

Department of Political Science

at

Auburn University

AMERICAN STATE ADMINISTRATORS PROJECT 200:

Characteristics, Response Rates, and Non-Respondents Survey

The 2008 American State Administrators Project (ASAP) surveyed over 100 different types of agencies across the fifty American states. A total of 3421 agency heads received the original mailing of the 8 page questionnaire. The initial mailing (in March 2008) was followed by three subsequent mailings to non-respondents, and produced usable replies from 709 agency heads for a response rate of 21%.

The names of the agency heads were obtained from the Council of State Governments Directory III: Administrative Officials, 2008. Because the Council of State Governments had reduced the number of agency heads included in the directory, ASAP staff perused governmental websites to find names and addresses for officials of agencies that had been included in the previous (2004) survey. Though this method did not yield all missing addresses, it produced a mailing list as similar as possible to the 2004 mailing list.

The questionnaire indicated that “Responses are confidential; only aggregate results will be published.” An enclosure with the survey instrument provided selected results from prior ASAP surveys (1964-2004), indicated phone and email contacts for the Auburn University Institutional Research Review Board regarding confidentiality. It also included phone and email contacts for the co-directors, Cynthia Bowling and Deil S. Wright. It also included an invitation

for respondents to request summary results of the 2008 survey. These summary results were placed on the Auburn University Center for Governmental Services website in April 2010.

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