Survey of local level politics



1. How long have you been working with this party committee?

1. How long have you been	working with this party committee:	
	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 year	6.8%	32
Between 1 and 5 years	34.1%	160
Between 5 and 10 years	25.8%	121
More than 10 years	33.3%	156
	answered question	469
	skipped question	6

2. What is your gender?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	65.5%	305
Female	34.5%	161
	answered question	466
	skipped question	9

3. Which of the following racial or ethnic groupings would you classify yourself as? (You may choose more than one category.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.4%	11
Asian	0.4%	2
Black or African American	2.6%	12
Hispanic or Latino	3.2%	15
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	1
White	90.8%	422
Other (please specify)	3.4%	16
	answered question	465
	skipped question	10

4. In what year were you born?

Response
Count

452

answered question	452
skipped question	23

5. In which state is your local party committee located?				
	Response Percent	Response Count		
State:	100.0%	46		
	answered question	46		
	skipped question	1:		
6. What is your position wit	h the party committee?			
	Response Percent	Respons Count		
Chair	95.4%	41		
Vice Chair	3.2%	1		
Executive Director	1.4%			
	Other (please specify)	3		
	answered question	43		
	skipped question	4		
7. Which Party is your local	l committee affiliated with?			
	Response Percent	Respons Count		
Democratic Party	58.0%	26		
Democratic Farty				
Republican Party	42.0%	19		
	42.0% answered question	19 46		

8. Which of the following best describes your ideology?						
	Very liberal or progressive	Somewhat liberal or progressive	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative	Rating Average
Ideology	20.8% (96)	25.6% (118)	12.4% (57)	16.3% (75)	24.9% (115)	2.99
answered question						
skipped question						

9. Does your party committee have a full-time headquarters?				
	Response Percent	Response Count		
Yes	21.9%	102		
No	58.5%	272		
Yes, but only during campaign seasons	19.6%	91		
	answered question	465		
	skipped question	10		

10. Does your party committee have any full-time staff positions?				
	Response Percent	Response Count		
Yes	6.9%	32		
No	89.0%	412		
Yes, but only during campaign seasons	4.1%	19		
	answered question	463		
	skipped question	12		

11. Roughly speaking, about how many people regularly attend the following party committee activities?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Regular Meetings		99.6%	448
Campaign Work Projects		90.7%	408
Fundraisers		92.0%	414
	answer	ed question	450
	skippe	ed question	25

12. Which of the following categories best fits your party committee's yearly operating budget?

	Respons Percent	
0 to \$5,000	47.0	% 212
\$5,001 to \$20,000	35.0	% 158
\$20,001 to \$50,000	8.09	% 36
\$50,001 to \$100,000	5.19	% 23
\$100,001 to \$250,000	2.99	% 13
\$250,001 to \$500,000	1.69	% 7
Over \$500,000	0.4	% 2
	answered questio	n 451
	skipped questio	n 24

13. Please check all those below that your party committee uses on a regular basis:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Website	85.8%	363
Facebook	69.7%	295
LinkedIn	4.3%	18
Twitter	17.7%	75
YouTube Account	5.9%	25
Other (please specify)	23.6%	100
	answered question	423
	skipped question	52

14. Which of the following best describes your view of the potential impact of new technologies, such as Facebook and Twitter, on local party committees?

	Response Percent	Response Count
These technologies will help party committees in the future	90.4%	413
These technologies will have little impact on party committees in the future	9.0%	41
These technologies will have a negative impact on party committees in the future	0.7%	3
	answered question	457
	skipped question	18

15. Please describe what you feel will be the impact of new technologies on party committees in the coming years.

	Response Count
	342
answered question	342
skipped question	133

16. Thinking about the past decade, which of the following statements best describes the general condition of your local party committee?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Our party committee is doing much better	44.7%	193
Our party committee is doing somewhat better	33.3%	144
Our party committee is doing about the same	15.5%	67
Our party committee is doing somewhat worse	5.3%	23
Our party committee is doing much worse	1.2%	5
	answered question	432
	skipped question	43

17. We would like to ask the same question in a somewhat different way. Using a scale from 1 "1" is much worse, and "10" is much better, how would you describe the condition of your parcompared to most other points in the last decade?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R Av
Condition	0.5% (2)	0.7%	2.6% (11)	4.2% (18)	13.6% (58)	12.4% (53)	18.3% (78)	23.4% (100)	13.6% (58)	10.8% (46)	

answered que

skipped que

18. Using a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" is unimportant and "10" is very important, please rate t significance of the following activities to your party committee.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R Av
Voter registration drives	3.5% (15)	4.6% (20)	6.2% (27)	3.7% (16)	14.8% (64)	11.3% (49)	12.9% (56)	15.9% (69)	6.7% (29)	20.3% (88)	
Get Out the Vote efforts such as door-to-door canvassing	1.4% (6)	1.9% (8)	3.9% (17)	3.0% (13)	8.1% (35)	5.8% (25)	12.1% (52)	19.7% (85)	14.4% (62)	29.7% (128)	
Fundraising	1.6% (7)	2.8% (12)	3.3% (14)	2.6% (11)	6.1% (26)	7.9% (34)	12.4% (53)	18.0% (77)	17.1% (73)	28.3% (121)	
Campaign events, such as rallies or parades	1.9% (8)	2.3% (10)	3.0% (13)	3.0% (13)	7.7% (33)	12.5% (54)	15.5% (67)	22.3% (96)	16.5% (71)	15.3% (66)	
Campaign services, such as mailings or TV advertising	6.3% (27)	6.3% (27)	8.2% (35)	8.6% (37)	12.6% (54)	10.3% (44)	11.9% (51)	15.6% (67)	9.8% (42)	10.5% (45)	
Non-campaign events, such as dinners and picnics	3.7% (16)	4.7% (20)	4.9% (21)	5.8% (25)	13.5% (58)	10.3% (44)	18.2% (78)	18.2% (78)	9.8% (42)	11.0% (47)	

answered que

skipped que

19. There have been a number of legal changes to the campaign finance system in past years. Overall, which of the following best describes how these changes will affect your party committee in the years ahead?

	Response Percent	Response Count
These changes will help our local party committee	5.6%	24
These changes will have little impact on our party committee	62.4%	267
These changes will have a negative impact on our party committee	32.0%	137
	answered question	428
	skipped question	47

20. In a few words, please explain your answer. That is, what impact will new campaign finance regulations have on your party committee?

	Response Count
	336
answered question	336
skipped question	139

21. Some organizations spend money to influence the outcome of an election in another part of the country. This is known as "outside money." Do you support outside money? Oppose it? Or, do you not have strong feelings either way?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Support	20.9%	89
Oppose	47.5%	202
Don't have strong feelings either way	31.5%	134
	answered question	425
	skipped question	50

22. Which of the following best reflects your view regarding the impact of outside money on your party committee?

	Response Percent	Response Count
The growing use of outside money will help our party committee	14.4%	61
The growing use of outside money will have little impact on our party committee	50.9%	216
The growing use of outside money will have a negative impact on our party committee	34.7%	147
	answered question	424
	skipped question	51

23. Some have suggested that the American public is more polarized than in the past, and others have said that while the "wings" of the parties are more engaged, the number of Americans in the middle has remained more or less the same. What is your view about partisan polarization in America?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Americans are more polarized than in the past decade	78.1%	335
Americans are less polarized than in the past decade	2.6%	11
Americans are the same	19.3%	83
	answered question	429
	skipped question	46

24. Would you say that citizens in YOUR OWN community are more or less polarized than in the past?

	Response Percent	Response Count
More polarized	66.0%	284
Less polarized	3.0%	13
About the same	30.9%	133
	answered question	430
	skipped question	45

25. Now let's turn to levels of political ENGAGEMENT. Would you say that citizens in your own community are more or less engaged than in the past?

	Response Percent	Response Count
More engaged	46.3%	199
Less engaged	25.6%	110
About the same	28.1%	121
	answered question	430
	skipped question	45

26. Since Barack Obama became President, has American politics become more civil? Become less civil? Or has politics stayed about the same?

	Response Percent	Response Count
More civil	3.1%	13
Less civil	73.5%	313
About the same	23.5%	100
	answered question	426
	skipped question	49

27. Which of these 4 statements best describes the 2010 midterm election?

	Response Percent	Response Count
The most negative campaign I've ever seen	34.5%	148
More negative than in the past, but I've seen worse	29.1%	125
About the same as previous years	28.2%	121
More positive than previous years	8.2%	35
	answered question	429
	skipped question	46

28. Is the tone of elections these days healthy for our democracy? Does it hurt our democracy? Or does it have little impact on the our democracy?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Healthy for our democracy	18.3%	78
Hurts our democracy	67.6%	288
Has little impact on our democracy	14.1%	60
	answered question	426
	skipped question	49

29. Is it possible for candidates to run for office in an aggressive, but respectful way, or are nasty, negative campaigns unavoidable?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Possible to be aggressive and respectful	87.9%	378
Nasty, negative campaigns are unavoidable	12.1%	52
	answered question	430
	skipped question	45

30. Which do you think is more important in a politician: the ability to compromise to get things done, or a willingness to stand firm in support of principles?

	Response Percent	Response Count
The ability to compromise	61.0%	256
Willingness to stand firm	39.0%	164
	answered question	420
	skipped question	55

31. Specific demographic groups are often crucial in elections, such as blue collar workers or senior citizens. Please list three demographic groups of voters that are currently important to the long-term success of your local party.

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		100.0%	389
2		96.1%	374
3		91.0%	354
	answer	ed question	389
	skippe	ed question	86

32. Has your party organization developed specific programs to attract young voters, ages 18 to 25?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	58.5%	250
No	41.5%	177
	answered question	427
	skipped question	48

33. How successful have the programs directed at involving young people, ages 18 to 25, been in your area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Very successful	10.3%	26
Somewhat successful	72.6%	183
Not at all successful	17.1%	43
	answered question	252
	skipped question	223

34. Which statement BEST fits campaigns in your area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Campaigns in our area are often hard-hitting, negative, and ugly	41.9%	173
Campaigns in our area usually stay upbeat, positive and rarely turn ugly	58.1%	240
	answered question	413
	skipped question	62

35. Which statement BEST	fits campaigns in your area?		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Campaigns in our area usually hire campaign consultants to run campaigns		21.5%	90
Campaigns in our area are		78.5%	328

answered question

skipped question

418

57

usually run by volunteers

36. Which statement BEST	fits campaigns in your area?	
	Response Percent	Response Count
Voters in our area tend to be strongly partisan and stick to party lines	66.7%	278
Voters in our area are mostly independent and are up for grabs each election	33.3%	139
	answered question	417
	skipped question	58

37. Which statement BEST fits campaigns in your area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Minor party and independent candidates are rare in our area	82.1%	343
Minor party and independent candidates are very common in our area	17.9%	75
	answered question	418
	skipped question	57

38. Which do you think should be given priority by local party organizations: helping candidates win elections or helping voters develop long-term attachments?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Helping candidates win elections	60.2%	250
Helping voters develop attachments to the party	39.8%	165
	answered question	415
	skipped question	60

39. Which do you think should be given priority by a local party organization: supporting candidates with broad electoral appeal or supporting candidates with consistent issue positions?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Supporting candidates with broad appeal	51.1%	210
Supporting candidates with consistent issue positions	48.9%	201
	answered question	411
	skipped question	64

40. Which of the following do you think is the best way to manage local party organizations: party leaders and other experts should manage party affairs or rank-and-file party members should manage party affairs?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Party leaders and other experts	34.3%	140
Rank-and-file party members	65.7%	268
	answered question	408
	skipped question	67

41. Finally, and in your own words, what do you think is the future of local parties in America?

	Response Count
	353
answered question	353
skipped question	122

42. Thank you for completing the survey. If you are interested in receiving a summary of the study's findings, please provide us with your email address.

Response
Count

284

answered question	284
skipped question	191