

## **Introduction**

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) conducted a telephone survey using the random sampling method based on landline numbers picked out of the Singapore residential telephone book.

The phone interviews were conducted by a third party survey firm, XpressWorks Pte Ltd for IPS, from 8 to 20 May 2011.

A total of 2084 interviews were conducted among Singapore citizens of voting age, that is, 21 years old and above.

The following survey instrument was used in the interviews.

The interviewer read out in information reflected in the Preamble of the document. The first step was to randomise the selection of the respondent by asking to speak to the person who is a Singaporean and last celebrated his or her birthday in the household.

When such a person come on the line, the interviewer then read out the background of the study and allowed him or her to make a choice about participating in the survey.

This is the standard practice by the industry in conducting phone surveys, and is also procedure required by the National University of Singapore's Institutional Review Board.

Out of the 2084 surveys completed, 5 cases were eliminated from the analysis because the respondents in those cases answered most of the items in an indifferent way (e.g. giving the same mid-range value in their answers) or because in some cases, many of the items were unanswered by the respondent.

The sample of 2079 was then weighted to match the distribution of Singapore citizens based on Census 2010 on the variables of age, gender and ethnicity, resulting in a weighted sample of 2080.

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## Survey Instrument

### IPS PERCEPTIONS OF POLICIES IN SINGAPORE SURVEY - SINGAPOREANS' POLLING CHOICES (2011)

(PREAMBLE)

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (name of survey firm). I am conducting a survey on what Singaporeans think of the elections held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of the General Elections) for research by the National University of Singapore.

May I speak to the person in your household who is a Singaporean and celebrated his or her birthday most recently, please.

.....

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (name of survey firm). I am conducting a survey on what Singaporeans of 21 years old and above think of the elections held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of the General Elections) for research by the National University of Singapore. The survey should take 10-15 minutes. Participation in the survey is voluntary. You do not need to answer any question you are uncomfortable with. All answers will be confidential and anonymous and grouped with those of close to 2000 other people. The interview will be recorded only for my supervisor to check that I enter all the answers accurately and the recording is destroyed after this quality control. Can you please help us by participating in this important survey?

.....

1) Are you a..... **(READ OUT)**

1. Singaporean Citizen
2. Permanent Resident **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
3. Employment Pass Holder **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
4. Work Permit Holder **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
5. Others **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

2) How old are you? **(RECORD AND CODE)**

1. Below 21 **(THANK & TERMINATE)**
2. 21-24 yrs
3. 25-29 yrs
4. 30-34 yrs
5. 35-39 yrs
6. 40-44 yrs
7. 45-49 yrs
8. 50-54 yrs
9. 55-64 yrs
10. 65 & above

3) Gender **(DO NOT READ OUT)**

1. Male
2. Female

4) Did you vote in the recent elections? **(RECORD AND CODE)**

1. Yes
2. No

**CODE :**

**1: not important at all, 2: not so important, 3: neutral, 4: important, 5: very important (DO NOT READ OUT 'NEUTRAL')**

5) How important are the following **issues** in shaping your decision on who (to vote/you would have voted if you had to)?

As I read out the issues one-by-one, just tell me if it is 'not important at all', 'not so important', 'important' or 'very important'.

	<b>1-Not important at all</b>	<b>2-Not so important</b>	<b>3-Neutral</b>	<b>4-Important</b>	<b>5-Very important</b>	<b>9-Don't know</b>
a Your job situation	1	2	3	4	5	9
b Cost of living, (Explain: cost of healthcare, housing, transportation, education)	1	2	3	4	5	9
c Upgrading	1	2	3	4	5	9
d Facilities in the neighbourhood (Explain: Transport, polyclinic, wet markets, schools, sports facilities, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	9
e Personality of the candidates	1	2	3	4	5	9
f The work of the former MP (Explain: work of the person who was MP before elections)	1	2	3	4	5	9
g Fairness of government policy	1	2	3	4	5	9
h Need for a good and efficient government	1	2	3	4	5	9
i Need for checks and balances in Parliament	1	2	3	4	5	9
j Need for different views in Parliament	1	2	3	4	5	9
k Issues in party manifestos	1	2	3	4	5	9

**CODE :**

**1: not important at all, 2: not so important, 3: neutral, 4: important, 5: very important (DO NOT READ OUT 'NEUTRAL')**

6) How important are the following **characteristics in election candidates** in shaping your decision on who (to vote/you would vote if you had to)?

As I read out the **character traits** one-by-one, just tell me if it is 'not important at all', 'not so important', 'important' or 'very important'.

	<b>1-Not important at all</b>	<b>2-Not so important</b>	<b>3-Neutral</b>	<b>4-Important</b>	<b>5-Very important</b>	<b>9- Don't know</b>
a Honesty	1	2	3	4	5	9
b Someone who can understand people like you	1	2	3	4	5	9
c Someone who can reflect your views	1	2	3	4	5	9
d Efficient	1	2	3	4	5	9
e Hardworking (Explain: commitment to serving people.)	1	2	3	4	5	9
f The party the candidate belongs to	1	2	3	4	5	9
g Fair person (Explain: treats everyone fairly, regardless of race, religion, gender, age)	1	2	3	4	5	9
h Credentials (Explain: educational qualifications, work experience)	1	2	3	4	5	9
i Experience in grassroots and community work	1	2	3	4	5	9

**CODE :**

**1: not important at all, 2: not so important, 3: neutral, 4: important, 5: very important (DO NOT READ OUT 'NEUTRAL')**

7)How important are the following **communication channels** in shaping your decision on who (to vote/you would vote if you had to)?

As I read out the **type of communication channels** one-by-one, just tell me if it is 'not important at all', 'not so important', 'important' or 'very important'.

	<b>1-Not important at all</b>	<b>2-Not so important</b>	<b>3-Neutral</b>	<b>4-Important</b>	<b>5-Very important</b>	<b>9- Don't know</b>
a Radio	1	2	3	4	5	9
b Local television	1	2	3	4	5	9
c Internet	1	2	3	4	5	9
d Newspapers	1	2	3	4	5	9
e Word of mouth	1	2	3	4	5	9
f Election Rallies	1	2	3	4	5	9
g Party literature (Explain: manifesto, fliers, mailers etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	9
h Door-to-door visit of candidates	1	2	3	4	5	9
i Grassroots workers	1	2	3	4	5	9
j Friends and family (Explain: includes colleagues)	1	2	3	4	5	9

**CODE:**

**1: strongly disagree, 2: disagree, 3: neutral, 5: strongly agree, 4: agree or 9: 'don't know' (DO NOT READ OUT 'NEUTRAL'). Questions 10a-g are rotated in the order of presentation to avoid bias.**

Please give us your opinion on the following statements. As I read out each one just tell me if you 'Strongly Disagree', 'Disagree', 'Agree', 'Strongly Agree' with the statement.

	<b>1-Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>2-Disagree</b>	<b>3-Neutral</b>	<b>4-Agree</b>	<b>5-Strongly Agree</b>	<b>9- Don't Know</b>
8) The whole election system <b>is fair</b> to all political parties that want to contest the elections.	1	2	3	4	5	9
9) The 'votes for upgrading' policy <b>is fair</b> because the government first rewards constituencies that supported its political party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10.a) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The PAP (People's Action	1	2	3	4	5	9

Party) is a credible party.						
10.b) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The WP (Workers' Party) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10c) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The SDP (Singapore Democratic Party) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10d) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The SDA (Singapore Democratic Alliance) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10e) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The NSP (National Solidarity Party) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10f) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The SPP (Singapore People's Party) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
10g) <b>(ROTATION)</b> The RP (Reform Party) is a credible party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
11) There is <b>no need</b> to change the election system because it has served Singaporeans well.	1	2	3	4	5	9
12) It is <b>always important</b> to have elected opposition party members in Parliament.	1	2	3	4	5	9
13) I <b>felt free</b> to vote the way I want to if I had voted/I felt free to vote they way I did.	1	2	3	4	5	9
14) The Nominated Member of Parliament scheme plays a useful role today.	1	2	3	4	5	9
15) The Non-Constituency Member of Parliament scheme plays a useful role today.	1	2	3	4	5	9
16)The issue of 'foreigners and immigrants' <b>was not</b> important to me in this election.	1	2	3	4	5	9
17)The material found in the internet was <b>the most important</b> of all in shaping my views in this election.	1	2	3	4	5	9

18) What is your ethnic group? **(RECORD AND CODE)**

1. Chinese
2. Malay
3. Indian
4. Others

19) What is the type of housing you live in? (**RECORD AND CODE**)

1. HDB 1 room
2. HDB 2 room
3. HDB 3 room
4. HDB 4 room
5. HDB 5 room
6. HDB Executive Flat
7. Executive Condo\Private Condo\ Apartment
8. Landed Property
9. Others, pls specify:\_\_\_\_\_

20) When did you become a Singapore citizen?

1. At birth (GO TO Qn22)
2. Naturalised (GO TO Qn21)

21) Which year did you become a naturalised citizen? (**RECORD YEAR. RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS TO 2011.**)

22) What is your current employment status?

1. Employer
2. Own account worker (e.g self-employed, free-lance)
3. Employee
4. Unpaid family worker
5. Full-time home-maker
6. Full-time student
7. Retiree
8. Unemployed
9. Others. Specify:\_\_\_\_\_

23) What is your current main occupation (**RECORD AND CODE**)

(if not currently employed/self-employed, what was **your last main occupation?**)

Record \_\_\_\_\_

1. Legislators, Senior Officials, Senior Executives and Senior Managers
2. Professionals
3. Technicians, middle to lower-level managers, foremen, and supervisors
4. Clerical Workers
5. Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales workers
6. Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers, Semiskilled Workers
7. Cleaners, Labourers and Related Workers, Unskilled Workers.
99. Never worked / employed

24) What is your monthly **household** income?

1. None
2. Below \$1,000
3. \$1,000-\$1,999
4. \$2,000-\$2,999
5. \$3,000-\$3,999
6. \$4,000-\$4,999

7. \$5,000-\$5,999
8. \$6,000-\$6,999
9. \$7,000-\$7,999
10. \$8,000-\$8,999
11. \$9,000-\$9,999
12. \$10,000 and above
13. Refused / Don't know

If interviewee refuses to answer ask:

24a) What is the nearest bracket then:

1. None to \$1,999
2. \$2,000 to \$4,999
3. \$5,000 to \$6,999
4. \$7,000 and above.

25) What is the highest level of schooling completed? (**RECORD AND CODE.**)  
(Please refer to SSEC if unsure of category)

1. None
2. Some Primary
3. PSLE or equivalent
4. Some Secondary
5. 'O' / 'N' levels (includes NTC 3 or equivalent)
6. Post – secondary ('A" levels, NTC ½ Cert. in Office Skills)
7. Diploma level (includes some Diploma education)
8. University level (includes some University education)
9. Post – graduate level
10. Other professional qualifications (ACCA, etc), pls specify:\_\_\_\_\_

26) Have you ever voted before GE2011?

1. Yes
2. No

Thank you for participating in our survey. If you have any questions on the study, you can call Dr Leong Chan Hoong, Research Fellow at the NUS Institute of Policy Studies, at 6516-5601. Alternatively, you may contact the NUS Institutional Review Board for an independent opinion regarding this study and the rights of research participation. Kindly call Mr Chan Tuck Wai at 65-6516 1234. Thank you.

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