

Pre-election survey

Date of interview		Time interview begins	
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INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am _____ from the University of Limerick and the Limerick Be Heard campaign. We are carrying out a survey as part of independent research on engagement with the forthcoming General Election in Limerick. The results of this survey will be used to analyse voter engagement with the election. I would like to assure you that any information you give me will be treated confidentially, and no personal information will be made public at any time in this research.

MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How interested are you in information about what's going on in government and politics?
EXTREMELY INTERESTED, VERY INTERESTED, MODERATELY INTERESTED, SLIGHTLY INTERESTED, or NOT INTERESTED AT ALL?

Extremely interested	1
Very interested	2
Moderately interested	3
Slightly interested	4
Not interested at all	5

2. Which of the following sources for news and information do you use in an average week?
(CHOOSE AS MANY AS ARE APPLICABLE)

Television news	1
Newspaper	2
National radio station (eg RTE Radio 1)	3
Local radio station (eg Live 95FM)	4
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, etc.)	5
Browse online for news	6
Other	7
None	999

3. Which of those news sources do you USE most?
(CHOOSE ONE)

Television news	1
Newspaper	2
National radio station	3
Local radio station	4
Social media	5
Browse online for news	6
Other	7
None	999

4. Which of these news sources do you TRUST most for accurate information?
(CHOOSE ONE)

Television news	1
Newspaper	2
National radio station	3
Local radio station	4
Social media	5
Browse online for news	6
Other	7
None	999

5. How much have you thought about the upcoming general election?
QUITE A LOT or ONLY A LITTLE?

Quite a lot	1
Only a little	2

6. Do you happen to know where the polling station for your area is?

Yes	1
No	2
(DO NOT PROMPT): Intend to use a postal vote	3

7. The last general election took place in February 2011. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?

Yes, voted	1	[INTERVIEWER: Go to Question 8]
No, didn't vote	2	[INTERVIEWER: Skip to Question 9]
[DO NOT PROMPT]: Can't remember	998	[INTERVIEWER: Skip to Question 9]
[DO NOT PROMPT]: Not eligible (e.g. too young)	999	[INTERVIEWER: Skip to Question 9]

8. [IF YES] Do you recall who you gave your first preference to in that election?

Fine Gael	1
Labour	2
Fianna Fáil	3
Sinn Féin	4
Green Party	5
Socialist Party	6
Other Party	7
Independent candidate	8
[DO NOT PROMPT] Can't remember	9

9. Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the manner in which the Government is running the country?

Satisfied	1
Dissatisfied	2
Don't know/no opinion	999

10. Which are the three most important issues to you today?

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: If respondent cannot come up with three issues move on; if respondent has more than three, take first three issues stated]

11. How seriously do you believe the main political parties treat these issues?

Extremely seriously	1
Very seriously	2
Moderately seriously	3
Slightly seriously	4
Not seriously at all	5
Don't know	999

12. Thinking back over the lifetime of the current Fine Gael/Labour government, would you say that the ECONOMY in Ireland over that period of time got a lot better; a little better; stayed the same; got a little worse; or got a lot worse?

Got a lot better	1
Got a little better	2
Stayed the same	3
Got a little worse	4
Got a lot worse	5
Don't know/no opinion	999

13. Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things are going in the wrong direction?

Right direction	1
Wrong direction	2
Don't know/no opinion	999

14. In the forthcoming general election, are you certain or almost certain you will vote, unsure, or certain or almost certain you will not vote?

I am certain or almost certain that I WILL vote	1
I am unsure if I will vote	2
I am certain or almost certain that I WILL NOT vote	3
I can't vote	999

15. Who do you expect to form a government after the next election?

Single party Fine Gael government, with or without support from Independents	1
FG/Labour coalition	2
FG/Labour/Others	3
FG/FF	4
FG/SF	5
FG/Others	6
FF/SF	7
FF/SF/Lab	8
FF/SF/Others	9
Other coalition	10
No government will be formed, there will be another election first	11
Don't know	999

16. If you were to vote in the forthcoming general election, which would you say was more important in deciding how you cast your first preference vote – the candidate him/herself, the fact that the candidate is with a party, or the fact that the candidate is an Independent?

Candidate	1
Fact that candidate represents a party	2
Fact that candidate is an Independent	3
Don't know	999

17. If you were to vote in the forthcoming general election, which of the following would be most important in making your mind up about which party or independent candidate you would give your first preference vote to?

Choosing who will be Taoiseach	1
Choosing the set of Ministers who will form the government	2
Choosing between the policies as set out by the parties	3
Choosing a candidate to look after the needs of the constituency	4
Don't know	999

18. How similar are the main Irish political parties (Fine Gael, Labour Party, Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin) in terms of what they want to do in government?

Extremely similar	1
Very similar	2
Moderately similar	3
Slightly similar	4
Not similar at all	5
Don't know/no opinion	999

19. Do you think it is better when a single party controls the government, better when there is a coalition of parties, or doesn't it matter?

Single party government	1
Coalition government	2
Doesn't matter	3
Don't know/no opinion	999

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

The information from the following questions is required to allow us to analyse the data thoroughly. Please be assured that the confidentiality of the information you provide here will be respected - all potentially identifiable information will be removed before data analysis takes place.

a. Location: Electoral Division: _____

b. Gender

Female	1
Male	2
Self-identify	3

c. Marital Status

Married/Civil partnership/Living as married	1
Single	2
Widowed/divorced/separated	3

d. Employment status

Responsible for looking after the home	1
Full-time student (third level)/At school	2
Temporarily unemployed (actively seeking work)	3
Permanently unemployed	4
Retired	5
Full-time work (30 hours per week or more)	6
Part-time work (8-29 hours per week)	7
Self-employed	8

e. Age

18-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65+	

That's the end of the survey, many thanks for your time. Your responses will form an important part of the research we are conducting about civic engagement with politics and the electoral process in Limerick, and we would like to assure you again that your confidentiality will be respected.

Thanks again!

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION AFTER LEAVING THE RESPONDENT

Time interview ends	
Interview Length in minutes	
Grade respondent's cooperation (marks out of 10)	