

Web Appendix A

Additional Data Collection Details

In Study 1, 137 participants from Mechanical Turk participated in this survey. We followed our a-priori analysis plan to exclude repeat survey takers as well as participants who answered any one of three attention check questions incorrectly, resulting in a final sample of 99 participants. In the attention check, participants read three short paragraphs describing what a consensus conference is.

In Study 2, 137 seven participants from Mechanical Turk participated in this survey. We followed our a-priori analysis plan to exclude repeat survey takers as well as participants who answered any one of three attention check questions incorrectly, resulting in a final sample of 110 participants.

In Study 4, 480 participants from Mechanical Turk were tested. Participants who failed any one of three attention checks at the beginning of the survey were barred from participating. We also followed our a-priori analysis plan to exclude repeat survey takers as well as participants who answered any one of three attention check questions incorrectly, resulting in a final sample of 361 participants.

Web Appendix B

Additional Stimuli

Study 3

Information that participants viewed about expert opinions:

- Baby bonds: “13% of financial experts support the American Opportunity Accounts act. Are you in favor of the American Opportunity Accounts Act?”
- Foreign aid: “93% of experts at the Center for Global Development, a Washington- based think tank, support the U.S. continuing to provide its current level of foreign aid. Are you in favor of the U.S. continuing to provide its current level of foreign aid?”
- Immigration: “15% of policy experts support requiring undocumented immigrants to return to their home countries before being allowed to apply for permanent residence in the U.S. Are you in favor of requiring undocumented immigrants to return to their home countries before they are allowed to apply for permanent residence in the U.S.?”
- Minimum wage: “9% of expert economists support raising the federal minimum wage. Are you in favor of the proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour?”

Study 5

Policy information (all conditions):

- Baby bonds: The American Opportunity Accounts Act was proposed with the goal of reducing American wealth inequality, particularly targeting the gap between white and non-white Americans. The initiative grants every newborn child a low-risk savings account with \$1,000 of seed money managed by the Treasury Department. It is estimated that this money would have a 3% annual return. Following this initial grant, children would annually receive up to \$2,000 depending on their family’s income level. This account would not be accessible to children until they reach the age of 18, and the money may only be used for certain purposes including education, home ownership, and retirement.
- Sales tax: A sales tax is a tax that people pay on the items that they purchase. On average, the sales tax is 4.41%. Currently, there is a proposal to raise sales taxes.
- Minimum wage: Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour, though many states have minimum wage laws that require employers to pay workers at a higher rate. Currently, there is a proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
- Income tax: An income tax is a tax imposed on individuals, and is computed as the product of the tax rate times taxable income. Currently, there is a proposal to raise the income tax.
- Immigration: Immigration is the act of coming to live permanently in a foreign country. There are different pathways to immigration, some legal and some not. There are debates about whether undocumented immigrants should be required to return to their home country before they are allowed to apply for permanent residence in the U.S.
- Education: There is a debate about whether parental involvement is the most important factor in improving education.
- Protecting weaker nations foreign policy: There is a debate about whether the U.S. government should protect weaker nations against aggression from foreign powers.

- World hunger foreign policy: There is a debate about whether the U.S. government should focus on fixing problems inside the U.S. before spending resources on ending world hunger.

Conference information (in the Conference condition):

- Baby bonds: A consensus conference was conducted about the American Opportunity Accounts Act. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people in favor of the American Opportunity Accounts Act dropped by 33%.
- Sales tax: A consensus conference was conducted about the proposal to raise sales taxes. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people supporting the proposal to raise sales taxes increased by 33%.
- Minimum wage: A consensus conference was conducted about the proposal to increase the minimum wage. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people in favor of increasing the minimum wage dropped by 33%.
- Income tax: A consensus conference was conducted about the proposal to raise the income tax. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people supporting the proposal to raise the income tax increased by 33%.
- Immigration: A consensus conference was conducted about this debate. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people in favor of requiring undocumented immigrants to return to their home before they are allowed to apply for permanent residence in the U.S. dropped by 33%.
- Education: A consensus conference was conducted about whether parental involvement is the most important factor in improving education. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people who thought that parental involvement is the most important factor in improving education increased by 33%.
- Protecting weaker nations foreign policy: A consensus conference was conducted about whether the U.S. government should protect weaker nations against aggression from foreign powers. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people who thought that the U.S. government should protect weaker nations against aggression from foreign powers increased by 33%.
- World hunger foreign policy: A consensus conference was conducted about whether the U.S. government should focus on fixing problems inside the U.S. before spending resources on ending world hunger. After the consensus conference, the percentage of people who thought that the U.S. government should focus on fixing problems inside the U.S. before spending resources on ending world hunger dropped by 33%.

Expert information (in the Expert condition):

- Baby bonds: The percentage of financial experts who support the American Opportunity Accounts Act is 23%.
- Sales tax: The percentage of financial experts who support the proposal to raise sales taxes is 84%.

- Minimum wage: The percentage of financial experts who support the proposal to increase the minimum wage is 23%.
- Income tax: The percentage of financial experts who support the proposal to raise the income tax is 84%.
- Immigration: The percentage of policy experts in favor of requiring undocumented immigrants to return to their home before they are allowed to apply for permanent residence in the U.S. is 23%.
- Education: The percentage of experts who think that parental involvement is the most important factor in improving education is 84%.
- Protecting weaker nations foreign policy: The percentage of policy experts who think that the U.S. government should protect weaker nations against aggression from foreign powers is 84%.
- World hunger foreign policy: The percentage of policy experts who think that the U.S. government should focus on fixing problems inside the U.S. before spending resources on ending world hunger is 23%.

Web Appendix C

Additional Analyses

Table C1.

Issue	Conference Conditions		Expert Conditions	
	Before	After	Before	After
Baby Bonds	66.7%	52.8%	60.7%	57.1%
Sales Tax	10.3%	20.7%	18.9%	24.3%
Minimum Wage	65.2%	58.7%	73.7%	68.4%
Income tax	18.2%	18.2%	12.0%	12.0%
Immigration	44.1%	44.1%	37.5%	34.4%
Education	82.4%	82.4%	95.7%	95.7%
Foreign Policy (Aggression Protection)	61.1%	61.1%	72.0%	72.0%
Foreign Policy (World Hunger)	62.1%	65.5%	84.2%	73.7%

Note. No percentages are reverse-coded. Because a relatively small number of participants viewed each particular issue, there is insufficient power to report meaningful statistical tests for the specific issues.