

**The Effect of
Recruiting
Veterans
on
Improving
Confidence in
US Elections**

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Election Administration in the Spotlight

Arizona

This article is more than 4 months old

'People are scared': Arizonans fear political violence as election looms

Nerves are particularly stretched in Maricopa county, which will likely decide which way the state swings in the polls

 Reuters

World Business Markets Sustainability Legal More

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Faced with defeat, armed protesters in Arizona insist election stolen

By Mimi Dwyer and David Shepardson

November 8, 2020 3:49 AM EST · Updated 4 years ago

Aa



CBS EVENING NEWS

Arizona protesters descend on ballot processing center as vote counting continues

 By Jamie Yuccas
November 5, 2020 / 7:54 PM EST / CBS News



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Some Factors That Influence Trust

- Interactions with election workers influences the voting experience & perceptions of the system
- Who makes up the election workforce can shape key attitudes about the electoral system
 - Confidence
 - Fairness
 - Potential for violence
 - Perceptions of fraud
 - Risk of voter suppression

Hypotheses

- Recruiting veterans & their families to elections jobs will improve outcomes, e.g.
 - Boost confidence
 - Reduce concerns about violence
- Largest effects among
 - Republicans
 - Those who are most skeptical



Research Design

- Survey experiment
- Lucid sample: N = 1,287 U.S. citizens, age 18+
- Fielded 8/29/24-9/9/24
- Vignette with AP story excerpt set in Maricopa Co., AZ
 - Treatment: Recruiting local veterans & their family members
 - Control: Recruiting local residents



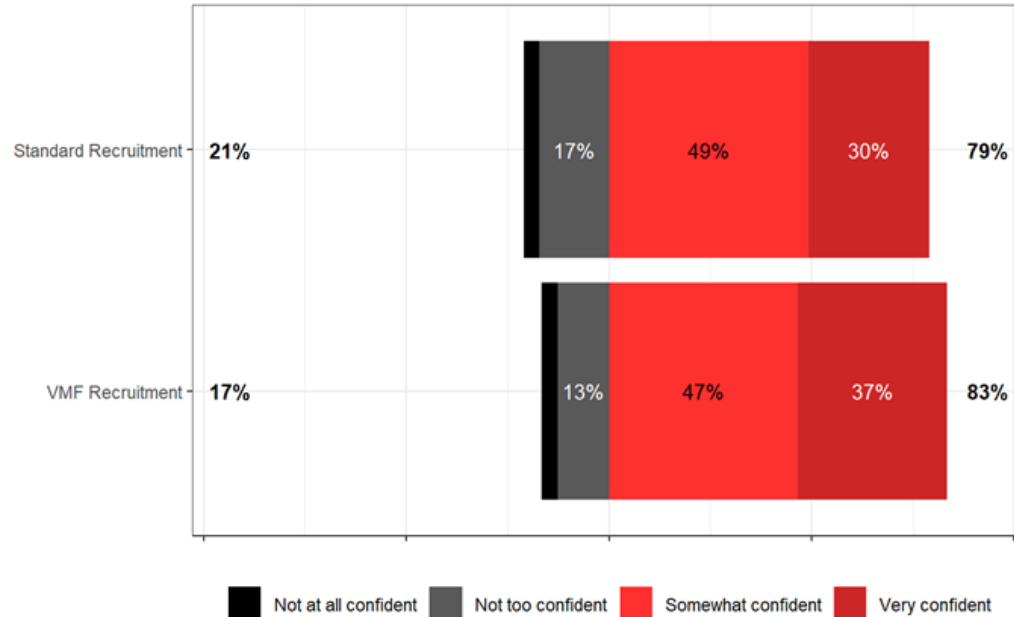
Summary: Recruiting Veterans & Their Families Led to

- A 7 percentage point increase in % feeling very confident that votes would be counted as intended
 - Largest effects, 15 points, among most skeptical of elections
- Effects across a broad range of outcomes
 - Boost in belief in fairness of the process, fairness of outcomes, security from hacking, LEO approval
 - Decrease in concerns with fraud & threat of violence



Confidence

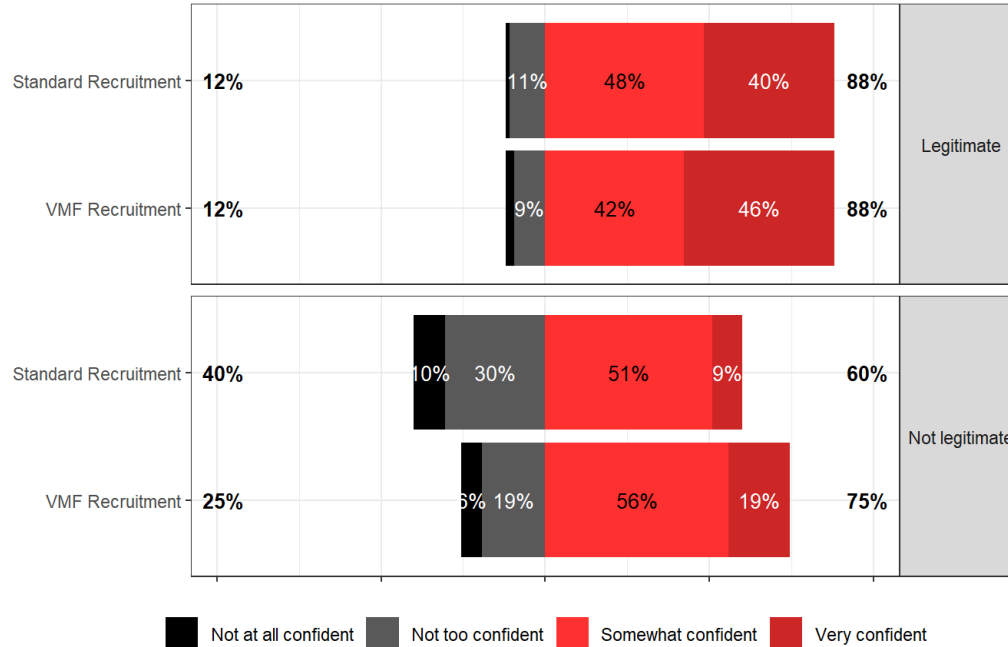
How confident are you that votes in Maricopa County, AZ will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?



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Confidence by 2020 Legitimacy

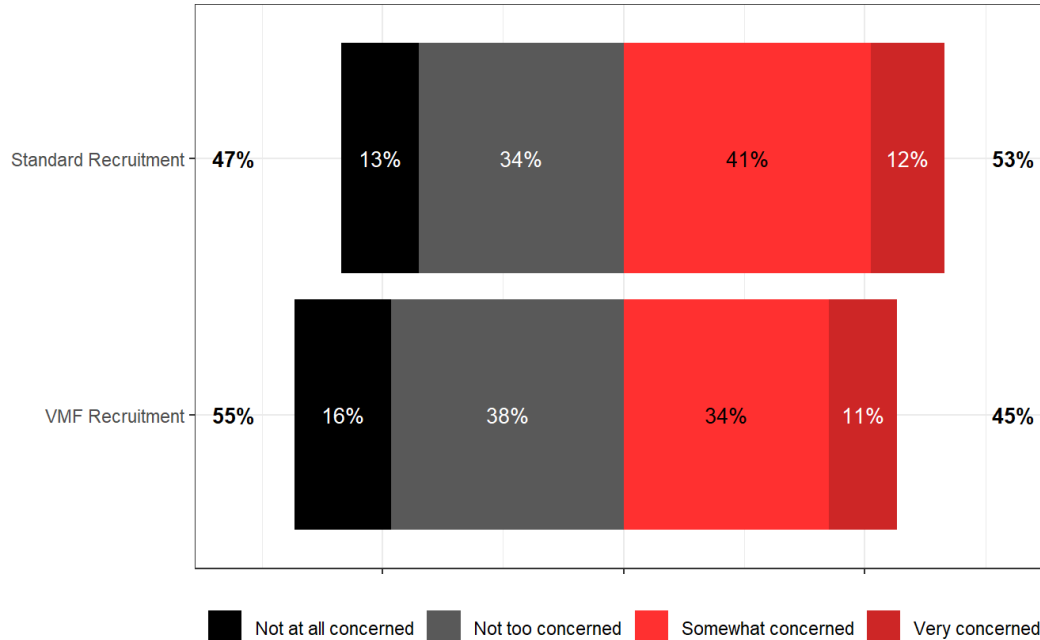
How confident are you that votes in Maricopa County, AZ will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?



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Potential for Violence

Thinking about Maricopa County, AZ, how concerned should voters feel about potential violence, threats of violence, or intimidation while voting in person at their local polling place?



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Implications

- Recruit veterans & their families to elections jobs and publicize it
- Ask permanent staff & surge staff if they are veterans or military family members likely lots are, so publicize that
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with the military to promote elections jobs as an active civil-service path



Thank you!



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Slides for Q&A



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Treatment Control

Local Military Veterans/Residents Recruited for Election Jobs in Maricopa County

PHOENIX (AP) — Election officials in Maricopa County, Arizona, announced a program designed to recruit military veterans and their family members from the community/members of the community to serve as election administrators, including election polling place workers, temporary workers, and full-time staff. As the U.S. general elections in November near, election officials must fill several thousand temporary positions and hundreds of other open positions to ensure sufficient staffing for the 2024 elections and beyond.

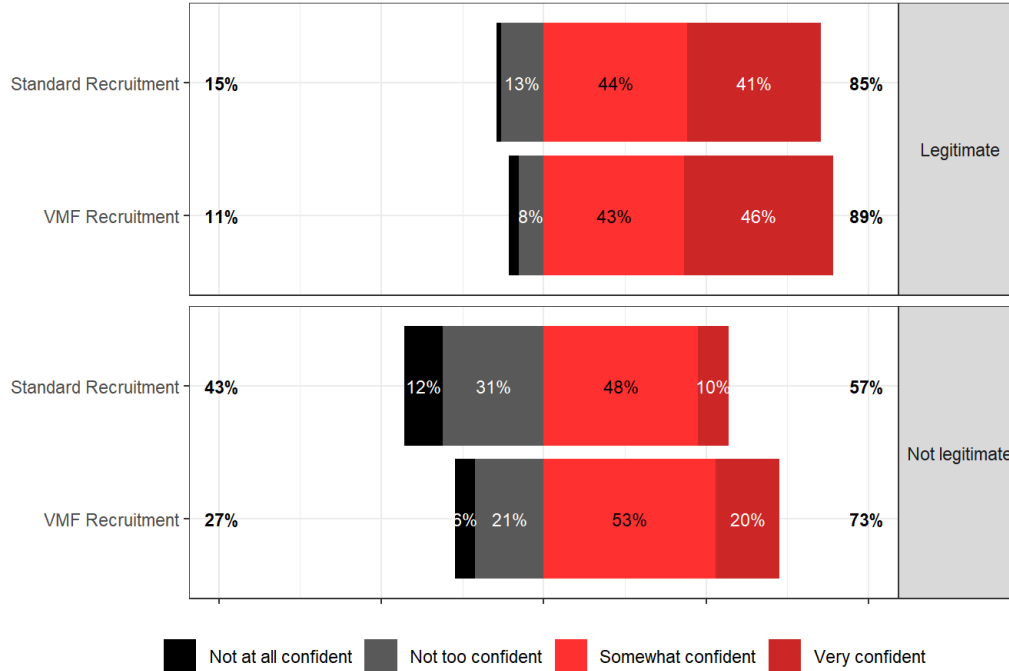
Army veteran Jordan Braxton just joined the elections workforce. Jordan believes their role is important to ensuring a secure, accurate, and transparent election, “Many places are short on staff this election cycle. I served my country in the Army, and I want to do my part as a veteran and a citizen to ensure that everyone trusts the process and the outcome of the election.”



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Fairness by 2020 Legitimacy

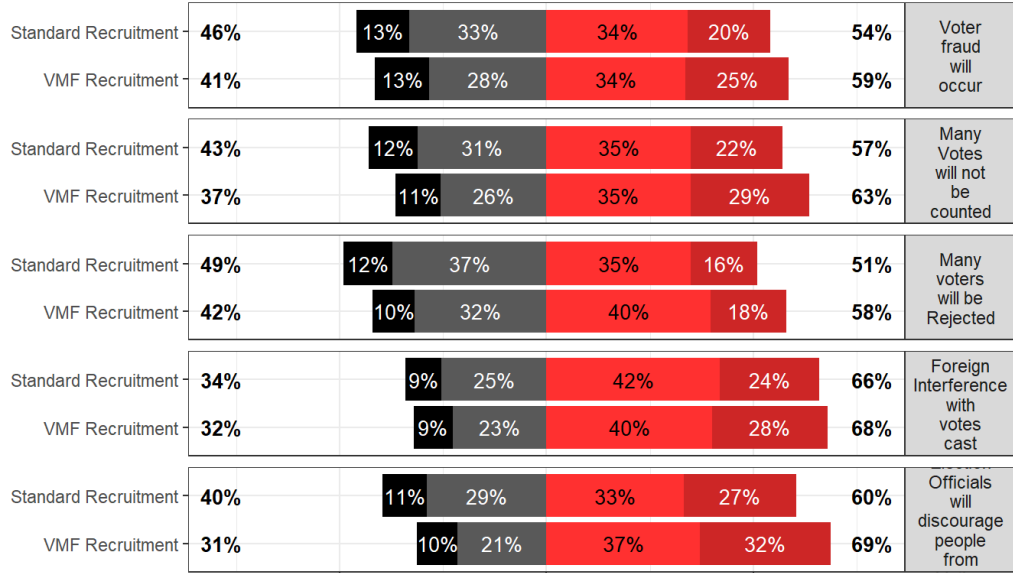
How confident are you that the voting process will be fair in Maricopa County, AZ?



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Fraud & Suppression

How likely do you think any or all of the following will happen during this year's elections in Maricopa County, AZ?



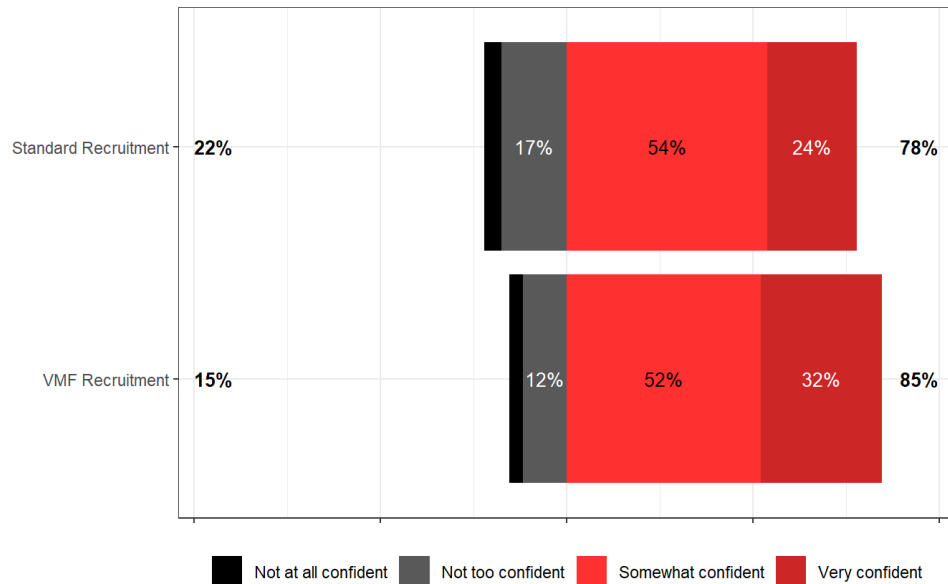
Very likely
 Somewhat likely
 Not too likely
 Not likely at all



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Safety

How confident, if at all, are you that in person polling places in Maricopa County, AZ will be safe places for voters to cast their ballots during the upcoming elections in November?



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