Survey for “The Story of Good Citizenship: Framing Public Policy in the Context of Duty-Based versus Engaged Citizenship"

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Recycling Survey

Thank you for agreeing to participate in a survey of attitudes toward citizen participation and attitudes toward recycling. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. The survey is not a required element of the course and your participation or lack of participation will have no bearing on the course grade. Completion of the survey will take approximately 15 minutes. You may quit the survey at any time. The survey asks for no names and the results will be reported in aggregate form. The results will be used to understand how students, faculty, and staff at Idaho State University view recycling. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Donna Lybecker or Dr. Mark McBeth, Department of Political Science at 282-2211.

Section I. The concept of “citizenship” is an important element of a democratic government. Below are some general statements regarding “what is a good citizen.” Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement using a scale of zero (extremely unimportant) to 10 (extremely important). A place a number in the space provided next to each statement.

To be a good citizen, how important would you say it is:

1-for a person to support people who are worse off than themselves? ____
2-for a person to vote in elections? ____
3-for a person to always obey laws and regulations? ____
4-for a person to form his or her own opinion independently of others? ____
5-for a person to be active in voluntary organizations? ____
6-for a person to be active in politics? ____
7-for a person to serve on a jury if called? ____
8-for a person to report a crime that he or she may have witnessed?

9. What best describes your partisan affiliation?
   a-Republican
   b-Democratic
   c-Independent
   d-None
   e-Other ______________

10. Would you describe yourself as:
    a-conservative
    b-liberal
    c-moderate
    d-don’t know
11. Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?
   a. John McCain
   b. Barack Obama
   c. Other
   d. I did not vote

12. What is your gender?
   a. Female
   b. Male

13. What is your age?
    ________ years

14. What is the size of community that you have spent the largest percentage of your life in?
    a-less than 5,000
    b-5,000 to 50,000
    c-50,001 to 100,000
    d-over 100,000

15. Circle your status at ISU:
    a-Faculty (go to question #16)
    b-Student (skip to question #17)
    c-Staff (skip to question #18)

16. If you are a faculty member, what college do you teach in?

    __________________________

17. If you are a student, what is your academic major? If you don’t know put undeclared.

    __________________________

18. If you are a staff member, please indicate what college, program or administrative unit you work in.

    __________________________
Section II. Below are two different perspectives on recycling. Please read both descriptions and then answer the questions that follow.

Recycling Perspective #1

Recycling is an important way for communities to reduce waste. When individuals recycle they are exercising individual responsibility. This responsibility, in turn, leads to lower taxes and lower priced consumer goods. Recycling may reduce costs to society because landfills do not fill up as quickly when goods are recycled. Lower priced consumer goods are possible because recycled materials can be used in the production of these goods. Recycling is efficient and shows good business sense. Most corporations support recycling because recycling helps these businesses secure cheap and reliable sources of materials for their production processes. Recycling is difficult to achieve, however, because local governments often do not want to take the time to implement recycling programs. Many local governments find it easier to simply have citizens throw away their garbage because these governments believe that large scale recycling efforts take considerable time and effort to implement. However, studies have shown that efficient local governments can recycle and actually reduce sanitation costs to their citizens over the long term. It is our duty to make sure that governments recycle.

Recycling Perspective #2

Recycling is an important element in global concerns over climate change. By recycling we are being good global citizens. When we recycle we are reducing carbon emissions. For example, if you recycle fifty percent of your household waste you can eliminate 2400 pounds of carbon emissions per year. Manufacturing goods from recycled materials requires less energy than from using original (non-recycled) materials. Less energy is also needed to transport and process products when people reuse goods. Fewer fossil fuels are burned and less carbon dioxide emitted when energy demands decrease. This, in turn, leads to a healthier environment and helps in the fight to reduce global warming. When communities do not recycle they are harming their citizens’ future as well as the future of global citizens. Unfortunately, many corporations resist recycling because they also own the original raw materials used in production and they make more money from not recycling. However, citizens are getting more and more involved in recycling and their efforts are prompting corporations to support recycling efforts. Local governments are also hearing citizen voices and they are implementing recycling efforts.
Now that you have read the above two perspectives, please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each statement using the following scale (0 = strongly disagree, 1 = disagree, 2 = slightly disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = slightly agree, 5 = agree, 6 = strongly agree).

19. Recycling perspective #1 is close to my ideas about recycling. _____

20. I think that people who recycle are exercising individual responsibility. _____

21. I think that recycling will lead to overall lower costs for society. _____

22. Recycling is an efficient way to use resources in the production of goods. _____

23. Recycling makes good business sense. _____

24. I think that we would have more recycling if only local governments would be more involved. _____

25. Recycling perspective #2 is close to my ideas about recycling. _____

26. I think that recycling is important as a form of global citizenship. _____

27. I think that recycling will help reduce global warming. _____

28. I think that recycling will reduce energy consumption. _____

29. I think that corporations are a major impediment to recycling. _____

30. Recycling is an important way to get involved in your community. _____

Section III. Please answer the following questions about recycling at Idaho State University

31. Do you know where to find recycling bins at Idaho State University?
   Yes (go to question #32)
   No (skip to question #33)
32. Tell us if you recycle the following materials at ISU. Circle the number that represents your response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Always</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a-paper</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-plastics</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c-newspaper</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d-cardboard</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-aluminum</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f-tin cans</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33. Would you like to see ISU pursue a larger recycling program?
   a-yes
   b-no

34. Would you volunteer to participate in a recycling project at ISU?
   a-yes
   b-maybe
   c-no

End of survey, thank you for your participation.