

APPENDIX: 2020 Annenberg Public Policy Center Constitution Day Survey

CIV1. As you may know, the First Amendment is part of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, or not?

	2020	2019*	2018*	2017	2016*
Freedom of the press	42	22	13	14	11
Freedom of speech	73	64	56	48	54
Freedom of religion	47	29	15	15	17
Right to petition/Right to petition the government	14	4	2	3	2
Right of assembly/Right of people peaceably to assemble	34	12	12	10	12
Right to bear arms	3	16	9	5	NA
Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness	1	NA	NA	2	NA
Right to Privacy	NA	3	*	NA	NA
Right to Remain Silent	NA	5	*	NA	NA
Right to Vote	NA	14	2	NA	NA
Can't name any	13	21	35	25	39
Other	3	2	3	1	NA
Don't know	6	NA	NA	12	
Refused	2	2	1	1	
N	1,009	1,007	1,009	1,013	1,006

**Data from Freedom Forum's State of the First Amendment Survey conducted by SSRS*

CIV2. Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	N
2020	80	18	1	*	1,009
2019	84	14	2	-	1,104
2018	74	25	1	*	1,008
2017	74	26	1	*	1,013
2016	77	21	2	*	1,021
2015	74	22	4	*	1,012
2014	72	25	3	*	1,416
2013	75	24	1	*	1,302
2011	73	22	6	*	1,230
2007	74	24	2	*	1,514
2006	68	26	5	*	1,002

CIV13. Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?

Based on Total Respondents

	Named all three branches	Named two branches	Named one branch	Could not name any branches	Refused	N
2020	51	17	8	23	1	1,009
2019	39	14	25	22	1	1,104
2018	32	13	21	33	1	1,008
2017	26	13	27	33	1	1,013
2016	26	12	31	31	-	1,021
2015	31	12	24	32	*	1,012
2014	36	16	13	35	*	1,416
2013	38	18	15	29	-	1,302
2011	38	13	16	33	*	1,230
2007	36	18	15	30	*	1,514
2006	33	14	17	36	-	1,002

Correct answers = Executive branch, Legislative branch, Judicial branch

CIV14. If the president and Supreme Court differ on whether an action by the president is constitutional, who has the final responsibility for determining if the action is constitutional – the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court, or are you not sure?

	President	Congress	Supreme Court	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
2020	4	29	51	15	*	1,009
2019	4	21	61	15	*	1,104

Correct answer = Supreme Court

CIV15. How much of a majority is required for the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives to override a presidential veto – 51 percent, two-thirds, three-quarters, 90 percent, or are you not sure?

	51 percent	Two-thirds	Three-quarters	90 percent	Other (Vol.)	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
2020	18	47	10	3	1	19	*	1,009
2019	17	53	7	3	1	19	-	1,104
2013	15	50	4	2	*	28	-	1,302
2011	18	51	4	2	*	25	*	1,230
2007	14	54	5	1	*	25	-	1,514

Correct answer = Two-thirds

CIV18. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean?

	2020	2019	2018
The decision is the law and needs to be followed	54	59	55
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	17	12	17
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals to be decided there	13	10	14
Don't know	13	18	13
Refused	2	1	1
<i>N</i>	1,009	1,104	1,008

Correct answer = The decision is the law and needs to be followed.

In the past, the term "lower courts" was used.

FOR COMPARISON ONLY:

	2015	2014	2013	2011	2007
The decision is the law and needs to be followed	53	47	45	48	45
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	15	21	20	13	14
The decision is sent back to the lower courts to be decided there	13	8	8	10	7
Don't know	18	25	26	29	34
Refused	1	-	*	*	*
<i>N</i>	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,514

Correct answer = The decision is the law and needs to be followed.

CIV19. Now, I'd like you to think about individual Supreme Court justices. Which comes closer to your view:

	2020	2019
Supreme Court justices set aside their personal and political views and make rulings based on the Constitution, the law, and the facts of the case	56	49
Supreme Court justices nominated by Democratic presidents are more likely to make liberal rulings and Supreme Court justices nominated by Republicans are more likely to make conservative rulings regardless of the Constitution, the law, and the facts of the case	37	41
Don't know	6	7
Refused	1	3
<i>N</i>	1,009	1,104

2020 ANNENBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER CONSTITUTION DAY SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2020 Annenberg Public Policy Center Constitution Day survey was conducted for the [Annenberg Public Policy Center](#) via telephone (CATI) by [SSRS](#), an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from **August 4-9, 2020**, among 1,009 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 704 cell phone respondents and 34 respondents who completed the survey in Spanish.

Data were weighted to the most recent March Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey estimates for gender, age, race, education, marital status, Census region, population density, and phone-usage. The adjusted margin of error for total respondents in the sample is +/- 3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The response rate was 3% (AAPOR RR 3). Totals in the topline may add up to either greater than or less than 100% due to rounding. For more detail on the methodology, including sampling, within household respondent selection, weighting variables and procedures, please visit [SSRS Omnibus](#).