

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 Joe Biden, the Democrat, Donald Trump, the Republican, Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian and Howie Hawkins, the Green Party for whom would you vote?

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

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Present Q15-Q23 as a grid. Scramble order of names.****

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?

Never heard of 1	Heard but not enough 2	Favorable opinion 3	Unfavorable opinion 4
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- Q15. Samuel Alito
- Q16. Stephen Breyer
- Q17. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Q18. Neil Gorsuch
- Q19. Elena Kagan
- Q20. Brett Kavanaugh
- Q21. John Roberts
- Q22. Clarence Thomas
- Q23. Sonia Sotomayor

Q24. How important is the choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally?

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

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Scramble order of Q25-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?

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?

- 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?

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

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Scramble order of DQ33 and DQ34 and save order as a variable.****

Q33. In February 2016, following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that the Senate would not consider or hold hearings on any nominee President Obama might name during an election year. In March, Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. The Senate did not hold a hearing and the nomination expired in January 2017. Was not holding a hearing on the nomination the right thing or the wrong thing to do?

- 1 Right thing to do
- 2 Wrong thing to do

Q34. If there is a vacancy on the Supreme Court during the 2020 presidential election year and President Trump nominates someone what should the Senate do?

- 1 Hold hearings
- 2 Not hold hearings

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Present Q35-Q37 as a grid. Scramble order of Q35-Q37****

How much do you favor or oppose the following proposals affecting the Supreme Court?

Strongly favor 1	Favor 2	Oppose 3	Strongly oppose 4
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Q35. Increase the number of justices on the US Supreme Court

D1. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

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

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Ask D2a IF 1,2 in D1****

D2a. Would you call yourself a strong [Democrat/Republican] or a not very strong [Democrat/Republican]?

- 1 Strong
- 2 Not very strong

****PROGRAMMER NOTE: Ask D2b IF 3,4 in D1****

D2b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democratic
- 3 Neither

(CLOSING)

Thank you very much. Have a great day