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# A Political Survey of OBU

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A POLITICAL SURVEY OF OBU

H493 Honors Special Studies

Exam. Permit No. 567

John Dale Hodges

## A POLITICAL SURVEY OF OBU

### Objective

The objective of this survey is to determine what effect young people, especially the new 18 to 20 year old voters will have on elections. The results of this survey are to show what type of voter the OBU student is, and what he thinks are the most important issues facing Arkansas and the nation. This survey also shows how some of the candidates are doing, and how popular they are in the eyes of young voters.

### Writing the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was written with the objective of finding out as much as possible about the students background, what his political and social views are, and how he would vote. This was to be done with the least number of questions possible.

The questionnaire contains thirty-eight questions. The first nine questions were selected to identify the student. These questions included age, religion, occupation, size of community, and home state. Questions ten through twenty-nine were written to determine how the student will vote, what his political and social views are, and how he feels about important political issues. Questions ten through twenty-nine also show which candidates are doing the best in receiving support from the student. Questions thirty through thirty-four deal only with Arkansas candidates. Especially trying to determine if John McClellan can be easily defeated or not. Questions thirty-five and thirty-six show what the student feels

are the worst problems facing Arkansas and the nation. With the last two questions the students are able to determine how good of a job that they feel Dr. Grant and Dean Dixon are doing.

#### Drawing the Sample

The sample was drawn from a list of the OBU student body. There were 1244 names on the list and around 200 students were to be surveyed. I made both a random sample and a stratified sample. To make the random sample I divided 225 into 1244 and it went 5.5 times. This met that every fifth name on the list was to be surveyed. To make the stratified sample the names of all the students on the list were placed in a box and 225 were drawn out to be surveyed. After both samples were made it was decided that I would use the random sample. All Black students who were included in the 248 names to be surveyed were withdrawn from the survey because they were to be surveyed by another student in a separate survey. This left 233 names that were divided between another student and myself. I was left with 115 people to survey.

#### Surveying the Students

I personally surveyed about thirty-five of the students on my list. These names included all male students who live in the dorms. But I was unable to personally survey the people who live off campus and the female students who live in the dorms. I mailed each of them a survey, thirty-seven filled out their survey and returned it.

#### Results of the Survey

The results of this survey are taken from seventy that were turned in. Nearly half the students surveyed hadn't even registered yet, but

they said that they plan to. This slowness to register could indicate that a large number of young people are unconcerned and not interested in politics enough to take the time to register and vote.

#### Party Preference:

Of the students surveyed 4% said that they were not very strong Republicans, 48% said that they were Independents, 35% said that they were not very strong Democrats, and 4% said that they were strong Democrats. It appears that the young voter could add to the strength of the Democrat party in general, but that he will remain somewhat independent, often voting for candidates in the other party and refusing to be a stright party voter for the Democrats.

#### Political Attitudes:

Of the students surveyed 41% said that they were moderates, and 29% said that they are moderately liberal. But in comparing the results of some of the other questions with this question it would appear that the OBU student thinks of himself as being somewhat more liberal than he actually is.

#### Presidential Election:

Nixon looks real good. When asked who they would have voted for in the last election 62% of the students said that they would have voted for Nixon. When the students were asked who they would support in a race which included Humphrey, Nixon, and Wallace 70% said that they would support Nixon. In a race composed of Muskie, Nixon, and Wallace 54% said they would support Nixon; and in a race composed of Kennedy, Nixon, and Wallace 51% said that they would support Nixon.

Kennedy appears to be leading in the Democratic party. When compared with the top men in the party he leads with the support of 25% of the students, Mills was second with 21%, Muskie was third with 17% and McGovern was fourth with 11%. Kennedy also received the support of 35% of the students when placed in a race with Nixon and Wallace which was higher than any other Democratic candidate surveyed.

#### Governors Race:

Governor Bumpers is in good shape. 78% of the students said that they would have voted for Bumpers in the last election. 4% of those surveyed said that he is doing an excellent job, 43% said that he is doing a good job, 31% said that he is doing an average job, 10% said that he is doing a fair job, and 5% said that he is doing a poor job.

#### Congressional Race:

Pryor may be able to beat McClellan if he ran against him. In a race between Pryor and McClellan 40% of the students said that they would support Pryor, 25% said that they would support McClellan, and 31% were not sure who they would support. In two other races McClellan was able to receive the majority of the support. But in a race between him and Bumpers the results were very close.

When asked to rate the Arkansas Congressional delegation and the Governor, Mills was considered the best official Arkansas has. Bumpers was ranked second, Pryor third, McClellan fourth, Fulbright fifth, Hammerschmidt sixth, and Alexander seventh.

### National and State Priorities:

The students of OBU consider Education the most important priority in both Arkansas and the Nation. As national priorities pollution was ranked second, crime third, employment fourth, overpopulation fifth, poverty sixth, race relations seventh, Vietnam war and defense eighth, welfare ninth, and transportation tenth. The priorities for Arkansas followed a similar pattern to the national priorities.

It appears that young people will not vote radically different from their parents. Thus they will not have a profound effect on National elections. But politicians will now take a greater interest in young people and their problems than they have in the past since they have become voters.