NOTES ON SURVEYING

a) Original Survey Plan

The original goal was to conduct the surveys face-to-face at Cherian’s International Groceries in Decatur, Ga., an Indian grocery store with a very diverse South Asian clientele. The location was also chosen due to the close proximity to Clarkston, Ga., which is not only the location of the author’s campus, but also the initial site of all refugee resettlement in Georgia. However, after an initial day of attempted data collection, a decision was made to administer the survey through the Internet. The reason for this change of heart was due to the lack of interest from many of the potential respondents I met. Not only were many customers wary of taking part in the survey, many of the older people wanted to know my ethnic and sub-national Indian background (i.e. the state of origin); if I spoke Gujarati or Hindi (I do not; I speak Tamil); as well as my own political beliefs. I realized very quickly that the survey results, if collected this way, would be heavily biased so I discarded the day’s data collection of five surveys.

b) Respondents’ comments on survey design

(i) After the online survey was closed and I examined the data, I noticed a number of comments by respondents as to question answers, or lack thereof. One common complaint was the lack of choice for the question on party. By limiting respondents to only four choices – Democrat, Republican, Tea Party or Libertarian – some of them complained that I was not taking into account Independent voters or those who had no party preference. As such, I recoded those who had issues into two new variables – “Independent” and “None” – to capture their true partisan affiliation.

(ii) I also heard from some respondents about additional categories that should have been available for the questions on citizenship as well as ethnic heritage and religion. For the former, a couple of people suggested I include a choice for permanent residents, asylees and refugees who are in the U.S. legally and are residents, but not citizens. This was an oversight on my part and will definitely be included in future surveys. Some also felt that I forgot to include Tibet and Suriname as categories of South Asian descent. While the inclusion of Tibet is debatable because it is currently under Chinese control, Suriname was an oversight because I did include another country, Guyana, which has a large number of residents of South Asian descent. Lastly, one respondent asked for an option for those born in pre-Partition India i.e. in British India before the partition into India and Pakistan on August 15th 1947. One respondent wrote in the comments section that while he was born in Hyderabad in British India before 1947, he immigrated to Pakistan because his family was Muslim. So he thought of himself as a Pakistani of Indian birth.
Two people also suggested that in addition to just asking about religious choice, future surveys include questions about religiosity to parse out levels of religious practice. They also suggested that I include an “Other” to capture respondents whose religious practices were not provided.

c) Potential Problem of Social Desirability Effects

I would be remiss to not mention the potential of erroneous information on behalf of respondents in this survey due to what scientists have deemed “social desirability effects.” Like sample error in much of public opinion polling, there is no way to remove the respondents’ own personal biases that may affect how they answer questions that are deemed to be sensitive in nature.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Section A: Demographic Information

1. What is your date of birth (MM/YEAR)? ________________________________

2. What is your sex?
   a) MALE          b) FEMALE          c) PREFER NOT TO SAY

3. What is your country of origin or ancestry?
   a) India          e) Bhutan          i) Nepal          m) Biracial/Multiracial/Multiethnic
   b) Pakistan       f) Afghanistan     j) Burma
   c) Sri Lanka      g) Maldives        k) Guyana        n) Other
   d) Bangladesh     h) Trinidad & Tobago   l) African, but of Indian descent

4. Which of the following categories best describes you?
   a) American          d) Indian-American/Pakistani-American, etc.
   b) Asian American    e) Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani, etc.
   c) South Asian American    f) Other
5. What religion do you most closely affiliate with?
   a) Islam (Sunni)  e) Islam (Shia)  i) Atheism
   b) Hinduism       f) Jainism     j) Agnosticism
   c) Christianity   g) Zoroastrianism (Parsi) k) Other
   d) Sikhism        h) Buddhism

Section B: Citizenship, Voter Status and Political Ideology

1. How long have you lived in the United States?
   a) 0 TO 10 YEARS  d) 10 TO 20 YEARS
   b) 20 TO 30 YEARS e) OVER 30 YEARS

2. What is your citizenship status?
   a) U.S. citizen by birth
   b) U.S. citizen by naturalization
   c) Foreign passport holder
   d) Undocumented/prefer not to say

3. If you are a U.S. citizen, are you registered to vote?
   a) Yes
   b) No

4. What political party do you most closely identify with?
   a) Democratic Party
   b) Republican Party
   c) Tea Party
   d) Libertarian

5. On a scale of 1 to 10 with one being little to no political knowledge, and 10 signifying a high level of political knowledge, how would you rate level of political knowledge?
Section C: Candidate Analysis

Please read the following biographical statements about three fictional political candidates running in a primary election for Georgia’s 4th Congressional District:

a) **Candidate A is a 40-year old INDIAN-AMERICAN woman who identifies as HINDU.**

She received her B.A. from the Georgia Institute of Technology and her M.D. from Emory University. She is married with children. She has 10 years of political experience at the local and state levels.

b) **Candidate B is a 40-year old WHITE woman who identifies as HINDU.**

She received her B.A. from Georgia State University and her M.D. from the University of Georgia. She is married with children. She has 10 years of political experience at the local and state levels.

c) **Candidate C is a 40-year old INDIAN-AMERICAN woman who identifies as MUSLIM.**

She received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College and her M.D. from Georgia Health Sciences University. She is married with children. She has 10 years of political experience at the local and state levels.

Based on these biographies, please circle the most appropriate answer:

1. **Which candidate are you more likely to vote for?**
   
   Candidate A  Candidate B  Candidate C

2. **Which candidate is a better representative of the South Asian community?**
   
   Candidate A  Candidate B  Candidate C
## ADDITIONAL TABLES

### TABLE 8.3: Candidate Vote Choice (all respondents)

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<th>Respondent's Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>Candidate A (Hindu/Indian)</th>
<th>Candidate B (Hindu/White)</th>
<th>Candidate C (Muslim/Indian)</th>
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