Confidence in US Supreme Court

Percent

0 20 40 60 80 100

- None: 4
- Very little: 16
- Some: 43
- Quite a lot: 29
- A great deal: 8
Confidence in the three branches of the federal government

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confidence Level</th>
<th>Supreme Court</th>
<th>Presidency</th>
<th>Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very little</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite a lot</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Confidence in the three branches of the federal government

Three category scale

Percent

Supreme Court
Presidency
Congress

Low
47
51
20

Medium
43
25

High
37
28
10
Most confidence in which branch

- Congress: 22%
- Presidency: 21%
- Supreme Court: 57%

(MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL POLL)
Confidence in the Court by attention to politics

- Low Attention: 32 (Low Confidence), 48 (Med Confidence), 20 (High Confidence)
- Med Attention: 17 (Low Confidence), 46 (Med Confidence), 37 (High Confidence)
- High Attention: 18 (Low Confidence), 36 (Med Confidence), 46 (High Confidence)
Confidence in the Court by party identification

Percent

- Low Confidence
- Med Confidence
- High Confidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Identification</th>
<th>Low Confidence</th>
<th>Med Confidence</th>
<th>High Confidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceived ideology of the Court by attention to politics

- **Very Con.**
- **Conservative**
- **Moderate**
- **Liberal**
- **Very Lib.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attention Level</th>
<th>Very Con.</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Liberal</th>
<th>Very Lib.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Attention</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Med Attention</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Attention</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Very Con.</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Very Lib.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceived ideology of the Court by party identification.
Importance of next appointment to the Supreme Court

- Very important: 47%
- Somewhat important: 31%
- Not too important: 15%
- Not at all important: 7%
Importance of next appointment by attention to politics

- Low Attention
  - Very important: 18%
  - Somewhat important: 32%
  - Not too important: 27%
  - Not at all important: 23%

- Med Attention
  - Very important: 37%
  - Somewhat important: 41%
  - Not too important: 18%
  - Not at all important: 4%

- High Attention
  - Very important: 70%
  - Somewhat important: 23%
  - Not too important: 6%
  - Not at all important: 1%
Increase the number of justices

- Strongly favor: 8
- Favor: 35
- Oppose: 40
- Strongly oppose: 17

Percent
Fixed terms for justices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limit judicial review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increase number of justices by party identification

- **Rep**
  - Strongly favor: 3%
  - Favor: 28%
  - Oppose: 42%
  - Strongly oppose: 27%

- **Lean Rep**
  - Strongly favor: 4%
  - Favor: 31%
  - Oppose: 35%
  - Strongly oppose: 30%

- **Ind**
  - Strongly favor: 14%
  - Favor: 33%
  - Oppose: 14%
  - Strongly oppose: 8%

- **Lean Dem**
  - Strongly favor: 10%
  - Favor: 35%
  - Oppose: 9%
  - Strongly oppose: 10%

- **Dem**
  - Strongly favor: 4040%
  - Favor: 4040%
  - Oppose: 1040%
  - Strongly oppose: 1040%
Fixed terms for justices by party identification

- **Strongly favor**
- **Favor**
- **Oppose**
- **Strongly oppose**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limit judicial review by party identification

- **Strongly favor**
- **Favor**
- **Oppose**
- **Strongly oppose**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent

- Rep
- Lean Rep
- Ind
- Lean Dem
- Dem
Justified to oppose nominee on party differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justified</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not justified</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Justified to oppose nominee on policy differences

Percent

Justified

Not justified

0 20 40 60 80 100

38

62
Justified to oppose nominee on party differences by party ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Justified</th>
<th>Not justified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Justified to oppose nominee on policy differences by party ID

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Justified</th>
<th>Not justified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Justified to oppose nominee on party differences by importance of next appointment

- Not important: 15%
- Somewhat important: 20%
- Very important: 21%

Justified Not justified

0 20 40 60 80 100
Justified to oppose nominee on policy differences by importance of next appointment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Justified</th>
<th>Not justified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not imp't</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Was not holding hearing on nomination in 2016 right or wrong thing to do?

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right thing to do</th>
<th>Wrong thing to do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If there is a vacancy in 2020 should hold hearings or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hold hearings</th>
<th>Not hold hearings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent

0 20 40 60 80 100
Was no hearings in 2016 right or wrong by party ID

- Rep
- Lean Rep
- Ind
- Lean Dem
- Dem

Percent

Right thing to do
Wrong thing to do
Hold hearings or not in 2020 by party ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Hold hearings</th>
<th>Not hold hearings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Rep</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Dem</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favor or oppose: Corporate political spending

Percent

Strongly favor: 3
Somewhat favor: 11
Somewhat oppose: 22
Strongly oppose: 53
Don't know: 10
Favor or oppose: Use of race in admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favor or oppose: Partisan gerrymander

- **Strongly favor**: 11
- **Somewhat favor**: 15
- **Somewhat oppose**: 19
- **Strongly oppose**: 26
- **Don't know**: 29
Favor or oppose: Allow exclusion of birth control in health plan

- Strongly favor: 14
- Somewhat favor: 13
- Somewhat oppose: 19
- Strongly oppose: 44
- Don’t know: 10
Favor or oppose: Upheld travel ban from Muslim countries

- Strongly favor: 23%
- Somewhat favor: 19%
- Somewhat oppose: 16%
- Strongly oppose: 33%
- Don't know: 10%
Favor or oppose: Establish right to same-sex marriage

- **Strongly favor**: 36%
- **Somewhat favor**: 20%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 13%
- **Strongly oppose**: 23%
- **Don't know**: 9%
Favor or oppose: Right to possess personal firearm

- Strongly favor: 40%
- Somewhat favor: 27%
- Somewhat oppose: 13%
- Strongly oppose: 11%
- Don't know: 8%
Favor or oppose: Allow administration to end DACA

- Strongly favor: 17%
- Somewhat favor: 20%
- Somewhat oppose: 16%
- Strongly oppose: 37%
- Don't know: 9%
Favor or oppose: Deny service to gays on religious grounds

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favor or oppose: Allow public funds to private school students to include religious school students

- Strongly favor: 22
- Somewhat favor: 31
- Somewhat oppose: 16
- Strongly oppose: 17
- Don't know: 14
Favor or oppose: Strike down Affordable Care Act

- Strongly favor: 23%
- Somewhat favor: 15%
- Somewhat oppose: 17%
- Strongly oppose: 35%
- Don't know: 10%
Favor or oppose: 2nd Amend. prohibits ban on semi-automatic rifles

- Strongly favor: 25%
- Somewhat favor: 14%
- Somewhat oppose: 17%
- Strongly oppose: 36%
- Don’t know: 8%
Favor or oppose: Employment discrimination based on sex includes LGTBQ

- Strongly favor: 39
- Somewhat favor: 22
- Somewhat oppose: 12
- Strongly oppose: 18
- Don't know: 9
Estimated effects of party and ideology on favor or oppose past decisions

- OK Same-sex marriage
- OK Race in admit
- OK travel ban
- May exclude birth control
- Unlimited corp political $
- Can't decide pol. Gerrymandering
- Right to firearm
Estimated effects of party and ideology on favor or oppose possible future decisions

- Overturn Roe
- Strike ACA
- Deny Gays Service
- End DACA
- Sex discrim includes LGBT
- Fund relig. student
- 2nd covers semi-auto
- Strike ACA

Party Coefficient vs. Ideology Coefficient
Some justices of the Supreme Court are better known than others. For each of these names, have you never heard of them, heard of them but don’t know enough to have an opinion of them, have a favorable opinion, or have an unfavorable opinion?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
<th>Unable to rate</th>
<th>Favorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breyer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kagan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alito</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorsuch</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sotomayor</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavanaugh</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginsburg</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimated effects of party and ideology on evaluation of justices

Ideology Coefficient vs. Party Coefficient

-1.0 −0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0

Party Coefficient

-1.0

Ideology Coefficient

-1.0 −0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0

Estimated effects of party and ideology on evaluation of justices

-1.0

Party Coefficient

-1.0 −0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0

Ideology Coefficient

-1.0
Does the Supreme Court have the power to review laws passed by Congress and to declare them invalid if they conflict with the Constitution?

Yes: 86%
No: 14%
If the Supreme Court rules against the president in a case, does the president have the power to ignore that ruling, or is the president required to do as the ruling says?

- Pres. can ignore: 23%
- Pres. must obey: 77%
Which part of the Constitution is called the Bill of Rights?

- Article I: 9
- Article II: 3
- Article III: 2
- Amendments 1–10: 52
- Amendments 13–15: 1
- Don't know: 33
What is your guess as to whether a majority of the current U.S. Supreme Court justices were appointed by Democratic or Republican presidents?

- Definitely Dem Majority: 4%
- Probably Dem Majority: 23%
- Probably Rep Majority: 54%
- Definitely Rep Majority: 19%
Number of correct factual items

Percent

0  10  20  30  40  50  60  70  80  90  100

Number of correct factual items:

- 0 correct: 2
- 1 correct: 6
- 2 correct: 25
- 3 correct: 39
- 4 correct: 29
In general, what most often motivates Supreme Court justices' decisions?

- Mainly politics: 36%
- Mainly the law: 64%
How should Supreme Court justices base their decisions?
On their interpretations of what the U.S. Constitution was understood to mean when it was originally written or on the Constitution as a document whose meaning may have evolved over time?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original meaning</th>
<th>Evolving meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which is more important, a decision that leads to a fair outcome or one that follows the law, even if seemingly unfair?
How important in a justice:
Be able to empathize with ordinary people;
that is, to be able to understand how the law hurts or helps the people
How important in a justice:
Exercise good judgment and wisdom in the application of the law
rather than only strict technical compliance with the law as it is written.
How important in a justice:
Respect for existing Supreme Court decisions

- Very important: 44
- Somewhat important: 44
- Not very important: 9
- Not at all important: 3
How important in a justice: Interpret the law according to the justice's judicial philosophy, whether liberal or conservative

- Very important: 43%
- Somewhat important: 31%
- Not very important: 15%
- Not at all important: 11%
Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling his job as president?

- Strongly approve: 20%
- Somewhat approve: 20%
- Somewhat disapprove: 14%
- Strongly disapprove: 46%
How much do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the following issues?

Appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval Level</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly approve</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat approve</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disapprove</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disapprove</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If there is another opening on the Supreme Court, how much confidence do you have that President Donald Trump will select the right kind of person to sit on the Supreme Court?

- A great deal: 19%
- Quite a lot: 13%
- Some: 13%
- Very little: 19%
- None at all: 37%
Approve Court appointments by party ID

- **Rep**
  - Strongly approve: 59
  - Somewhat approve: 30
  - Somewhat disapprove: 7
  - Strongly disapprove: 4

- **Lean Rep**
  - Strongly approve: 39
  - Somewhat approve: 41
  - Somewhat disapprove: 12
  - Strongly disapprove: 8

- **Ind**
  - Strongly approve: 28
  - Somewhat approve: 31
  - Somewhat disapprove: 7
  - Strongly disapprove: 1

- **Lean Dem**
  - Strongly approve: 1
  - Somewhat approve: 5
  - Somewhat disapprove: 1
  - Strongly disapprove: 2

- **Dem**
  - Strongly approve: 63
  - Somewhat approve: 22
  - Somewhat disapprove: 7
  - Strongly disapprove: 22

Categories:
- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove
Public Understanding and Opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court