

Marquette Law School Supreme Court Poll – September 8-15, 2020

(Additional items, and complete instrument, held for later release.)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. This survey is being conducted on behalf of Marquette University.

We're conducting a survey about your views on issues facing the country today. Your participation is completely voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. No one will ever try to sell you anything as a result of your responses.

Q3.

Here is a list of institutions in American society. How much confidence do you have in each one?

- A. The US Supreme Court

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. A great deal
2. Quite a lot
3. Some
4. Very little
5. None at all

Q28.

How should Supreme Court justices interpret the law? Should they...?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Read the text of the law as written
2. Use the commonly understood meaning at the time the law was written
3. Interpret the law as it applies to current circumstances

Q38.

In general, what most often motivates Supreme Court justices' decisions?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Mainly politics
2. Mainly the law

Q39.

How should Supreme Court justices base their decisions? On their interpretations of...?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. What the US Constitution was understood to mean when it was originally written
2. The Constitution as a document whose meaning may have evolved over time

Q40.

How much do you favor or oppose the following possible Supreme Court decisions?

GRID ITEMS, RANDOMIZE:

- A. Overturn Roe versus Wade, thus strike down the 1973 decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states.
- B. Strike down the 2010 health care reform law, also called Obamacare, by declaring it unconstitutional.
- C. Strike down as violating the Second Amendment laws that limit the types and capacities of gun magazines that can be sold or possessed.
- D. Rule that under the First Amendment, religiously affiliated schools are generally exempt from employment discrimination laws with respect to those employees whose jobs involve conveying religious beliefs.
- E. Rule that a federal agency may not write regulations unless their substance is explicitly set forth in legislation passed by Congress.
- F. Rule that laws that make it harder as a practical matter for supporters of one party but not the other to vote are unconstitutional.
- G. Rule that religious social service organizations that refuse to certify same-sex couples as foster parents may be excluded from being one of the local organizations allowed to operate a public foster placement program.

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1. Strongly favor
- 2. Somewhat favor
- 3. Somewhat oppose
- 4. Strongly oppose
- 77. Don't know

Q47.

How much do you favor or oppose the following recent Supreme Court decisions?

GRID ITEMS, RANDOMIZE:

- A. Ruled that land in Oklahoma granted in the 1830s to the Creek Indian Nation as a reservation retains that status because Congress has not amended the treaties and that the state of Oklahoma therefore could not itself prosecute tribal members for major crimes in the eastern portion of the state, including places such as Tulsa.
- B. Decided colleges can use race as one factor in deciding which applicants to admit.
- C. Decided that laws prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex also apply to discrimination based on sexual orientation of gay, lesbian or transgender individuals.
- D. Decided that a government program that financially supports students attending private schools may include religious schools without violating the Constitution.
- E. Rejected the administration's attempt to end the DACA program that allows young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children to register and avoid immediate deportation.
- F. Upheld the government's permitting private employers with religious or moral objections to choose not to provide contraceptive coverage as part of health plans for their employees.
- G. Struck down a state's law regulating abortion providers on the grounds that it imposed an undue burden on women's access to abortion.

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
77. Don't know

Q56.

Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Supreme Court is handling its job?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Strongly approve
2. Somewhat approve
3. Somewhat disapprove
4. Strongly disapprove

D1.

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Republican
2. Democrat
3. Independent
4. Other/No preference

D2A.

Would you call yourself a strong [IF D1=1: Republican] [IF D1=2: Democrat] or a not very strong [IF D1=1: Republican] [IF D1=2: Democrat]?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Strong
2. Not very strong

D2B.

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Republican
2. Democratic
3. Neither

D3.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, aside from weddings and funerals, how often did you attend religious services?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. More than once a week
2. Once a week
3. Once or twice a month
4. A few times a year
5. Seldom
6. Never

D4.

What is your religious preference?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Protestant
2. Roman Catholic
3. Other Christian Religion
4. Mormon/Latter-Day Saints
5. Jewish
6. Muslim/Islam
7. Other Non-Christian Religion
8. No Religion

D5.

Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Yes, would
2. No, would not

D6.

In general, would you describe your political views as...?

RESPONSE OPTIONS

IF RND_05=0, SHOW ORDER 1,2,3,4,5

IF RND_05=1, SHOW ORDER 5,4,3,2,1

1. Very conservative
2. Conservative
3. Moderate
4. Liberal
5. Very liberal