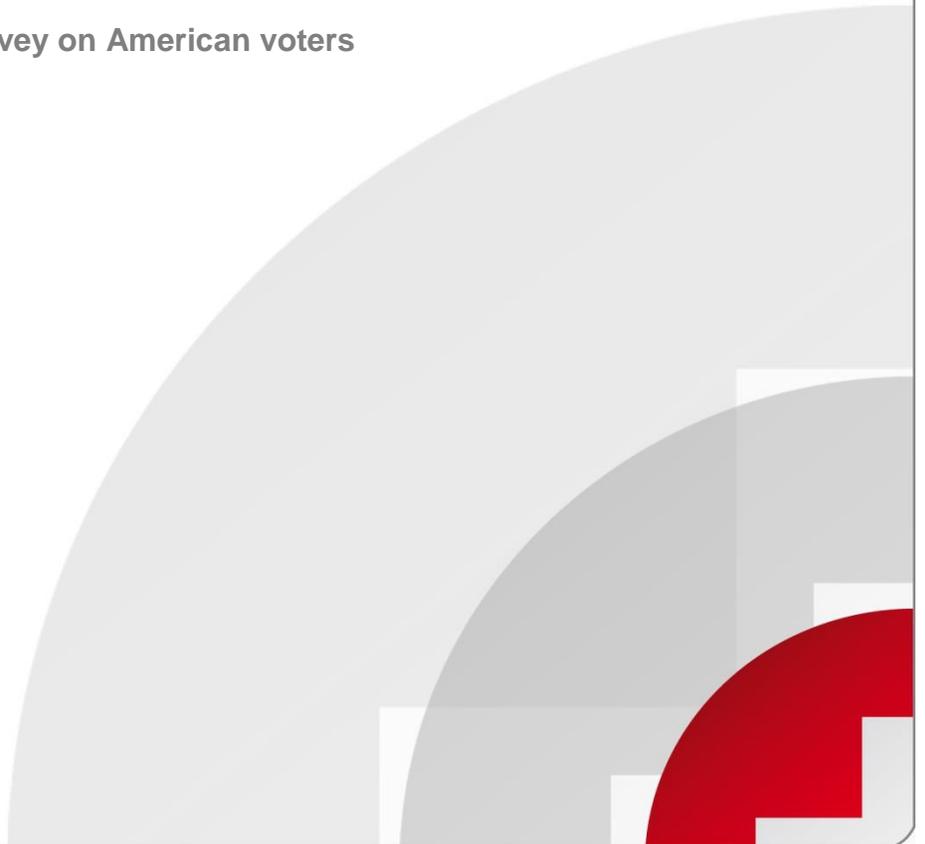


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The support of the U.S. voters for the U.N. with a reformed Security Council:

W A public telephone survey on American voters



Abstract

The reform of the Security Council (UNSC) of the United Nations (U.N.) is an important international issue which has attracted the minds of the best diplomats of the world. The reform of the UNSC is seen by the international community as an issue of great importance. Since 2007, after more than 15 years of negotiations in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) with insignificant progress, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) has embarked in intergovernmental negotiations to make the goal of reforming the UNSC a reality. It was thought that by these means a quicker agreement could be reached among the Member States. However, to-date no significant progress has been made in reforming the respectable body of the U.N. which has the important responsibilities of the world's peace and security. Any reform of the UNSC will need the tacit approval of two-thirds of the members of the U.N. including the affirmative votes of the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the French Republic and the United Kingdom). In addition, in the case of some countries, such as the United States, the largest financial contributor to the world organization, such reform will have to be ratified by the U.S. Congress. Therefore, knowing the opinions of the American electorate is of essential importance. In this dissertation, a group of 1070 voters were surveyed to ascertain their opinions about whether they were in agreement with the present financial contribution from the U.S. which is in the neighborhood of 22 percent of the budget of the world organization, whether the U.S. should make a larger or a smaller contribution to the world organization, and if so, by how much more or by how much less. In addition, the survey investigated whether the voters supported an increase in the number of permanent members of the Security Council, and if so, which countries they thought were likely to be added as new permanent members of the world organization. The study found that American voters did not favor an increase in the financial contributions of the U.S. to the U.N., but they did not favor a reduction either. It seems that American voters are satisfied with the status quo or are not sufficiently interested in the subject to have an opinion one way or the other.