary of Changes: 2015 and 2017 Overseas Citizen Population Survey

Survey Instrument

- Renamed Overseas Citizen Population Survey
- Though the length, expected burden, and topics have not substantially changed, the 2017 OCPS has substantively changed questions from the 2015 OCPS. These primarily include:
 - Removing computer and cell phone usage questions.
 - Removing questions about State websites.
 - Removing questions about sources of candidate/election issue information.
 - Removing questions about previous years' voting experience.
 - Adding social media usage questions.
 - Adding absentee voting process questions related to requesting, receiving, and returning a ballot.
 - Adding U.S. citizen social connection questions.
 - Adding questions concerning elections for which the individual was outside the U.S./non-host country/non-U.S. address.

Sampling

- 2017 OCPS will sample the same number of respondents (45,000), using nearly the same frame and sampling methodology.
 - Sampling frame will be substantially larger than 2015 OCPS due to it being a Presidential year and improve jurisdictional coverage.
 - Sampling will make minor changes to strata variables to adjust for lessons learned in 2015 OCPS, the absence of a pilot sample, and to ensure appropriate power for treatment survey.

Communications

- 2017 OCPS will use the same communication design as the 2015 OCPS; however, it will 1) have no paper questionnaire sent on the third mailing, 2) send a flat file print mailing similar to the size of the paper questionnaire on the third mailing to approximately 10% of the sample, and 3) send 3 postcard reminders instead of 1.

Treatments/Experiments

- In the 2015 pilot, there was a non-monetary incentive treatment; 2017 OCPS will have **no incentive**.
- 2017 OCPS will use a treatment survey on 10% of the sample where they receive 5 alternate absentee voting process questions based on the 2016 PEVS-ADM. The experiment will test the item reliability of these voting questions but there is no expected increased burden to these questions.

Administration

- 2017 OCPS will be a web only survey with some push-to-web communications. 2015 OCPS was a mixed-mode web and paper survey.
- Fielding time will move from September 2015-December 2015, to a similar three month total fielding window of around May 2017-August 2017.