

San Diego State University
INFORMED CONSENT – INTERVIEWS

Civic Engagement in Local Politics

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Principal Investigators:

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH?

The purpose of this research study is to understand the choices individuals make regarding how they participate in local politics. 50-75 individuals who participate in San Diego's political life will be interviewed.

The reasons you may want to participate in this study are to have your voice heard and to share your experiences participating in local San Diego politics.

The reasons you may not want to participate are the time it takes and the questions we want to ask you about your opinions and experiences participating in local politics.

HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THIS RESEARCH? This interview will last 45 to 60 minutes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS RESEARCH? This study is confidential. The identifying information we collected about you from the brief survey you took (names, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.) will be destroyed after the completion of this interview. We will audio record and transcribe this interview. All transcripts and any notes we take will be stored in secure, password-protected electronic files that only the research team can access.

Before we ask you any questions, you will receive detailed information about the study in writing and orally and you will be asked to acknowledge that your participation is fully voluntary and that you understand you do not have to answer any of the questions. Once we have reviewed this consent process and answered any questions you may have, we will begin asking you questions. We value your input, but you are not required to answer every question, and you are free to not answer questions and/or stop participating at any time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH? Even though I will not use any identifiable information in any research reports or articles based on this research (for example, I will use a pseudonym rather than your real name), I will not be changing any other details of your participatory activity. Because of that it is possible that someone knowledgeable about San Diego politics may be able to guess your identity. As mentioned above, you are free to not answer questions and/or stop participating at any time.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION? There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research; however, you may appreciate having your voice heard on these issues.

WILL MY INFORMATION BE PRIVATE? Your privacy will be maintained to the extent allowed by law. However, the study team members are required by California law to report suspected child or elder abuse to the authorities. We don't expect those issues will be topics in our interviews, but are required to let you know.

As stated previously, your identifiable information will be destroyed once this interview is complete. Your information will not be shared with other researchers. All data collected for this project will be stored in secure, password-protected electronic files that only the research team can access. These files will be stored for a period of five years and will then be destroyed.

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE? You do **not** have to participate in this research study. If you choose not to participate there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Additionally you may choose to stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

WILL I BE TOLD ABOUT THE STUDY RESULTS? We will not contact you with results of this study. However, we will summarize our results in policy research briefs as well as peer-reviewed manuscripts, which will be publicly available within 5 years of the conclusion of the study.

WILL IT COST ME ANYTHING TO PARTICIPATE? No.

WILL I BE PAID TO PARTICIPATE? There is no incentive for participating in this interview.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STUDY? If you have any questions about this research now, please ask. If you have questions later, you may contact Dr. Brian Adams at badams@sdsu.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, or if you have concerns or questions, you may contact the Division of Research Affairs at San Diego State University: (619) 594-6622 or irb@sdsu.edu.

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE: The San Diego State University Institutional Review Board has approved this consent form as signified by the Board's stamp.

The choice to sign this consent document is yours. You do not have to sign this form because the IRB determined that the risk of your participation in this research is no more than you would face in everyday life and you are not asked to do anything in this study that would normally require a signed consent form outside of a research study.

However, you may sign this form. The choice is yours. If you choose to sign, the researchers will keep your participation confidential. If you do sign this form, your signature below indicates that you have read the information in this document and the study team has explained the study to you. You have had a chance to ask any questions that you have about the study. Your signature also indicates that you agree to join the study. The study team has told you that you can change your mind and choose to stop participating in this study at any time.

The investigator or a member of his/her research team has provided you with a copy of this consent form with information about whom to contact in the event you have questions.

Signature of Participant (**signing is optional and not required**)

Date