

## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

### Georgia Southwestern State University

**(Please note that this information is meant to be read to the potential subject by the researcher. The “I” in question refers to the researcher, not the potential subject. This section of text should be removed before using.)**

My name is Jane Smith, and I’m a faculty member in the Department of History and Political Science at Georgia Southwestern State University. I’m conducting a research project looking at people’s experiences voting and would like to ask you some questions. Is this a good time to talk?

**[If the subject says “Yes”, continue. If the subject answers “No”, ask for permission to call back at a better time, and ask when that better time might be. If the subject declines a callback, thank them and end the call.]**

If you participate in the study, I’ll ask you questions about your experiences while voting in several recent elections. I’ll also ask whether you or anyone you know has had your votes questioned or witnessed voter fraud. These questions will take about 10 minutes and will help researchers in political science better understand what kinds of situations may encourage or discourage people from voting. Is this something you’re interested in and have time to do?

To see if you are eligible to be in this research study, I first need to ask some questions.

Are you at least 18 years old?

Have you voted in any election (national, state, or local) since 2008?

**[If the subject answers “No” to either question, thank them and end the call. If “Yes” to both, continue.]**

Before we continue, I need to tell you that your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate in this survey, stop the survey at any time, or skip any questions with no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

I should also tell you that you might feel uncomfortable answering some of these questions. I won’t be asking questions about who you voted for, but I will be asking questions that might bring up memories of unpleasant experiences related to voting. You will not benefit from taking this survey, but your participation will help political scientists learn about appropriate voting practices.

Information that you give me will be kept confidential. I will not collect any identifying information like your name or address. I will ask some questions about characteristics like age and race, but will only look at group information and not individuals. Anything you tell me will be recorded on forms kept in locked file cabinets. Your data will not be used for any future studies outside this one.

Do you have any questions for me?

**[Answer any questions, finishing each one with “Do you have any other questions?” When the subject indicates that they have no more questions and are willing to complete the survey, begin.]**