Hello, my name is _______. I'm calling from Syracuse University in New York State for a survey we are conducting - asking people their opinions about economic differences in our society and whether government should do anything about it. Would you or someone else at home over 18 be willing to participate in our survey. (*If sounds like yes*) It will take about 5 minutes.

(*If another person is put on the line):* repeat

1. First, we’re interested in how much people follow public affairs – issues of government and politics – on a regular basis, even when there isn’t an election coming up. Generally speaking, do you follow public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

   1___ most of the time
   2___ some of the time
   3___ only now and then
   4___ hardly at all
   5___ no response

Could you tell me if you do each of the following daily, several times a week, several times a month, only very occasionally, or never?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Several Times a Week</th>
<th>Several Times a Month</th>
<th>Only Very Occasionally</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Read a newspaper</td>
<td>1___ daily</td>
<td>2___ several times a week</td>
<td>3___ several times a month</td>
<td>4___ only very occasionally</td>
<td>5___ never</td>
<td>6___ no answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Local - national TV news</td>
<td>1___ daily</td>
<td>2___ several times a week</td>
<td>3___ several times a month</td>
<td>4___ only very occasionally</td>
<td>5___ never</td>
<td>6___ no answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Using the internet for news?</td>
<td>1___ daily</td>
<td>2___ several times a week</td>
<td>3___ several times a month</td>
<td>4___ only very occasionally</td>
<td>5___ never</td>
<td>6___ no answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the last year, did you do any of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Contact a public official via phone, letter or email about an issue</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Attend a political rally, meeting or dinner?</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Contribute money to a political campaign or candidate, including paying to attend a dinner or reception?</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Work for a political campaign in some way (making calls, distributing literature, preparing mailings, gathering signatures)?</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Join and contribute money to an internet political group?</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Donate money to a charitable organization</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Volunteer your time to do work for a non-profit organization</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Serve on a board of an organization</td>
<td>1___ yes</td>
<td>0___ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*if yes*) is that a government, non-profit, or business board (check all that apply)

12a ____ Government ____ non-profit ____ business
13. Which of the following applies: you are currently registered to vote, you could register but have not, or, you are not eligible to register for some reason?

1___ yes, registered  
2___ not sure if currently registered  
3___ not registered  
4___ not registered because not eligible  
5___ no answer

14. (If registered, 1 or 2 to Q10) Do you vote always, usually, sometimes, or not at all?

1___ always  
2___ usually  
3___ sometimes  
4___ not at all  
5___ no answer

15. There’s a lot of discussion about the Internet’s effect on politics. How do you think the internet has affected the ability of average citizens to influence political decisions? (read choices):

1___ greatly increased it  
2___ somewhat increased it  
3___ not changed it  
4___ decreased it  
5___ no answer

16. How has the Internet affected your own level of political activity? (read choices):

1___ greatly increased it  
2___ somewhat increased it  
3___ not changed it  
4___ decreased it  
5___ no answer

17. Would you agree disagree with this statement? You can generally trust public officials to try to do the right thing.

1___ Agree  
2___ Disagree  
3___ No answer

18. Agree or disagree? People like me don’t have much say about what government does.

1___ Agree  
2___ Disagree  
3___ Neither agree or disagree  
4___ No answer

19. Now I’d like to ask you some questions about differences among people in our society. Do you think everyone in American society has an opportunity to succeed, most do, or do only some have this opportunity?

1___ everyone  
2___ most  
3___ only some  
4___ no opinion
20: Do you think differences in how much money people make in our society are too small, about right, or too large?

1___ Too small  2___ About right  3___ Too large  4___ No opinion

21. Do you think we are becoming a society of the haves and the have-nots?

1___ Yes  2___ No  3___ No opinion

22. Over the last 5-10 years, do you think income inequality has increased, stayed the same, or decreased?

1___ Increased  2___ Stayed the same  3___ Decreased  4___ No opinion

23. Over the next 5 years, do you think income differences will decline, stay about the same, or grow larger?

1___ Increase  2___ Stay the same  3___ Decrease  4___ No opinion

24. Do you see the current extent of income inequality in our society as a serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

1___ Serious problem  2___ Somewhat of a problem  3___ Not much of a problem  4___ No opinion

25. Do you think what you achieve in life depends largely on your family background, or on your abilities and hard work?

1___ Family background  2___ Both  3___ Abilities and hard work  4___ No opinion

26. Would you agree or disagree with the following: While people may begin with different opportunities, hard work and perseverance can usually overcome those disadvantages.

1___ Agree  2___ Disagree  3___ No opinion
27. Would you agree or disagree with this: Class divisions will always be with us and there isn’t much that can be done about that.

1___ Agree  2___ Disagree  3___ No opinion

28. Do you generally support affirmative action – trying to make sure minorities and women are given special consideration for jobs – or are you generally not supportive of affirmative action?

1___ Supportive  2___ Not supportive  3___ No opinion

29. How much upward mobility – children doing better than the family they come from – do you think there is in America: a lot, some, or not much?

1___ a lot  2___ some mobility  3___ not much  4___ no opinion

30. How about downward mobility in America – children doing worse than the family they come from – is there a lot, some, or not much?

1___ a lot  2___ some mobility  3___ not much  4___ no opinion

31. Should government do more to try to reduce inequality, about what it is doing now, or less than it is doing now?

1___ more  2___ about what it is doing now  3___ less  4___ no opinion

32. If you wanted to see efforts made to do something to help those less well off, would you prefer it be done through government programs funded with tax revenues or through charities / non-profits funded primarily by charitable contributions? (record “both” if indicated)

1___ govt  2___ both  3___ non-profits  4___ no opinion

33. When it comes to establishing programs to try to do something about those less well off, which approach would be most effective in helping people: government programs or local non-profits / charities? (record “both” if indicated)

1___ govt  2___ both  3___ non-profits  4___ no opinion
34. There are lots of government programs (Head Start for young children, loans to go to college, job training) to try to create more equality of opportunity. Generally speaking, do you think these programs help a lot or do you think the most important matter is individual motivation?

1___ Programs help a lot
2___ Both are important
3___ Individual motivation most important
4___ No opinion

35. In recent years there has been a lot of discussion about programs like welfare and food stamps. Do you see them as valuable to help those in need or do you think they create dependency on the programs and make people less likely to get a job?

1___ help       2___ both      3___ dependency  4___ no opinion

Speaking of government programs, I'd like to ask about the experience of you and members of your family with several programs. Could you tell me for each of the following if you have received some benefit / payment, or a family member did, or both you and someone in your family did. Family means brothers or sisters, your children, or your parents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Benefit</th>
<th>Yes Me</th>
<th>Yes, only Family member</th>
<th>Yes, Both me And Family</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36. Medicaid?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Welfare or public assistance?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Earned income tax credit – a refund if low income</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Unemployment compensation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Workman's compensation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Food stamps</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Government subsidized housing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Head Start</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. The WIC (Women and Infants) program?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Disability benefits from the government?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

46. Over the last several years has your economic situation improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse?

1___ improved       2___ same       3___ worse       4___ no response

47. Over the next several years, do you think your economic situation is likely to improve, stay the same, or get worse?

1___ improve       2___ same       3___ worse       4___ no response
48. Compared to your parents, are you better off economically, about the same, or worse off?
   1 ___ better       2 ___ same       3 ___ worse       4 ___ no response

49. Would you say your parents were relatively well-off economically, just average, or were below average?
   1 ___ well-off      2 ___ just average 3 ___ below avg    4 ___ not sure    5 ___ no response

50. Over the last 5 years, when you compare your economic situation to how others in our society are doing, do you think you are doing better than average, about the same, or worse than average?
   1 ___ better       2 ___ same       3 ___ worse       4 ___ no response

51. When you think about how you have fared economically in your life, given the effort you have put in and the talents you have, do you think the way things have worked out for you has been fair, only somewhat fair, or not very fair?
   1 ___ fair         2 ___ somewhat     3 ___ not very fair 4 ___ no response

52. If you were to rate your own work efforts in life, with 1 being not very hard and 5 being very hard, where would you place yourself?
   Not very hard 1 2 3 4 5 very hard 6 __ no response

53. Now a few demographic questions. Do you generally regard yourself as a Democrat, an Independent, a Republican, or something else?
   1 ___ Dem      2 ___ Indep    3 ___ Rep     4 ___ Other  5 ___ No Response

54. Are you currently single, married, separated, divorced, or widowed?
   1 ___ single
   2 ___ married
   3 ___ separated   4 ___ divorced   5 ___ Widowed   6 ___ No response

55. What is the highest education level you achieved?
   1 _____ high school or less      2 _____ some college (comm coll / voc school included)
   3 _____ college degree          4 _____ graduate work / degree
   5 _____ Don’t know / Refused
56. What is your current age? (record years) _______

57. Do you currently work for pay?

1___ Yes (if yes) is that full or part-time?  
   1a___ full  1b___ part  3___ no ans  
   (if yes) do you work for:  
   2a___ govt  2b___ business  
   2c___ non-profit  2d___ other / no ans  
3___ No (if no) are you  
   3a___ unemployed  3b___ retired  
   3c___ homemaker  3d___ disabled  
   3e___ other / no ans  
4___ no response

58. Into which of the following categories does your annual family income fall: (Read categories).

1 ___ under $25,000     2 ___ $ 25 - 49,000  3 ___ $ 50 - 74,000  
4 ___ $ 75 - 99,000  5 ___ $100 - 125,000  6 ___ $125 – 150,000  
7 ___ $150,000 or more  8 ___ Don’t know / Refused

59. Do you regard yourself as Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, or as something else? (If Hispanic, ask if that is Hispanic white or Hispanic non-white.)

1___ Black  2___ White  3___ Asian  
4___ Hispanic, white  5___ Hispanic, non-white  
6___ Other (record): _____________________  7___ Refused

60. Do you have a hearing problem that prevents you from hearing what is said in normal conversation even with a hearing aid?

1___ Yes       2 ___ No       3___ No answer

61. Do you have a vision problem that prevents you from reading a newspaper even when wearing glasses or contacts?

1___ Yes       2 ___ No       3___ No answer

62. Do you have any condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?

1___ Yes       2 ___ No       3___ No answer

63. Do you have any other physical disability? 1___ Yes       2 ___ No       3___ No answer
64. Do you have any emotional or mental disability? 1__ Yes 2__ No 3__ No answer

65. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 3 months or longer, do you have difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating? 1__Yes 2__ No 3__ No answer

66. What about participating fully in school, housework, or other daily activities?
   1__Yes 2__ No 3__ No answer

67. Aside from funerals and weddings, how often do you attend religious services: several times a week, once a week, several times a month, several times a year, only very occasionally, or never?
   1__ several / week 2__ once / week 3__ several / month 4__ several / year 5__ only very occasionally 6__ never 7__ no answer

68. Were you born in another country?
   1__ Yes 2__ No 3__ No answer

69. Politically do you generally regard yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative, or do none of those apply?
   1___ Liberal 2___ moderate 3___ cons 4___ None

70. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the national Republican Party?
   1___ Favorable 2___ Unfavorable 3___ No opinion

71. What about the national Democratic Party? Favorable or unfavorable?:
   1___ Favorable 2___ Unfavorable 3___ No opinion

72. (Record sex) 1__ Male 2__ female

That’s all. Thanks very much for your time.