

C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey

September 22, 2009

Methodology

Penn, Schoen and Berland Associates, LLC, conducted online interviews on September 17, 2009 among 801 2008 general election voters in the United States. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 3.46 at the 95% confidence level.

Note: All numbers cited represent percentages (%). Some percentages add to more or less than 100% due to rounding error.

Findings

1. Have you ever visited Washington DC?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	61	64	58	54	60	62	69	60	66	61	57	64	63
No	39	36	42	46	40	38	31	40	34	39	43	36	37

2. Have you ever toured or visited the U.S. Supreme Court as a part of your visit to Washington DC? *(Only asked of the 61% who have visited Washington DC)*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	35	41	30	50	44	28	23	33	37	42	33	39	35
No	65	59	70	50	56	72	77	67	63	58	67	61	65

3. Is it currently a requirement for the **Chief Justice** of the United States to be a lawyer?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	48	44	51	48	50	48	44	45	69	50	54	48	41
No	52	56	49	52	50	52	56	55	31	50	46	52	59

4. Is there a mandatory retirement age for U.S. Supreme Court Justices?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	21	19	24	34	30	13	10	18	29	35	26	22	16
No	79	81	76	66	70	87	90	82	71	65	74	78	84

5. Currently, US Supreme Court Justices serve lifetime appointments. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that Supreme Court Justices should serve lifetime appointments?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Strongly agree	14	21	8	11	12	15	17	12	17	22	15	13	13
Somewhat agree	31	29	33	44	32	28	22	31	32	30	36	25	30
Somewhat disagree	36	32	39	36	36	35	34	36	37	24	32	39	36
Strongly disagree	20	19	20	9	20	22	27	21	14	24	17	23	20

6. What if U.S. Supreme Court Justices served an 18-year term with possible reappointment by the President subject to Senate confirmation? Would you strongly prefer an 18-year term to a lifetime appointment, somewhat prefer an 18-year term, somewhat prefer lifetime appointment and not change to an 18-year term, or strongly prefer a lifetime appointment and not change to an 18-year term?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Strongly prefer 18-year term to lifetime	31	29	32	25	37	29	30	31	30	34	29	32	31
Somewhat prefer 18-year term to lifetime	47	42	51	53	43	50	38	47	46	39	50	47	43
Somewhat prefer lifetime to 18-year term	12	12	11	18	12	7	15	11	16	17	11	11	13
Strongly prefer lifetime to 18-year term	11	16	6	4	8	14	16	11	9	10	10	10	13

7. Over the years, how many women have been sworn in as Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
0	3	2	4	8	3	1	2	3	6	3	3	3	3
1	9	8	11	8	13	9	5	9	8	15	12	8	8
2	27	24	30	31	29	25	26	25	38	27	33	26	24
3	37	43	31	25	30	42	51	40	30	18	30	39	41
4	8	9	7	9	8	9	6	9	3	6	6	9	10
5	6	5	7	5	8	7	3	6	4	15	6	10	4
6 or more	9	8	9	12	11	7	6	7	11	16	10	7	12

8. Over the years, how many African Americans have been sworn in as Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
0	9	5	12	10	7	10	8	9	4	7	8	7	11
1	28	25	31	21	33	28	28	29	27	25	30	27	27
2	39	45	33	35	35	40	45	38	51	35	37	41	38
3	9	10	8	11	8	9	9	10	5	6	9	13	7
4	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	14	4	3	5
5	5	5	5	8	6	4	4	6	1	4	7	3	5
6 or more	4	3	6	9	7	6	3	4	11	9	7	7	7

9. Can you name any case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	49	54	44	44	40	58	50	51	53	38	44	52	52
Roe v. Wade	84	82	86	68	78	90	93	87	78	73	79	90	84
Brown v. Board of Education	9	15	4	21	11	5	4	7	20	9	15	4	7
Plessy v. Ferguson	3	5	2	6	5	2	1	2	1	18	4	2	4
Bush v. Gore	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
District of Columbia v. Heller	1	3	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	2
Marbury v. Madison	1	2	1	2	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2
Other	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
No	51	46	56	56	60	42	50	49	47	62	56	48	48

10. Of the following list, which issue or issues do you think the U.S. Supreme Court deals with most often?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Free speech	43	51	36	43	50	41	36	41	46	47	43	49	38
Capital punishment	42	43	41	55	40	39	36	38	55	56	45	40	40
Affirmative action	32	32	31	31	31	30	38	30	39	34	31	35	30
Gun rights	31	33	29	39	32	30	22	29	43	25	31	27	33
Abortion	30	33	28	30	35	30	24	27	44	31	33	32	26
Church and state	28	29	27	30	24	29	30	28	31	28	24	32	29
Federalism	26	25	26	32	26	26	15	23	28	41	22	22	32
Political campaigns/elections	22	20	23	27	30	17	13	18	33	42	25	18	21
Property rights	18	21	15	24	22	12	16	17	17	11	18	18	18
Other	2	1	3	0	1	2	3	2	2	0	2	1	2

Note: multiple responses permitted

11. Of the following list, which issue or issues do you think the U.S. Supreme Court *should* deal with more often?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Capital punishment	32	30	34	36	38	28	26	30	39	32	39	32	25
Free speech	32	34	31	36	33	34	24	30	32	45	31	33	33
Political campaigns/elections	27	29	26	31	26	24	32	26	29	29	26	31	25
Gun rights	26	26	25	29	31	24	16	22	50	33	33	20	23
Affirmative action	25	26	24	26	26	24	22	22	46	24	30	23	21
Church and state	23	24	22	29	23	23	16	22	29	23	22	19	26
Federalism	20	24	16	24	21	19	16	20	10	22	17	22	21
Property rights	20	22	18	18	26	17	19	17	30	21	21	17	21
Abortion	19	20	17	23	22	16	15	16	27	34	18	22	17
Other	5	4	6	5	3	7	6	7	0	2	3	3	9

Note: Multiple responses permitted

12. Speaking generally, what percent of the cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court involve abortion, abortion rights, or the right to choose?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
1% - 10%	42	47	38	42	41	41	47	46	30	13	37	36	52
11% - 25%	37	38	37	36	38	39	35	35	45	58	39	43	31
26% - 50%	17	13	20	19	17	16	15	15	24	19	20	16	13
Over 50%	4	2	5	3	4	5	2	4	0	10	3	4	4

13. Did the Supreme Court's ruling on the 2000 Bush v. Gore election affect your view of the Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	29	28	30	39	27	26	26	24	43	36	41	15	27
No	71	72	70	61	73	74	74	76	57	64	59	85	73

14. How did the Supreme Court's ruling on the 2000 Bush v. Gore election affect your view of the Court? *(Ask only of the 29% who said the ruling affected their view of the Court)*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Corrupt / Ruling was a sham / Rigged	11	15	9	6	10	16	11	10	11	10	1	20	8
Gore received more popular votes	9	7	11	5	12	11	7	7	19	11	8	1	4
They should not have been involved at all	8	12	4	7	0	12	12	12	0	0	4	6	1
Didn't like the whole process	7	5	9	13	7	3	7	9	0	0	9	2	7
It was Politically motivated	7	10	4	2	9	7	10	8	5	0	7	0	9
Unfair	5	3	7	9	6	3	3	3	13	9	6	5	4
They sided with Bush / I supported Gore	4	1	6	8	4	1	4	4	4	10	5	5	3
They appointed our president	4	7	2	1	3	8	3	4	5	0	2	0	9
Should have had a re-vote	4	2	6	1	4	6	5	4	9	0	6	0	3
Court ruling was correct	2	0	2	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	2	5	0
Others	32	32	27	39	37	26	28	31	30	53	3	41	2
Don't Know / No Response	7	5	8	6	8	7	6	7	5	7	7	15	4

15. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that the decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court have an impact on your everyday life as a citizen?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Strongly agree	39	43	36	33	34	44	44	39	48	35	34	41	43
Somewhat agree	49	45	51	58	48	46	46	48	42	52	56	46	43
Somewhat disagree	10	10	11	7	17	8	8	11	6	11	8	11	13
Strongly disagree	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	3	1

16. The U.S. Supreme Court currently posts transcripts of oral arguments on its website the same day the Court hears the arguments. Are you familiar with this practice?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes	17	22	14	22	24	13	11	16	17	21	17	18	17
No	83	78	86	78	76	87	89	84	83	79	83	82	83

17. The U.S. Supreme Court currently does not allow television coverage of its oral arguments.

Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree that the U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments.

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Strongly agree	30	33	28	30	31	31	29	29	38	24	29	30	32
Somewhat agree	35	33	36	34	36	35	32	35	24	45	38	33	32
Somewhat disagree	22	20	24	24	25	19	21	21	30	24	24	21	20
Strongly disagree	13	14	12	12	8	16	18	15	8	7	9	15	16

18. Some Supreme Court experts say they would support full-length, unedited, gavel-to-gavel television coverage of oral arguments. However, other experts fear that television news outlets will take clips from oral arguments that are out of context and sensationalize small portions of entire oral arguments. Would you still agree that Supreme Court oral arguments should be televised if it meant clipped, shortened, and otherwise edited-for-TV coverage of Supreme Court oral arguments?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	His p	D	R	I
Yes, I still agree that oral arguments should be televised	54	58	49	59	64	44	50	51	58	58	57	49	53
No, I now have second thoughts about televising oral arguments	46	42	51	41	36	56	50	49	42	42	43	51	47

Demographics

Gender

	All (%)
Male	47
Female	53

Into which of the following categories does your age fall?

	All (%)
18-29	18
30-44	29
45-64	37
65+	16

Regions

	All (%)
Northeast	19
West	23
South	34
Midwest	24

Which of the following best describes your ethnicity or racial background?

	All (%)
White	76
Black	11
Hispanic	7
Other	6

Which of the following do you consider yourself?

	All (%)
Democrat	38
Republican	26
Independent	38