Marquette Law School Poll Methodology Statement

U.S. Supreme Court and National Issues Survey, September 7-14, 2022

The Marquette Law School Poll national survey of public views of the U.S. Supreme Court and national issues was conducted September 7-14, 2022. A total of 1448 adults were interviewed by SSRS of Glen Mills PA, using the SSRS Opinion Panel, a representative probability-based panel of adults ages 18 and over living in the United States, recruited using the SSRS Omnibus poll and through address-based sampling (ABS). The margin of error is +/-3.4 percentage points for the full sample. Table 1 shows the margin of error for subsamples of registered votes, registered Republicans (including independents who lean Republican) and registered Democrats (including independents who lean Democratic) along with unweighted and weighted samples sizes. All reported results are based on the weighted sample.

Table 1: Margin of error and sample sizes for subsamples

Sample	Unweighted N	Weighted N	Margin of error
Adults	1448	1448	3.4
Registered voters	1282	1144	3.6
Republican Registered voters	511	480	5.6
Democratic Registered voters	648	516	5.1

Marquette Law School Poll, national survey, September 7-14, 2022

The survey is a general population sample of U.S. adults ages 18 and over living in the 50 states.

The partisan composition of the weighted sample is 27% Republican, 32% Democrat and 40% independent. When independents who lean to a party are included as partisans the sample is 39% Republican, 45% Democrat and 15% independent.

As described below SSRS Opinion Panel members are recruited randomly based on nationally representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design (including Hawaii and Alaska). ABS respondents are randomly sampled by Marketing Systems Group (MSG) through the U.S. Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS), a regularly-updated listing of all known addresses in the U.S. For the SSRS Opinion Panel, known business addresses are excluded from the sample frame. Additionally, the SSRS Opinion Panel recruit hard-to-reach demographic groups via the SSRS Omnibus survey platform. The SSRS Omnibus survey is a nationally representative (including Hawaii and Alaska) bilingual telephone survey.

AAPOR Transparency Initiative Information

The Marquette Law School Poll Supreme Court Survey follows the guidelines for disclosure of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative. For more information on the initiative see: https://aapor.org/standards-and-ethics/transparency-initiative/

- The poll is sponsored by Marquette Law School.

- The Marquette Law School Poll, under the direction of Prof. Charles Franklin, designed the survey instrument and performed all statistical analysis. The data collection was administered by SSRS of Glen Mills PA, using the SSRS Opinion Panel, a representative probability-based panel of adults ages 18 and over living in the United States.

- Funding for this study was provided by the Marquette Law School Alumni Annual Fund. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.

- The full survey instrument for this study is available online at https://law.marquette.edu/poll/category/results-and-data/

- The population surveyed consists of the general population of U.S. adults age 18 and over living in the 50 states.

- The sample frame is a nationally representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design (including Hawaii and Alaska). ABS respondents are randomly sampled by MSG through the U.S. Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS), a regularly-updated listing of all known addresses in the U.S.. Additionally, the SSRS Opinion Panel recruits hard-to-reach demographic groups via the SSRS Omnibus survey platform. The SSRS Omnibus survey is a nationally representative (including Hawaii and Alaska) bilingual telephone survey.

- The sample uses the SSRS Opinion Panel and is based on address and telephone samples supplied by Marketing Systems Group (MSG). Details of design and response rate are given below.

- The sample was designed to be representative of the adult population of the United States. The sample size is 1448. The margin of error, including design effects due to post-stratification is +/-3.4 percentage points for the full sample. The sample size and margin of error for subsamples are shown in Table 1 above.

- The design effect for this survey is 1.8 which has been incorporated in the calculation of all reported margins of error.

- The survey was administered in English only and was administered on the web. The data were collected September 7-14, 2022.

- Results for all items in the survey, including the full instrument, topline results, crosstabs and this methodological report are be available online at https://law.marquette.edu/poll/category/results-and-data

- For further information contact the survey director, Prof. Charles Franklin at Charles.franklin@marquette.edu.

- Further methodological details, including weighting methodology, is included in the following report from SSRS.

METHODOLOGY REPORT
2022 SEPTEMBER COURT SURVEY

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Overview

Marquette University Law School (MULaw) engaged SSRS to conduct the September Court Survey. The goal of this survey was to gauge awareness and reaction to public figures, the branches of government, and in particular the Supreme Court and cases adjudicated. The September Court Survey was conducted online via the SSRS Opinion Panel and invited U.S. adults age 18 and older to participate. Data collection was conducted from September 6-14, 2022, among a sample of 1,448 respondents. Data were weighted to represent the target U.S. adult population.

This report provides information about the sampling procedures and the methods used to collect, process, and weight data for the September Court Survey.

SSRS Profile

SSRS is a full-service survey and market research firm managed by a core of dedicated professionals with advanced degrees in the social sciences. SSRS designs and implements research solutions for complex strategic, tactical, public opinion, and policy issues in the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide. The SSRS team specializes in creative problem-solving and informed analysis to meet its clients' research goals. SSRS provides the complete set of analytical, administrative and management capabilities needed for successful project execution. We partner with clients interested in conducting high-quality research. In the industry, SSRS is renowned for its sophisticated sample designs and its experience with all facets of data collection, including those involving multimodal formats.

Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was developed by MULaw in consultation with the SSRS project team. Prior to the field period, SSRS programmed the study into its Confirmit platform that allows data to be collected. Extensive checking of the program was conducted to ensure that skip patterns and sample splits followed the design of the questionnaire. The September Court Survey was conducted in English.

Sample Design: The SSRS Opinion Panel

SSRS Opinion Panel members are recruited randomly based on nationally representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design (including Hawaii and Alaska). ABS respondents are randomly sampled by MSG through the U.S. Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS), a regularly-updated listing of all known addresses in the U.S. For the SSRS Opinion Panel, known business addresses are excluded from the sample frame.

Additionally, the SSRS Opinion Panel recruit hard-to-reach demographic groups via the SSRS Omnibus survey platform.[1] The SSRS Omnibus survey is a nationally representative

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[1] Prior to July 2019, the SSRS Opinion Panel was recruited entirely from the SSRS Omnibus.

(including Hawaii and Alaska) bilingual telephone survey designed to meet standards of quality associated with custom research studies. The SSRS Omnibus completes more than 50,000 surveys annually with 80% cell allocation.

Data Collection

Survey Sampling

Sample drawn for the September Court Survey was stratified by Gender, Age, Race, Education, Region, and Political Party to ensure adequate representation of each.

Survey Administration Procedures

The administration schedule was as follows:

Table 1: Study Schedule:

Touchpoint	Start	End
Soft launch	9/6/2022	9/7/2022
Full launch	9/7/2022	9/14/2022

A "soft launch" inviting a limited number of panelists to participate was conducted on September 6-7, 2022. After checking soft launch data to ensure that all questionnaire content and skip patterns were correct, additional sample was released to ensure the final sample met the study goals.

Sampled panelists were emailed an invitation to complete the survey online. The email for each respondent included a unique passcode-embedded link. All respondents not responding to their first invitation received up to 3 reminder emails.

In appreciation for their participation, panelists received a $5 incentive in the form of an electronic gift card.

Mean survey length was 14.8 minutes.

Completion Rate/Response Rate

Panel response rates are a product of (1) response rates to the original invitation to participate; (2) the completion rate, among panelists, with the invitation to participate in the study. Table 2 details the completion and response rates for this study.

<div align="center">**Table 2: Completion Rate/Response Rate:**</div>

Touchpoint	
Invited to Participate/Total Eligible Sample	4,241*
Completed	1,448
Survey Completion Rate	**34.1%**
Composite Response Rate	1.6%[2]

<div align="center">*Total invited was 4,248, but 7 respondents were screened out due to not agreeing to do the survey/wrong age/no age.</div>

Data Processing and Integration

SSRS implemented several quality assurance procedures in data file preparation and processing. In addition to extensive testing of the online survey prior to the launching data collection, soft launch survey data were carefully checked for accuracy, completeness, and non-response to specific questions so that any issues could be identified and resolved prior to the full launch.

The data file programmer implemented a "data cleaning" procedure in which web survey skip patterns were created in order to ensure that all questions had the appropriate numbers of cases. This procedure involved a check of raw data by a program that consisted of instructions derived from the skip patterns designated on the questionnaire. The program confirmed that data were consistent with the definitions of codes and ranges and matched the appropriate bases of all questions.

Weighting

Data were weighted to represent the residential adult population of the United States. The data were weighted by applying a base weight and balancing the demographic profile of the sample to target population parameters.

Base weight (BW)

The base weight for the SSRS Prob Panel was computed differently depending on whether the panelist was recruited from the SSRS RDD telephone Omnibus or from address-based sample (ABS).

Telephone Omnibus Recruits

The base weight for the telephone omnibus recruits is their original base weight computed at the time of the original omnibus interview. This base weight accounts for selection probabilities

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[2] Product of the SSRS Opinion Panel recruitment response rate and the current survey completion rate.

associated with the overlapping dual-frame Omnibus sample design.[3] This base weight is a function of the landline and cell frame sample sizes as well as each respondent's telephone usage and number of adults in the household.

ABS Recruits

For projects that collect data entirely online, people who do not use the Internet are necessarily not included in the sample. To account for this non-coverage and make the results more representative of the entire target population, we make a non-internet adjustment to the base weight.

This is a propensity score adjustment that models adults with internet access to be representative of all adults (regardless of whether or not they have internet access). Propensity scores are estimated by modeling panel response mode on a range of demographic, attitudinal and behavioral covariates. The model is a CART[4] (Classification and Regression Trees) decision tree built in SPSS by using its scoring wizard available with the decision tree license.

Non-Internet Adjustment (NIA)

For projects that collect data entirely online, people who do not use the Internet are necessarily not included in the sample. To account for this non-coverage and make the results more representative of the entire target population, we make a non-internet adjustment to the base weight.

This is a propensity score adjustment that models adults with internet access to be representative of all adults (regardless of whether or not they have internet access). Propensity scores are estimated by modeling panel response mode on a range of demographic, attitudinal and behavioral covariates. The model is a CART[5] (Classification and Regression Trees) decision tree built in SPSS by using its scoring wizard available with the decision tree license.

Raking

With the base weight applied, the data were weighted to balance the demographic profile of the sample to the target population parameters.

Missing data in the raking variables were imputed using hot decking. Hot deck imputation replaces the missing values of a respondent randomly with another similar respondent without missing data. Hot decking was done using an SPSS macro detailed in 'Goodbye, Listwise Deletion: Presenting Hot Deck Imputation as an Easy and Effective Tool for Handing Missing Data' (Myers, 2011).

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[3] Buskirk T.D., Best J. (2012) Venn Diagrams, Probability 101 and Sampling Weights Computed for Dual Frame Telephone RDD Designs. *Journal of Statistics and Mathematics.* Vol. 15: 3696‑3710.

[4] Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples (2nd ed.) by Richard Valliant, Jill A. Dever, and Frauke Kreuter. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2018.

[5] Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples (2nd ed.) by Richard Valliant, Jill A. Dever, and Frauke Kreuter. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2018.

Weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure.[6]

Data were weighted to distributions of sex by age, sex by education, age by education, detailed education, race/ethnicity, census region, civic engagement, population density, party ID[7], voter registration, religious affiliation, and internet use frequency. The main demographic benchmarks were obtained from the 2021 Current Population Survey (CPS)[8]. The civic engagement benchmark was derived from September 2019 CPS Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement data [9,10]. Population density was derived from Census Planning Database 2020[11]. The registered voter benchmark is from Aristotle Voter Data 2021 and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021 from the U.S. Census Bureau[12]. The party ID, internet frequency, and religious affiliation benchmarks came from NPORS annual dataset released by Pew Research[13]. Weights were trimmed at the 3rd and 97th percentiles to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey-derived estimates. The table below compares unweighted and weighted sample distributions to target population benchmarks.

Table 1. Sample Demographics

Category	Values	Parameter	Unweighted	Weighted
	Male 18-24	5.7%	2.1%	4.2%
	Male 25-34	9.0%	8.0%	8.5%
	Male 35-44	8.2%	7.6%	8.3%
	Male 45-54	7.7%	6.9%	7.9%
Sex by age	Male 55-64	7.9%	7.7%	7.1%
	Male 65+	9.9%	11.6%	10.1%
	Female 18-24	5.6%	4.0%	5.7%
	Female 25-34	8.9%	12.8%	9.5%
	Female 35-44	8.4%	10.4%	8.6%

[6] https://community.ibm.com/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=17fd2f0b-7555-6ccd-c00c-5388b082161b&forceDialog=0

[7] The party ID used in weighting is measured at the time of panel registration, not at the time of this survey.

[8] Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles, J. Robert Warren and Michael Westberry. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 9.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2021. https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V9.0.
[9] https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about/supplemental-surveys.html

[10] Civically engaged respondents are defined as those who have volunteered in the past 12 months or who talk to their neighbors daily.

[11] https://www.census.gov/topics/research/guidance/planning-databases/2020.html

[12] https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html

[13] https://www.pewresearch.org/methods/fact-sheet/national-public-opinion-reference-survey-npors/ - May 29 to Aug 25, 2021.

	Female 45-54	8.0%	9.6%	8.2%
	Female 55-64	8.6%	8.2%	9.0%
	Female 65+	12.1%	11.0%	12.8%
Education	LT HS	9.6%	2.9%	7.1%
	HS grad	28.3%	19.5%	27.6%
	Some Coll/Assoc Degree	27.1%	32.0%	28.3%
	College grad+	35.0%	45.6%	37.0%
Sex by education	Male HS grad or less	19.5%	6.9%	15.8%
	Male Some college	12.7%	12.8%	13.1%
	Male College grad +	16.3%	24.2%	17.3%
	Female HS grad or less	18.4%	15.5%	18.9%
	Female Some college	14.4%	19.1%	15.2%
	Female College grad +	18.8%	21.3%	19.7%
Age by education	18-34 HS grad or less	11.2%	6.4%	9.2%
	18-34 Some college	9.3%	6.8%	9.4%
	18-34 College grad +	8.8%	13.7%	9.3%
	35-54 HS grad or less	10.9%	8.1%	10.6%
	35-54 Some college	7.9%	12.0%	8.4%
	35-54 College grad +	13.4%	14.4%	14.1%
	55+ HS grad or less	15.8%	7.9%	15.0%
	55+ Some college	9.9%	13.1%	10.5%
	55+ College grad +	12.8%	17.5%	13.6%
Race/ethnicity	White non-Hispanic	62.5%	60.3%	63.2%
	Black non-Hispanic	12.0%	14.0%	12.3%
	Hispanic	16.9%	18.9%	16.7%
	Asian, non-Hispanic	6.1%	4.6%	5.3%
	Other non-Hispanic	2.5%	2.3%	2.5%
Census region	Northeast	17.2%	18.1%	16.8%
	Midwest	20.6%	20.7%	20.6%
	South	38.3%	38.2%	29.7%
	West	23.9%	23.0%	23.3%
Civic engagement	Not engaged	67.3%	56.8%	66.2%
	Civically engaged	32.7%	43.2%	33.8%
Population density	1 Lowest 20%	20.0%	16.9%	19.2%
	2	20.0%	18.4%	19.8%
	3	20.0%	22.0%	20.7%
	4	20.0%	21.1%	20.9%
	5 Highest 20%	20.0%	21.7%	19.4%
Party ID (panel)	Republican	27.1%	27.9%	27.4%

	Democratic	31.6%	37.8%	32.8%
	Independent/Other	41.3%	34.3%	39.9%
Voter Registration	Registered to vote	76.9%	88.5%	79.0%
	Not registered	23.1%	11.5%	21.0%
Religion	Affiliated	69.0%	68.9%	68.3%
	Not Affiliated	31.0%	31.1%	31.7%
Internet Frequency	Almost constantly	41.4%	51.8%	42.6%
	Several times a day	46.7%	43.0%	47.2%
	About once a day	5.7%	3.3%	5.3%
	Several times a week/Less often	6.2%	1.9%	4.9%

Trimming

Weights were trimmed at the 3rd and 97th percentiles to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence.

Effects of Sample Design on Statistical Inference

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. SSRS calculates the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 1.76.

SSRS calculates the composite design effect for a sample of size n, with each case having a weight, w, as:[14]

$$deff = \frac{n \sum w^2}{(\sum w)^2}$$

The survey's margin of error is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample — the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is ± 3.4 percentage points. This means that in 95 out of every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 3.4 percentage points away from their true values in the population. Margins of error for subgroups will be larger. It is important to remember that sampling fluctuations are only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Other sources, such as respondent selection bias, questionnaire wording, and reporting inaccuracy, may contribute additional error of greater or lesser magnitude.

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[14] Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for Unequal Pi. Journal of Official Statistics, Vol. 8, No.2, 1992, pp. 183-200.

Deliverables

Final deliverables for this study were as follows:

- Weighted SPSS dataset
- Methodology Report