

AHSRA Presentation Proposal-May 2021

Title: The Adventist Vote: Responses to the 2020 National Pre-Election Survey

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Summary of the Presentation

The proposed presentation is relevant to the theme - Health, Gospel, Community: Get Involved - in that a clearer understanding of the Adventists' 2020 political engagement and non-engagement and their positions on social issues can shape our present understanding of the mission of the church and support new approaches for community involvement in ways that address the social issues of our time.

In the presentation we will share the results of our 2020 Adventist Vote: National Pre-election Survey, which included 1650 completed responses.

The presentation will include:

- Survey methodology and sample
- Political and religious orientation
- Voting for U.S. President and Vice President, including support for third party and write-in candidates
- Influence of religious beliefs on voting behavior
- Importance of specific social issues and position on key social issues
- Analysis of comments on candidate choice, issues of importance, and position on issues
- A discussion of the implications for generating Adventist community involvement and for the mission of the Adventist church

It is our hope and expectation that this presentation will stimulate productive discussion among Adventist human subject researchers about the role of our church and its members in political and social issues from a U.S. perspective. This discussion will facilitate a larger understanding of the mission of the church and inform efforts to generate greater community involvement.

Abstract (50 Words): The relationship between Adventism and the social-political world has implications for understanding how Adventists relate to politics and society. Researchers present the findings from a 2020 National Pre-Election Survey on politics and social issues as well as reasons for voting decisions, the importance, and positions on social issues.

References

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2. Pew Research Center, "Religious Landscape Study," <https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/views-about-abortion/>, accessed October 4, 2020.
3. Pew Research Center, "Attitudes on Same Sex Marriage," <https://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/changing-attitudes-on-gay-marriage/>, accessed October 1, 2020.
4. Gavin, John T., Ellis, William W., and VanderWaal, Curtis J, "The Adventist Vote: Findings from the 2016 National Election Survey," *Spectrum Magazine*, <https://spectrummagazine.org/article/2016/11/23/adventist-vote-findings-2016-national-election-survey>, accessed September 30, 2020.
5. Only slightly more than one-half of U.S. citizens eligible to vote do so. Adventists vote at a much higher rate than U.S. citizens generally. Only about 55 percent U.S. citizens eligible to vote do so. See Pew Research Center, "U.S. Trails Most Developed Countries in Voter Turnout," <http://www.pewforum.org/2016/04/12/religion-in-everyday-life/>, accessed July 1, 2018.
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8. Dudley, Roger L and Hernandez, Edwin I. "Where Church and State Meet: *Spectrum Magazine* Surveys the Adventist Vote." *Spectrum Magazine* 32, no. 4 (Fall 2004).
9. Dudley, Roger L. "Adventist Collegians and the United States Presidential Elections of 2008." *Spectrum Magazine* 36, no. 4 (fall 2004): 23-33