

C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey

July 9, 2009

Methodology

Penn, Schoen and Berland Associates, LLC, conducted online interviews on June 7, 2009 among 1,002 2008 general election voters in the United States. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 3.1 at the 95% confidence level and larger for subgroups.

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

Findings

1. How many Justices sit on the United States Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
7	11	11	10	10	8	12	11	11	8	7	10	10	12
8	7	7	8	9	7	7	6	6	7	12	9	7	5
9	49	58	42	49	49	48	52	51	46	39	45	51	53
10	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	5	5	5	2	2
11	2	2	3	1	4	2	1	2	3	3	1	3	3
12	14	13	16	8	17	16	13	15	20	7	15	14	13
Don't know	13	8	17	18	12	12	11	11	10	27	13	13	12

2. Can you name any Justices on the U.S Supreme Court?*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Yes	46	54	41	34	44	51	52	48	45	30	42	51	48
Clarence Thomas	14	15	14	5	15	17	16	13	25	10	12	16	15
John G. Roberts	11	14	9	14	8	11	13	11	10	9	10	11	11
Ruth Bader Ginsberg	7	7	7	4	6	8	10	8	2	0	8	6	7
Antonin Scalia	6	7	5	5	6	6	3	6	4	5	5	8	6
David Souter	3	4	3	1	4	4	5	4	2	1	3	4	4
Samuel Alito	2	4	1	2	2	3	4	3	1	1	2	4	2
Stephen Breyer	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Anthony Kennedy	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	0
John Paul Stevens	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
No	54	48	60	66	56	50	47	51	56	68	58	50	54

*Those that entered "yes" were prompted to enter the name of a Supreme Court Justice. Correct names are listed beneath "yes;" only correct answers were counted as "yes" responses.

3. Can you name the first woman to serve as Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court?*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Yes (Sandra Day O'Connor)	41	40	42	36	41	46	36	42	40	39	41	45	36
No	59	60	58	64	59	54	64	58	60	61	59	55	64

*Those that entered "yes" were prompted to enter the name of the first women to serve as Justice. Only correct answers were counted as "yes" responses.

4. What is the maximum number of years a Justice can serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	4	4	11	5	1	2	4	5	5	6	3	4
6	3	2	3	4	4	2	1	2	4	7	4	2	2
8	4	2	5	8	3	3	1	3	7	10	5	3	4
10	2	2	2	3	3	1	0	1	7	4	3	1	2
For life	76	82	70	65	72	80	87	80	68	59	70	81	78
Don't know	11	6	15	9	12	12	9	11	9	15	11	10	11

5. Can you identify the individual just named by President Obama to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Yes (Sonia Sotomayor)	43	46	40	37	42	47	42	42	44	45	40	47	42
No	57	54	60	63	58	53	58	58	56	55	60	53	58

*Those that entered “yes” were prompted to enter the name of the individual nominated. Only correct answers were counted as “yes” responses.

6. If confirmed, what would be historic about the individual President Obama recently nominated to become a member of the US Supreme Court? (**OPEN-END**)

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
First Hispanic/Latino nominated	66	68	65	59	63	70	73	67	74	57	65	65	69
Woman Nominated	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3
Minority nominated (unspecified)	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
Other	9	8	8	13	10	8	4	8	8	12	8	6	9
Don't know	21	17	24	24	23	19	21	21	14	28	21	24	19

7. Can you name any case ever heard by the U.S. Supreme Court?*

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Yes	56	58	53	47	55	62	52	60	50	39	53	57	55
Roe v. Wade	45	46	43	28	43	53	46	50	32	30	43	46	45
Brown v. Board of Education	5	5	4	9	6	4	2	4	10	4	6	4	4
Dred Scott v. Sandford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2
Miranda v. Arizona	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0
Plessy v. Ferguson	1	2	1	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Other	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	6	2	2	4	3
No	45	41	48	52	45	39	48	40	50	61	47	43	44

*Those that entered "yes" were prompted to enter the name of any case heard by the Supreme Court. Cases are listed beneath "yes;" only correct answers were counted as "yes" responses.

8. Does a jury hear cases before the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Yes	19	16	21	28	19	17	11	14	31	31	26	13	16
No	67	74	62	52	66	71	78	73	55	51	60	71	73
Don't know	14	10	17	20	15	11	11	13	14	18	14	16	11

9. How long is the average argument before the U.S. Supreme Court?

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
30 minutes	10	13	7	7	9	11	10	10	3	11	9	9	11
One hour	9	9	9	8	9	10	8	9	7	11	11	9	6
90 minutes	10	11	8	12	10	7	11	10	8	6	8	9	12
One day	5	6	5	7	5	5	4	5	10	5	7	5	4
Two days	9	8	10	10	8	9	9	8	10	9	8	10	8
Don't know	58	54	61	56	59	58	58	57	62	57	57	58	59

10. The U.S. Supreme Court currently does not allow television coverage of its sessions.

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 sessions.

	All (%)	Gender		Age				Race			Party ID		
		M	F	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Wht	Blk	Hisp	D	R	I
Agree	61	63	61	68	65	60	51	59	75	64	68	53	62
Disagree	38	38	39	32	35	40	49	41	25	36	32	47	38
Strongly agree	27	29	26	29	26	29	23	26	36	27	31	21	29
Somewhat agree	34	34	35	39	39	31	28	33	39	37	37	32	33
Somewhat disagree	19	17	22	23	18	16	26	20	16	16	18	21	20
Strongly disagree	19	21	17	9	17	24	23	21	9	20	14	26	18

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

Which of the following **best** describes your ethnic or racial background or heritage?

	All (%)
White	75
Black	12
Hispanic	9
Other	4

Which of the following do you consider yourself?

	All (%)
Strong Democrat	24
Weak Democrat	15
Strong Republican	17
Weak Republican	13
Independent	30
Other	1