

## 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.

Q9.

If the election for president were being held today and the candidates were [IF RND\_00=0: Joe Biden, the Democrat, Donald Trump, the Republican,] [IF RND\_00=1: Donald Trump, the Republican, Joe Biden, the Democrat,] Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian, and Howie Hawkins, the Green Party, for whom would you vote?

### RESPONSE OPTIONS

1. Biden
2. Trump
3. Jorgensen
4. Hawkins
5. Vote for someone else
6. Would not vote

Q10.

In general, would you describe the US Supreme Court as...?

### RESPONSE OPTIONS

IF RND\_01=0, SHOW ORDER 1,2,3,4,5

IF RND\_01=1, SHOW ORDER 5,4,3,2,1

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

Q11.

What is your guess as to whether a majority of the current US Supreme Court Justices were appointed by [IF RND\_00=0: Democratic or Republican] [IF RND\_00=1: Republican or Democratic] presidents?

1. Definitely a majority appointed by Democratic presidents
2. Probably a majority appointed by Democratic presidents
3. Probably a majority appointed by Republican presidents
4. Definitely a majority appointed by Republican presidents

Q15.

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?

GRID ITEMS, RANDOMIZE:

- A. Samuel Alito
- B. Stephen Breyer
- C. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- D. Neil Gorsuch
- E. Elena Kagan
- F. Brett Kavanaugh
- G. John Roberts
- H. Clarence Thomas
- I. Sonia Sotomayor

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1. Never heard of
- 2. Heard but not enough
- 3. Favorable opinion
- 4. Unfavorable opinion

Q24.

How important is the choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1. Very important
- 2. Somewhat important
- 3. Not too important
- 4. Not at all important

RANDOMIZE THE PRESENTATION ORDER OF Q25 AND Q26.

Q25.

If a nominee for the US Supreme Court is qualified and has no ethical problems, would US Senators be justified or not justified in voting against that nominee simply because of how they believe the Justice would decide cases on issues such as abortion, gun control, or affirmative action?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1. Justified in voting against the nominee
- 2. Not justified in voting against the nominee

Q26.

If a nominee for the US Supreme Court is qualified and has no ethical problems, would US Senators be justified or not justified in voting against that nominee simply because the Senator is from a different political party from the president who made the nomination?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Justified in voting against the nominee
2. Not justified in voting against the nominee

Q27.

Should nominees to the Supreme Court be required to publicly declare how they would vote on controversial cases such as gun rights or abortion rights before they are confirmed to the Court?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Should declare positions
2. Should not be required to declare positions

Q30.

Should justices of the Supreme Court support the positions of one of the political parties when making decisions or should they ignore the positions of any party?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Should support party positions
2. Should ignore party positions

Q31.

Should justices of the Supreme Court consider public opinion about a case when making decisions or should they ignore public opinion?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Should consider public opinion
2. Should ignore public opinion

Q32.

Should justices of the Supreme Court follow previous decisions whenever possible or should the Court overturn previous decisions if a majority of the Court believes the case was wrongly decided?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

1. Follow previous decisions
2. Overturn if a majority think it was wrongly decided

RANDOMIZE THE PRESENTATION ORDER OF Q33 AND Q34.

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.

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

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

RANDOMIZE THE PRESENTATION ORDER OF Q55 AND Q56.

Q55.

Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

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

Q57.

How much do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the following issues?

GRID ITEMS, RANDOMIZE:

- A. The economy
- B. The coronavirus outbreak
- C. Appointments to the US Supreme Court
- D. The Black Lives Matter protests

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

[SHOW IF D1=1,2]

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

[SHOW IF D1=3,4,77,98,99]

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

[SHOW IF D4=1,3,77,98,99]

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

[DISPLAY]

CLOSING.

Thank you very much. Have a great day.

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