U.S. Supreme Court
Key Findings

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Methodology

Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) conducted online interviews from July 1-6, 2015 among n=1,201 American adults nationally. The margin of error for this study is +/- 2.83% at the 95% confidence level and larger for subgroups. Some percentages may add to more or less than 100% due to rounding.

Definition of Crosstabs

Crosstab		Definition of crosstab	% total
(%) U.S. Adults		American adults age 18+	100
Gender	M	Male	49
	F	Female	51
Age	<35	Age 18-34	29
	35-49	Age 35-49	30
	50-64	Age 50-64	27
	65+	Age 65+	14
Party	D	Identify as Democrat, regardless of voter registration	31
	R	Identify as Republican, regardless of voter registration	26
	I	Identify as Independent or something else, regardless of voter registration	43
Ideology	Lib	Consider themselves Liberal	22
	Mod	Consider themselves Moderate	39
	Con	Consider themselves Conservative	29
Likely Voters		Registered and likely to vote in the next election for federal, state, and other offices	77
TV in Court	Agr	Agree that "The U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments."	76
	Dis	Disagree that "The U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments."	24

Tracked Data

Tracking data cited in this report comes from the following studies. All interviews were conducted online.

Crosstab	Tracked Study	Audience
Nov 2014 (V)	PSB National Post-Election Survey November 2014	n=409 voters in the 2014 general election
June 2014 (LV)	PSB Supreme Court Survey June 2014	n=921 likely voters
Apr 2013 (LV)	PSB Supreme Court Survey April 2013	n=770 likely voters
Jan 2013 (LV)	PSB Supreme Court Survey January 2013	n=706 likely voters
Mar 2012 (A)	PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey March 2012	n=1,000 U.S. adults
Dec 2011 (LV)	PSB Supreme Court Survey December 2011	n=749 likely voters
June 2010 (V)	PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey June 2010	n=1,512 voters in the 2008 general election
Sept 2009 (V)	PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey September 2009	n=801 voters in the 2008 general election
June 2009 (V)	PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey June 2009*	n=1,002 voters in the 2008 general election

Key Findings

1. Generally speaking, how often do you follow news stories about the U.S. Supreme Court?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Very often	**19**	23	14	17	19	18	21	18	24	16	22	15	25	22	19	17
Somewhat often	**42**	44	41	45	38	40	50	45	48	37	42	47	41	46	44	38
Just a little	**32**	27	37	29	33	36	25	30	26	37	27	34	29	28	30	37
Nothing at all	**7**	6	9	8	10	5	4	8	3	10	8	4	5	4	7	7

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings
American Adults		Likely Voters	March 2012 (A)
Very often	**19**	22	20
Somewhat often	**42**	46	46
Just a little	**32**	28	30
Nothing at all	**7**	4	4

2. Where do you typically get information about the U.S. Supreme Court? Please select all that apply. **(MULTIPLE RESPONSES PERMITTED)**

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Television	**70**	67	73	60	65	78	88	76	69	67	71	72	71	73	71	68
Online media	**35**	35	35	48	29	30	29	33	38	35	34	37	35	37	36	30
Newspapers	**31**	32	30	20	27	39	49	33	37	27	28	36	33	35	30	33
Website	**25**	33	18	36	27	17	16	26	25	26	30	25	22	27	26	24
Social media	**25**	21	29	44	26	14	6	25	25	25	33	22	24	25	27	20
Radio	**21**	24	18	19	20	21	30	19	27	19	19	21	27	24	22	18
Magazines	**7**	9	5	8	8	4	5	6	7	7	6	8	8	7	8	4
Blogs	**6**	7	5	12	4	3	2	4	6	7	9	6	5	7	7	4
Books	**2**	4	0	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	0
Schools	**1**	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	0
Other	**3**	2	4	3	6	1	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings
American Adults		Likely Voters	June 2010 (V)
Television	**70**	73	75
Online media	**35**	37	39
Newspaper	**31**	35	53
Websites	**25**	27	31
Social media	**25**	25	13
Radio	**21**	24	27
Magazines	**7**	7	15
Blogs	**6**	7	7
Books	**2**	3	6
Schools	**1**	1	4
Other	**3**	3	1

3. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

Decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court have an impact on my everyday life as a citizen.

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
TOTAL AGREE	85	84	86	89	84	82	86	85	87	83	83	84	87	87	86	80
TOTAL DISAGREE	15	15	14	11	17	18	15	15	12	17	17	15	13	13	13	20
Strongly agree	37	39	35	39	34	38	39	33	46	35	35	30	50	41	39	30
Somewhat agree	48	45	51	50	50	44	47	52	41	48	48	54	37	46	47	50
Somewhat disagree	11	11	11	8	10	15	15	11	10	12	12	12	9	10	10	15
Strongly disagree	4	4	3	3	7	3	0	4	2	5	5	3	4	3	3	5

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings
American Adults		Likely Voters	Sept 2009 (V)
TOTAL AGREE	85	87	88
TOTAL DISAGREE	15	13	12
Strongly agree	37	41	39
Somewhat agree	48	46	49
Somewhat disagree	11	10	10
Strongly disagree	4	3	2

4. Generally speaking, what is your opinion of the overall effectiveness of the U.S. Supreme Court?

Would you say you…

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
TOTAL APPROVE	55	53	57	65	51	49	50	76	41	48	72	65	31	55	54	57
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	45	48	43	36	49	51	49	25	60	52	28	36	69	45	46	42
Strongly approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	10	11	9	14	8	10	4	14	8	8	19	9	6	9	9	11
Somewhat approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	45	42	48	51	43	39	46	62	33	40	53	56	25	46	45	46
Somewhat disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	30	30	30	25	33	32	31	19	35	35	22	28	37	29	29	32
Strongly disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	15	18	13	11	16	19	18	6	25	17	6	8	32	16	17	10

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings		
American Adults		Likely Voters	June 2014 (LV)	Jan 2013 (LV)	March 2012 (A)
TOTAL APPROVE	55	55	54	57	60
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	45	45	46	43	40
Strongly approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	10	9	8	5	8
Somewhat approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	45	46	46	52	52
Somewhat disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	30	29	34	31	31
Strongly disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	15	16	12	12	9

5. Generally speaking, would you say you hear too much or too little about the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Hear too much about the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court	9	12	7	14	9	8	3	8	11	9	9	8	12	9	10	7
Hear too little about the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court	40	36	44	40	37	40	46	39	40	41	38	40	44	42	43	32
About the right amount	51	52	49	46	54	52	50	53	49	50	53	53	45	49	47	61

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings
American Adults		Likely Voters	June 2010 (V)
Hear too much about the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court	9	9	3
Hear too little about the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court	40	42	62
About the right amount	51	49	35

6. The U.S. Supreme Court currently does not allow television coverage of oral arguments. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

The U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments.

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
TOTAL AGREE	76	76	74	79	77	71	72	75	73	77	78	73	76	77	100	-
TOTAL DISAGREE	24	24	26	21	23	28	28	24	28	24	22	26	24	23	-	100
Strongly agree	33	37	28	37	31	30	32	26	32	38	34	29	37	35	43	-
Somewhat agree	43	39	46	42	46	41	40	49	41	39	44	44	39	42	57	-
Somewhat disagree	18	16	21	16	17	21	20	19	21	17	17	20	17	17	-	74
Strongly disagree	6	8	5	5	6	7	8	5	7	7	5	6	7	6	-	26

July 2015 (%)		Tracked Findings								
American Adults		Likely Voters	Nov 2014 (V)	June 2014 (LV)	Apr 2013 (LV)	Jan 2013 (LV)	Mar 2012 (A)	Dec 2011 (LV)	June 2010 (V)	Sept 2009 (V)	June 2009 (V)
TOTAL AGREE	76	77	61	69	73	68	74	64	63	65	61
TOTAL DISAGREE	24	23	39	31	28	32	26	36	37	35	38
Strongly agree	33	35	24	27	31	28	36	33	24	30	27
Somewhat agree	43	42	37	42	42	40	38	31	39	35	34
Somewhat disagree	18	17	28	19	18	21	18	23	24	22	19
Strongly disagree	6	6	11	12	10	11	8	13	13	13	19

7. All nine current U.S. Supreme Court Justices are graduates from Harvard, Columbia, or Yale Law School.

If it were up to you, would you prefer the next time there is a new appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court that the nominee come one of the same law schools as the current justices or would it be useful if the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice had a different background?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Yes, same as now. Harvard, Columbia, Yale or another Ivy League law school.	13	16	11	23	12	8	7	16	13	11	14	11	16	14	14	12
No, useful if different educational experience	51	49	52	45	48	54	61	44	56	52	49	52	53	53	53	44
Don't care	36	35	37	32	40	39	32	40	31	36	37	37	31	33	33	44

July 2015 (%)		Tracked Findings
American Adults	Likely Voters	June 2010 (V)
Same as now	13	14	16
Useful if different educational experience	51	53	63
Don't care	36	33	21

8. Currently, U.S. Supreme Court Justices serve lifetime appointments.

    Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that U.S. Supreme Court Justices should serve lifetime appointments?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
TOTAL AGREE	40	43	37	52	37	34	32	50	36	34	50	40	33	40	39	41
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	57	63	49	62	67	68	50	65	66	51	61	67	60	61	59
Strongly agree	12	14	10	16	10	11	8	13	13	10	15	10	13	13	11	13
Somewhat agree	28	29	27	36	27	23	24	37	23	24	35	30	20	27	28	28
Somewhat disagree	35	32	38	32	34	36	42	35	36	35	36	36	33	34	35	36
Strongly disagree	25	25	25	17	28	31	26	15	29	31	15	25	34	26	26	23

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings	
American Adults		Likely Voters	June 2010 (V)	Sept 2009 (V)
TOTAL AGREE	40	40	48	45
TOTAL DISAGREE	60	60	52	56
Strongly agree	12	13	16	14
Somewhat agree	28	27	32	31
Somewhat disagree	35	34	28	36
Strongly disagree	25	26	24	20

9. Some say that instead of lifetime appointments, it would be better if U.S. Supreme Court Justices served an 18 year term with possible reappointment by the President (subject to Senate confirmation).

Which of the following comes closest to your view on U.S. Supreme Court Justices' terms?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Strongly prefer 18 year appointment	29	27	30	27	28	30	32	24	34	29	23	28	34	31	32	20
Somewhat prefer 18 year appointment	50	50	50	53	52	46	47	50	48	51	51	51	49	48	50	49
Somewhat prefer lifetime appointment	15	15	15	15	14	16	16	20	12	14	18	15	12	14	14	20
Strongly prefer lifetime appointment	6	7	5	5	5	7	5	6	5	6	8	5	5	6	4	11

July 2015 (%)			Tracked Findings
American Adults		Likely Voters	Sept 2009 (V)
Strongly prefer 18 year appointment	29	31	31
Somewhat prefer 18 year appointment	50	48	47
Somewhat prefer lifetime appointment	15	14	12
Strongly prefer lifetime appointment	6	6	11

10. If there is a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court under the next President, the President will appoint a Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court.

When you consider Presidential candidates, how important is the ability to appoint a new Justice?

| U.S. Adults (%) | | Gender | | Age | | | | Party | | | Ideology | | | Likely Voters | TV in Court | |
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Very important	**40**	42	38	33	38	46	50	44	42	36	49	36	46	43	43	32
Somewhat important	**44**	42	45	51	45	36	40	44	43	44	40	47	40	44	45	39
Not very important	**11**	11	12	12	12	12	8	9	13	13	10	12	10	10	9	20
Not at all important	**5**	6	4	4	5	6	3	3	2	7	2	5	5	3	3	9

Demographics

11. Regardless of how you might be registered to vote, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Democrat	31	27	35	29	31	34	31	100	-	-	60	31	12	34	31	31
Republican	26	28	24	21	24	32	29	-	100	-	5	21	54	29	25	29
Independent	38	40	37	47	39	31	35	-	-	89	30	45	31	33	39	35
Other	5	5	4	4	6	4	4	-	-	11	5	3	3	4	4	5

12. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself…

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Liberal	22	18	25	25	23	20	13	42	4	18	100	-	-	21	22	19
Moderate	39	40	39	34	39	42	47	39	32	44	-	100	-	42	39	42
Conservative	29	33	25	24	27	33	35	11	60	23	-	-	100	31	29	27
Other	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	-	-	-	1	1	1
Don't know	9	7	11	15	10	4	3	7	4	14	-	-	-	5	8	11

13. Are you currently registered to vote?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Yes	87	88	86	81	87	91	93	93	91	80	89	91	90	100	88	85
No	11	9	13	16	11	9	7	6	8	17	9	7	9	-	11	12
Don't know	2	2	1	3	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	-	1	2

14. How likely do you think you will be to vote in the next election for federal, state, and other offices?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Very likely	68	72	64	54	64	76	88	71	80	59	68	71	75	85	69	65
Somewhat likely	13	11	15	21	12	9	3	16	10	12	13	12	11	15	14	9
Might or might not	10	10	9	13	12	7	3	9	6	12	9	10	7	-	8	14
Somewhat unlikely	2	1	3	3	1	2	0	2	0	2	3	2	1	-	1	3
Very unlikely	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	0	2	5	2	2	2	-	3	3
Definitely will not vote	5	4	6	5	7	4	4	2	2	10	5	3	4	-	5	7

15. What is your gender?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Male	**49**	100	-	49	48	50	50	43	52	52	42	50	57	50	50	47
Female	**51**	-	100	51	52	50	50	57	48	48	58	50	43	50	50	53

16. Into which of the following categories does your age fall?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
18-24	**10**	8	12	34	-	-	-	10	9	11	15	7	9	8	11	7
25-34	**19**	21	17	66	-	-	-	16	14	24	19	18	15	18	19	18
35-49	**30**	29	31	-	100	-	-	30	28	31	32	30	28	28	31	28
50-64	**27**	27	27	-	-	100	-	29	33	22	25	28	31	29	26	31
65 and over	**14**	14	14	-	-	-	100	14	16	13	9	17	17	16	13	16

17. Which of the following best described your ethnicity or racial background?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
White, Caucasian, European-American, European	**69**	70	68	53	64	81	91	56	86	68	59	70	80	72	68	72
Black, African-American, Caribbean-American, African	**15**	15	16	22	18	11	4	28	2	15	22	14	8	15	15	16
Hispanic, Latino	**8**	8	8	11	10	5	2	10	7	7	10	9	5	6	9	5
Asian, Asian-American	**5**	6	5	8	7	2	1	5	5	6	5	6	4	5	5	5
Middle Eastern, Arab	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Native American	**1**	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Other	**2**	1	3	4	0	1	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	1	2

18. **OF THOSE WHITE, BLACK, OR OTHER:** Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic of Latino descent?

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
Yes	**5**	5	5	12	3	2	3	5	1	7	7	4	4	5	5	5
No	**95**	95	95	88	97	98	97	95	99	93	93	96	96	95	95	95

19. RACE **(CODED)**

U.S. Adults (%)		Gender		Age				Party			Ideology			Likely Voters	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Lib	Mod	Con		Agr	Dis
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	**66**	66	65	45	62	79	88	53	85	63	56	67	77	68	65	69
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC	**15**	15	15	22	17	11	4	27	2	15	21	13	8	15	15	15
HISPANIC, ANY RACE	**12**	12	12	20	12	7	5	14	8	13	16	12	9	11	13	9
OTHER	**7**	7	8	13	9	3	3	6	6	9	7	8	6	6	8	7