

## Statement of Confidentiality

---

All of the analyses, findings, data and recommendations contained within this report are presented by the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute.

The Sacred Heart University Polling Institute maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the organization conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondents.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	<b>SECTION 1</b>	
Introduction.....		Page 3
	<b>SECTION 2</b>	
Methodology.....		Page 4
	<b>SECTION 3</b>	
Highlights .....		Page 5
	<b>SECTION 4</b>	
Summary of Findings.....		Page 8
	<i>Issues .....</i>	<i>8</i>
	<i>Election 2008 .....</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Registration and Philosophy.....</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>Sources for Political Information .....</i>	<i>16</i>
	<i>Political Participation/ Candidates.....</i>	<i>17</i>
	<b>SECTION 5</b>	
Appendix.....		Page 18
	<i>Survey Instrument</i>	
	<i>Crosstabulation Table</i>	

# 1 INTRODUCTION

---

The Sacred Heart University Polling Institute is pleased to present the results of a nationwide survey of young Americans aged 18-30.

The research was designed to provide input on current issues, the 2008 election, political party preferences, political philosophies held by young Americans, and participation in politics.

Interviews were conducted among 400 residents nationwide approximately proportional to population contribution of all 50 states.

This report summarizes statistics collected from telephone surveys conducted October 5-13, 2007.

Areas for investigation within the telephone survey included:

- Collection of issues considered most important to young Americans;
- Perceptions of specific issue developments in the economy, foreign policy, education, health care, immigration, the environment, and American life.
- Candidate preferences for President in 2008;
- Political party preferences;
- Philosophies held by young respondents; and
- Levels of participation in politics.

Section two of this report discusses the methodology used in the poll while section three includes highlights derived from a review of the quantitative research. Section four is a summary of findings from the national poll.

Section five is an appendix containing the survey instrument and a crosstabulation table.

## METHODOLOGY

---

The Sacred Heart University Polling Institute completed 400 interviews, in a quantitative research design, with residents nationwide.

All telephone interviews were conducted between October 5-15, 2007. Sample was generated proportional to population contribution in each state. One survey instrument was used to elicit information from all respondents.

All respondents were residents of the contiguous states along with Alaska and Hawaii. Each respondent was between the ages of eighteen and thirty.

Training of telephone researchers and a pre-test of the survey instrument occurred on October 5, 2007.

All facets of the Sacred Heart University Poll were completed by Institute researchers and senior staff. These aspects included survey design, sample design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, data entry, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, report writing and presentations.

Statistically, a sample of 400 completed telephone interviews represents a margin for error of +/-5.0% at a 95% confidence level.

In theory, a sample of U.S. residents would differ no more than +/-5.0% than if all the residents in the designated geographic area were contacted and included in the survey. That is, if random probability sampling procedures were reiterated over and over again, sample results would be expected to approximate the population values within +/-5.0% -- 95 out of 100 times.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public information or public relations campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein could be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error.” Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event, based on known probabilities.

Each qualified household within the United States had an equal chance of participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated, but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

# HIGHLIGHTS

---

## On Issues...

- Issues of concern named most frequently by survey respondents included the war in Iraq (28.3%), health care costs and availability (21.8%), poor economy (14.2%) and education costs (13.3%).
- A second tier of issues young Americans are concerned about included: illegal immigration (10.0%), social security availability (9.0%), high taxes (7.5%), job security and employment (7.0%), high gas prices (5.5%) and crime (5.0%).
- A large majority of respondents, 82.5%, indicated a concern that social security will not be available at retirement age. And, three-quarters (72.0%) were concerned that taxes were too high.
- Only 33.3% believed that the economy is in good shape.
- On foreign policy, over half (58.3%) believed that the United States military should be used to stop genocide and ethnic killing in places such as Darfur and Iraq. And, two-thirds (66.8%) would support U.S. military force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.
- Just under half of all respondents, 49.3%, agreed that the U.S. should withdraw from Iraq immediately while a similar percent (48.5%) agreed that the “surge” of troops in Iraq seems to be helping the situation there.
- A large majority, 81.8%, agreed they were concerned about the affordability of college today.
- Two-thirds, 65.3%, said they supported having the U.S. government provide free, universal health care for all Americans.
- While 67.5% believe that global warming is a real and growing threat, 49.3% suggest it is more likely due to historical climate cycles than anything man causes. Under half, 43.5%, believe global warming can be reversed by man.
- Nearly two-thirds, 64.8% agreed that race relations in the U.S. are improving.
- A large majority of young survey respondents, 93.0%, said they are proud to be Americans and 85.0% believe that their vote counts.
- Three-quarters, 77.3%, indicated they are paying a great deal of attention to the November 2008 Presidential election.

### On Election 2008...

- Young decided Democratic respondents are clearly favoring both U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (54.2%) and U.S. Senator Barack Obama (24.1%) as the frontrunners for the Democratic nomination.
- Among decided Republicans, the frontrunners appear to be former Mayor Rudy Giuliani (31.9%), former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson (20.3%), former Governor Mitt Romney (15.9%) and U.S. Senator John McCain (13.0%).
- And, when asked to select their favorite candidate for the General Election 2008, 56.2% selected Democratic candidates and 38.8% selected Republican candidates.
- The candidates most respondents wanted to “hang out with” included: U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (25.6%), U.S. Senator Barack Obama (25.2%) and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (15.7%).
- In November 2008, 35.3% indicated they were likely to vote all or mostly Democratic while 31.0% suggested they would likely vote all or mostly Republican. Others, 29.5% said they would mix their vote between the two parties.

### On Registration and Philosophy...

- A large majority, 88.3%, said they were currently registered to vote.
- Over one-third, 35.8%, indicated they would describe themselves as conservatives while 37.0% said they were moderates and 21.5% said they considered themselves liberals.

### On Sources for Information...

- Television news (64.5%), the internet (52.5%) and newspapers (34.8%) were named as the primary sources for information on political issues, elections and candidates.

### On Political Participation and Candidates...

- Nearly two-thirds, 63.0% said they were satisfied with the field of candidates standing for election in the November 2008 campaign.
- Another 46.5% said they have visited a political website or blog, and 17.0% have volunteered for a political campaign.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

---

Readers are reminded that the following summarizes statistics collected from telephone interviews with 400 young residents of the United States.

The text throughout this section refers to and presents results from the composite aggregate data. Several tables present results with “don’t know respondents” and with “don’t know respondents” removed.

### **ISSUES**

In an open end format question, researchers asked respondents to name two or three issues or problems they feel most concerned about as young Americans.

The following table presents the top ten issues. Multiple responses were allowed.

<b>Issues of Most Concern</b>	<b>Percent</b>
The war in Iraq	28.3
Health care availability and cost	21.8
The economy	14.3
Education cost	13.3
Illegal immigration	10.0
Social security availability	9.0
High taxes	7.5
Job security and employment	7.0
High gas prices	5.5
Crime	5.0

Other issues named with less frequency included: loss of free speech, global warming, youth issues, environmental issues, Medicare/Medicaid, homeless, abortion, lack of morals, corrupt politics, drugs/alcohol, poor Bush performance, retirement, cost of living, terrorism, liberals and their ideas, media/poor reporting, civil rights, racism, government spending, gay marriage, diseases, foreign policy, stem cell research, gun control and alternative energies.

In a closed end format question, respondents were then asked to select one of nine issues they felt was most important to them. The following table presents the results as collected.

<b>Issue Importance</b>	<b>Percent</b>
The economy and jobs	18.3
Education or college affordability	17.3
The Iraq war	17.3
Health care	16.3
Terrorism	8.8
Human rights	7.8
Illegal immigration	7.5
The environment	4.0
Energy	1.8

Researchers read a series of issue statements to all respondents covering areas including the economy, foreign policy, education, health care, immigration, the environment and American life.

All were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement.

The following tables present each statement along with the cumulative totals for those suggesting they strongly or somewhat agreed with each.

<b>Economy - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
I'm concerned social security won't be available when I retire	82.5
Taxes - federal, state and local - are too high	76.0
I have confidence I'll have a long-term, good-paying career	72.5
The U.S. economy is currently in good shape	33.3

<b>Foreign Policy - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
If necessary, the U.S. should use military force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons	66.8
The U.S. should use our military to help stop genocide/ethnic killing in Darfur and Iraq	58.3
The U.S. should immediately withdraw from Iraq	49.3
The "surge" of troops in Iraq seems to be helping the situation there	48.5

<b>Education - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
I am concerned about the affordability of college today	81.8

<b>Health Care - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
I currently have enough health insurance	67.5
The U.S. government should provide free universal health care for all Americans	65.3

<b>Immigration - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
Guest worker passes should be issued to qualified, illegal immigrants allowing them to work here legally	67.5
Overall, legal immigration over the last 25 years has had a positive impact on America	53.3
A fence should be built along the full length of the Mexican-U.S. border to slow illegal immigration	48.3

<b>Environment - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
Global warming is real and a growing threat	67.5
Global warming is more likely due to historical climate cycles than anything man causes	49.3
We can reverse global warming	43.5

<b>American Life - Issues</b>	<b>Strongly and Somewhat Agree</b>
I am proud to be an American	93.0
As a young American, my vote counts	85.0
I am paying a great deal of attention to the November 2008 Presidential election	77.3
Race relations in the U.S. are improving	64.8

## **ELECTION 2008**

A large majority of respondents, 86.8%, said they currently planned to vote in the 2008 elections.

Another 10.0% said they did not and 3.2% suggested they were unsure.

All respondents were asked who they would most like to see win the Republican nomination for President. The following table holds the results on a composite basis with and without “don’t know or unsure” respondents as well as among only Republicans (without “don’t know” respondents).

The table is presented in declining order by Republican respondent input.

<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Composite</b>	<b>Composite w/o “don’t know”</b>	<b>Republicans only w/o “don’t know”</b>
Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani	15.3	36.5	31.9
Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson	6.8	16.2	20.3
Former Governor Mitt Romney	5.3	12.6	15.9
U.S. Senator John McCain	4.3	10.2	13.0
Former Governor Mike Huckabee	1.5	3.6	8.7
U.S. Senator Sam Brownback	1.0	2.4	1.4
U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel	0.3	0.6	---
U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter	---	---	---
Former Governor George Pataki	0.3	0.6	---
U.S. Congressman Tom Tancredo	---	---	---

Similarly, researchers asked all respondents who they would most like to see win the Democratic nomination to run for President in 2008. The following table also presents results on a composite basis with “don’t know” respondents, without “don’t know” respondents and among only Democrats (without “don’t know” respondents).

The table is presented in declining order of support based on Democratic respondent input.

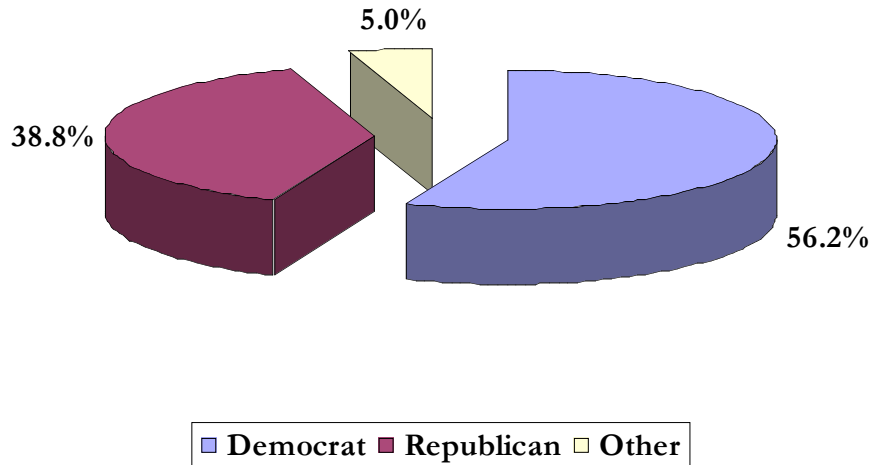
<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Composite</b>	<b>Composite w/o “don’t know”</b>	<b>Democrats Only w/o “don’t know”</b>
U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton	22.0	41.3	54.2
U.S. Senator Barack Obama	17.3	32.4	24.1
Former U.S. Senator John Edwards	5.3	9.9	8.4
Governor Bill Richardson	2.5	4.7	3.6
U.S. Senator Joseph Biden	0.8	1.4	2.4
Former Vice President Al Gore	1.3	2.3	2.4
U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich	1.5	2.8	2.4
U.S. Senator Chris Dodd	---	---	---

All respondents were asked the following: “While it is early, please tell me who you are currently leaning toward supporting for President in 2008.”

The following table presents the results in declining order by data with “don’t know” respondents removed.

<b>Presidential Candidates</b>	<b>Composite</b>	<b>Composite w/o “don’t know”</b>
U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton	18.5	29.2
U.S. Senator Barack Obama	11.8	18.6
Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani	8.0	12.6
Former Governor Mitt Romney	6.0	9.5
Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson	5.5	8.7
Former U.S. Senator John Edwards	2.5	4.0
U.S. Senator John McCain	2.3	3.6
U.S. Senator Sam Brownback	1.3	2.0
Former Vice President Al Gore	1.0	1.6
Governor Mike Huckabee	1.0	1.6
U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich	0.8	1.2
U.S. Senator Joseph Biden	0.5	0.8
U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter	0.5	0.8
New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson	0.5	0.8
U.S. Senator Chris Dodd	---	---
U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel	---	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki	---	---
U.S. Congressman Tom Tancredo	---	---

The cumulative total for those selecting one of the Democratic candidates was 56.2% while the cumulative total for those selecting a Republican candidate was 38.8%. Another 5.0% selected another candidate.

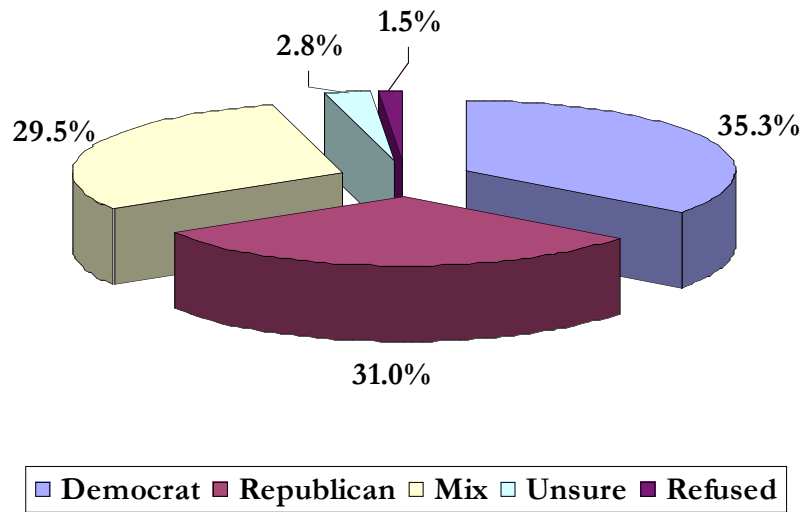


And, all respondents were asked who they would most want to “hang out with.” The following table presents the results in declining order by composite results after removing “don’t know” respondents.

Presidential Candidates	Composite	Composite w/o “don’t know”
U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton	16.5	25.6
U.S. Senator Barack Obama	16.0	25.2
Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani	10.0	15.7
Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson	4.3	6.7
Former Governor Mitt Romney	3.5	5.5
Former U.S. Senator John Edwards	2.8	4.3
U.S. Senator John McCain	1.8	2.8
Former Governor Mike Huckabee	1.3	2.0
Former Vice President Al Gore	1.0	1.6
U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich	1.0	1.6
U.S. Senator Sam Brownback	0.5	0.8
U.S. Senator Joseph Biden	0.3	0.4
U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel	0.3	0.4
U.S. Senator Chris Dodd	---	---
U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter	---	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki	---	---
New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson	---	---
U.S. Congressman Tom Tancredo	---	---

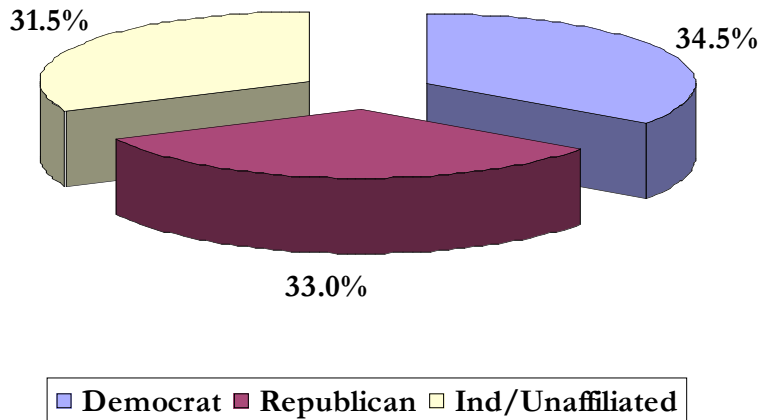
Researchers asked all respondents to assume they will vote in November 2008 and asked each how he or she might vote. The cumulative total for those suggesting they would vote all or mostly Democratic was 35.3% while those suggesting they would vote all or mostly Republican was 31.0%. Another 29.5% indicated they would vote a mix of both Republican and Democratic.

Another 2.8% were unsure and 1.5% refused.

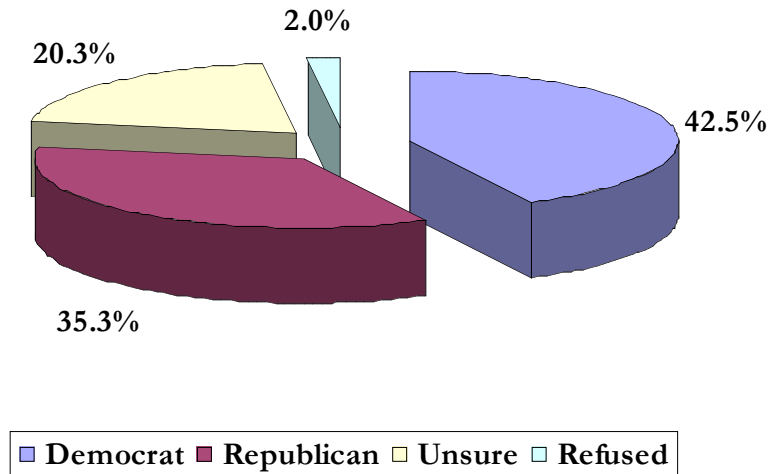


Slightly more respondents considered themselves Democrat (34.5%) than those who considered themselves Republican (33.0%). A nearly equal percent suggested they were Independent or Unaffiliated (31.5%).

A few were unsure or refused.



Regarding their vote in November 2008 for the U.S. Congress, a larger percent, 42.5%, indicated they would support the Democratic candidate for Congress while 35.3% said they would support the Republican. Another 20.3% were unsure and 2.0% refused.

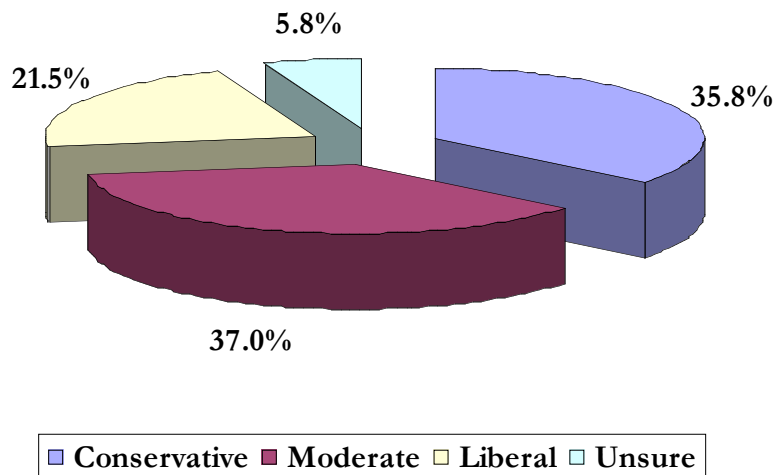


### **REGISTRATION AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

A large majority, 88.3%, said they were currently registered to vote.

Over one-third of all respondents, 35.8%, indicated they would describe their own political philosophy as conservative. Another 37.0% suggested they were moderate and 21.5% noted they considered themselves liberal.

Some, 5.8%, were unsure.



## **SOURCES FOR POLITICAL INFORMATION**

Television news, the internet, and newspapers were reported to be the primary sources for information on political issues, elections and candidates.

The following table presents the results as collected. Multiple responses were allowed.

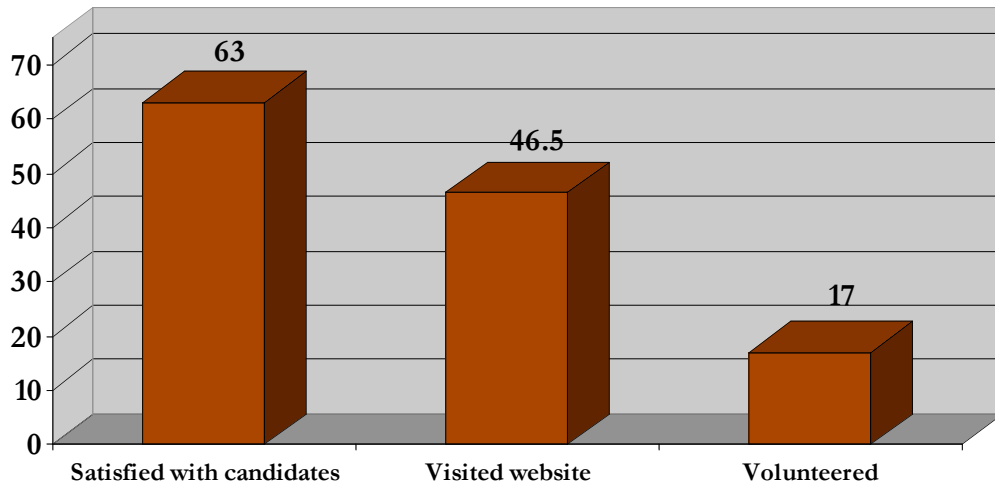
<b>Sources for Political Information</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Television news	64.5
The internet	52.5
Newspapers	34.8
Radio news	15.3
Friends/co-workers	7.5
Family	5.0
Magazines	4.0
Campaigns	1.3
Direct mail	1.3
Clubs/civic groups	1.3
Blogs	0.8
Brochures	0.8
Advertising	0.5

## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CANDIDATES

Well over half, 63.0%, reported that they are satisfied with the field of candidates standing for election in November 2008.

Another 46.5% said they have visited a political website or blog.

And, 17.0% suggested they have volunteered in a political campaign.



# APPENDIX

---