



C-SPAN SUPREME COURT SURVEY

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Methodology

Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) conducted online interviews on March 21-22, 2012 among n=1,000 American adults. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 3.1 at the 95% confidence level.

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

Tracking data cited in this report comes from the following studies:

- PSB Supreme Court Survey December 2011*
- PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey June 2010*
- PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey September 2009*
- PSB/C-SPAN Supreme Court Survey June 2009*

*Previous studies conducted among "Likely Voters"

Key Findings

1. In general, would you say the country is headed in the right direction, or would you say that things are headed down the wrong track?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Right direction	34	32	34	34	59	8	34	38	37	32	31
Wrong track	66	68	66	66	41	92	66	62	63	68	69

2. Generally speaking, what is your opinion of the overall effectiveness of the Supreme Court? Would you say you...

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL APPROVE	60	60	58	62	70	54	58	67	53	62	59
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	40	40	41	38	30	47	43	33	47	38	42
Strongly approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	8	9	7	9	14	6	5	8	7	8	8
Somewhat approve of the way the Supreme Court does its job	52	51	51	53	56	48	53	59	46	54	51
Somewhat disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	31	30	30	31	24	37	32	27	36	30	31
Strongly disapprove of the way the Supreme Court does its job	9	10	11	7	6	10	11	6	11	8	11

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

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Very often	20	25	25	16	19	21	21	23	18	18	23
Somewhat often	46	46	48	45	49	47	43	41	51	46	46
Not very often	30	26	24	35	29	29	31	31	26	33	28
Not at all often	4	2	3	4	3	3	5	4	6	3	3

RESPONDENTS SAW THE FOLLOWING DISPLAY: Next week, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear cases concerning the constitutionality of the health care reform law passed in 2010.

4. How interested are you in the Supreme Court’s cases concerning the constitutionality of the health care reform law?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL INTERESTED	95	98	96	95	94	96	95	97	95	95	94
TOTAL NOT INTERESTED	5	2	4	5	6	4	5	4	5	5	6
Very interested	65	74	66	64	59	73	63	62	60	68	67
Somewhat interested	30	24	30	31	35	23	32	35	35	27	27
Not very interested	4	2	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	5
Not at all interested	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

5. Which of the following best describes how closely you plan to follow news and stories on the upcoming cases concerning health care reform?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Plan to very closely follow news and stories on these cases	44	53	48	40	41	48	42	39	42	45	47
Plan to somewhat closely follow news and stories on these cases	47	40	44	49	49	43	48	52	47	47	43
Plan to not very closely follow news and stories on these cases	8	5	7	9	9	8	7	8	9	6	8
Plan to not at all closely follow news and stories on these cases	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	2

6. The Supreme Court has decided to release same day audio recordings of the hearings on the law, so the public will be able to listen to the Justices’ actual questioning of the lawyers in the case. Do you plan to make an effort to listen to the audio of these arguments?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Yes, plan to make an effort to listen to Supreme Court audio recordings	54	59	54	54	51	57	54	53	54	55	53
No, do not plan to listen to Supreme Court audio recordings	26	22	29	23	31	25	23	27	26	27	25
Don’t know	20	19	17	23	18	18	23	21	20	18	22

7. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The workings of the Supreme Court should be more open and transparent.

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL AGREE	95	96	95	94	97	94	93	94	96	94	96
TOTAL DISAGREE	5	4	5	5	3	6	7	6	4	7	4
Strongly agree	55	61	55	55	53	57	55	52	57	55	56
Somewhat agree	40	35	40	39	44	37	38	42	39	39	40
Somewhat disagree	5	4	4	5	3	6	6	5	4	6	4
Strongly disagree	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0

8. Do you feel the amount of news coverage of the Supreme Court is...

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Too much	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	4	2
Just right	36	32	34	38	40	33	36	42	35	34	36
Too little	61	66	63	60	58	65	61	57	63	62	62

9. 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.

Americans (%)		Tracked			Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
		Dec '11	June '10	June '09		M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL AGREE	74	64	63	61	73	72	76	74	71	77	72	76	75	74
TOTAL DISAGREE	26	36	37	38	27	28	24	26	30	23	29	25	25	25
Strongly agree	36	33	24	27	38	38	34	34	33	40	37	35	39	32
Somewhat agree	38	31	39	34	35	34	42	40	38	37	35	41	36	42
Somewhat disagree	18	23	24	19	18	19	17	18	20	16	22	18	16	18
Strongly disagree	8	13	13	19	9	9	7	8	10	7	7	7	9	7

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10. The news media petitioned the Supreme Court to allow television coverage of its health care law review, but TV coverage will not be permitted.

Do you believe the Supreme Court should have allowed cameras inside for the health care law review?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL SUPPORT	86	85	87	87	89	83	87	85	90	86	84
TOTAL OPPOSE	14	15	14	13	11	17	14	15	10	14	15
Strongly support televised coverage for health care law review	52	58	54	51	52	51	53	56	55	51	48
Somewhat support televised coverage for health care law review	34	27	33	36	37	32	34	29	35	35	36
Somewhat oppose televised coverage for health care law review	10	11	11	9	8	13	10	13	9	8	12
Strongly oppose televised coverage for health care law review	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	2	1	6	3

11. Do you think the health care reform oral arguments will demonstrate that the Supreme Court acts in a serious and constitutionally sound matter, or will oral arguments demonstrate the Justices are split into parties, similar to Republicans and Democrats in Congress?

Americans (%)		Tracked Dec '11	Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
				M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Supreme Court acts in a serious and constitutionally sound manner	35	39	33	33	36	40	31	33	38	37	34	31
Justices are split on political grounds	65	61	67	67	64	60	69	67	62	63	66	69

12. Which of the following Supreme Court Justice do you believe will have the biggest influence on the outcome of the court’s review of the health care law?

Americans (%)		Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
			M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
Antonin Scalia	7	9	9	6	7	7	8	9	6	8	7
Anthony Kennedy	7	7	9	5	7	7	7	10	7	6	6
Clarence Thomas	7	7	10	5	5	9	7	8	5	10	4
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	6
Stephen Breyer	3	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	4	2	2
John G. Roberts	8	9	10	5	7	10	7	6	10	8	7
Samuel Alito	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Sonia Sotomayor	8	8	9	7	10	6	7	7	8	7	8
Elena Kagan	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	3	4
Don’t know	50	47	41	59	52	47	52	46	49	50	55

13. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the health care reform law passed by the last Congress and supported by President Obama?

Americans (%)		Tracked Dec '11	Likely Voters	Gender		Party			Region			
				M	F	D	R	I	NE	MW	S	W
TOTAL FAVOR	52	43	47	48	55	82	20	52	55	56	48	50
TOTAL OPPOSE	49	57	53	52	45	18	81	48	45	44	52	50
Strongly favor	19	16	21	16	21	35	5	16	22	18	20	15
Somewhat favor	33	27	26	32	34	47	15	36	33	38	28	35
Somewhat oppose	20	20	17	19	20	13	24	22	24	19	19	18
Strongly oppose	29	37	36	33	25	5	57	26	21	25	33	32

Demographics

14. Are you registered to vote in the United States?

Americans (%)	
Yes	91
No	7
Don't know/refused	2

15. **OF THE 91% REGISTERED VOTERS:** How likely do you think you will be to vote in the next election for federal, state, and other offices in November 2012?

Americans (%)	
Definitely will vote	79
Very likely	14
Somewhat likely	4
Might or might not	3
Somewhat unlikely	0
Very unlikely	0
Definitely will not vote	0

16. In what state do you currently reside? **DISPLAYING CODED REGIONS**

Americans (%)	
Northeast	18
Midwest	23
South	34
West	25

17. Please indicate your gender.

Americans (%)	
Male	49
Female	51

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

Americans (%)	
18-24	12
25-34	18
35-49	30
50-64	23
65 and over	17

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

Americans (%)	
White, Caucasian, European-American, European	71
Black, African-American, Caribbean-American, African	11
Hispanic, Latino	10
Asian, Asian-American	6
Middle Eastern, Arab	0
Native American, American Indian	1
Other	1

20. **OF THE 83% WHITE, BLACK, OR OTHER:** Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino descent?

Americans (%)	
Yes	2
No	98

21. Race (CODED)

Americans (%)	
White	70
Black	11
Hispanic	12
Other	7

22. Do you consider yourself to be a...

Americans (%)	
Strong Democrat	20
Weak Democrat	13
Weak Republican	13
Strong Republican	19
Independent	33
Other	2

23. Party (CODED)

Americans (%)	
Democrat	33
Republican	32
Independent	35

24. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income. Into which of the following categories does your total family income fall?

Americans (%)	
Less than \$15,000	8
\$15,000 to \$30,000	19
\$30,000 to \$50,000	24
\$50,000 to \$75,000	22
\$75,000 to \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to \$150,000	10
\$150,000 to \$200,000	3
More than \$200,000	1