

**2019 ANNENBERG CIVICS KNOWLEDGE SURVEY
APPENDIX¹**

Generally speaking, how much do you trust the Supreme Court to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know/Refused	N
2019	26	42	21	10	2	1,104
2013	14	44	26	13	4	1,302
2011	14	46	26	11	2	1,230
2007	16	50	21	10	3	1,514
2006	17	47	19	10	7	1,002
2005	21	54	15	7	3	1,504

Generally speaking, how much do you trust the Supreme Court to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

BY IDEOLOGY 2019 vs 2013

	2019			2013		
	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
A great deal/Fair amount	73	71	58	50	64	61
Not too much/not at all	25	27	41	47	33	36
Don't know/Refused	2	2	1	4	4	3
N	409	300	347	474	410	354

Do you feel that the U.S. Supreme Court, in general, has too much power, too little power or about the right amount of power?²

	Too much power	Too little power	About the right amount of power	Don't know	Refused	N
2019	21	4	70	3	*	1,104
2013	42	6	48	3	1	1,302
2007	36	9	50	4	*	1,514
2005	41	7	47	4	-	1,504

¹ Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

² Before 2019, surveys used the term “the courts” rather than “the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Thinking about the Supreme Court, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. The first is (INSERT ITEM). Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree? What about (INSERT ITEM)?

- a. If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagreed with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	8	12	20	57	3	1,104
2018	9	12	22	51	7	1,008
2013	8	15	23	51	3	1,302
2011	11	11	18	56	5	1,230
2007	8	9	20	61	2	1,514
2005	10	11	22	52	3	1,504

- b. Supreme Court Justices are just like any other politicians; we cannot trust them to decide court cases in a way that is in the best interests of our country.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	12	23	31	32	3	1,104

- c. The U.S. Supreme Court gets too mixed up in politics.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	27	30	21	18	4	1,104

- d. The U.S. Supreme Court ought to be made less independent so that it listens a lot more to what the people want.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	29	19	14	34	4	1,104

- e. The right of the Supreme Court to decide certain types of controversial issues should be reduced.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	12	24	24	33	7	1,104

Do you think the U.S. Supreme Court is generally liberal, generally conservative, or is it making rulings that are sometimes liberal and sometimes conservative depending on the constitution, the law and the facts of the case?

	Generally liberal	Generally conservative	Sometimes liberal, sometimes conservative depending on the law and facts of the case	Don't know/Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	9	19	63	9	1,104
2013	20	18	56	6	1,302

(Based on respondents who think the U.S. Supreme Court is generally liberal or conservative)

Do you think it is good or bad for our system of government if the U.S. Supreme Court is generally (liberal/conservative) in its rulings?

	Good	Bad	Don't know/Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	22	72	6	308
2013	27	67	7	495

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

	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	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	41
Don't know	7
Refused	3
<i>N</i>	1,104

In some states, many local and state judges are elected. If there was an election for judges in your state today, how important would the following be in your decision about who to vote for? That the candidate for judge (INSERT ITEM)—would that be essential, very important but not essential, somewhat important, or not too important in your decision? What about that the candidate for judge (INSERT ITEM)?

a. shares your political beliefs

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	13	22	28	35	2	1,104
2013	14	27	28	28	3	1,302
2007	11	24	28	37	1	1,514

b. will make rulings based on the facts of the case, the law and the Constitution

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	66	22	6	3	2	1,104
2013	50	37	9	2	2	1,302
2007	64	25	7	2	1	1,514

d. is fair and impartial

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	64	22	9	3	2	1,104
2013	50	35	9	5	1	1,302
2007	59	27	8	5	1	1,514

e. is highly recommended by the state bar association

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	<i>N</i>
2019	15	26	27	29	3	1,104
2013	14	29	24	29	3	1,302
2007	21	34	26	16	2	1,514

f. shares your religious beliefs

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	N
2019	8	13	15	61	2	1,104
2013	10	18	16	54	1	1,302
2007	5	16	16	63	1	1,514

Essential/Very important Summary Table*
Based on Total Respondents

	2019
Shares your political beliefs	35
Will make rulings based on the facts of the case, the law and the Constitution	89*
Is fair and impartial	87*
Is highly recommended by the state bar association	41
Shares your religious beliefs	21
N	1,104

**Combined Essential/Very important items are greater than separated items because of rounding*

Somewhat/Not too important Summary Table*
Based on Total Respondents

	2019
Shares your political beliefs	63
Will make rulings based on the facts of the case, the law and the Constitution	9
Is fair and impartial	12
Is highly recommended by the state bar association	55*
Shares your religious beliefs	77*
N	1,104

**Combined Somewhat/Not too important items differ from separated items because of rounding*

2019 ANNENBERG CIVICS KNOWLEDGE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2019 Annenberg Civics Knowledge survey was conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center via telephone (CATI) by [SSRS](#), an independent research company. Interviews were conducted **August 16 - 27, 2019** among 1,104 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 770 cell phone respondents and 38 respondents who completed the survey in Spanish.

Data were weighted to represent the target U.S. adult population. The adjusted margin of error for total respondents in the sample is +/- 3.61 % at the 95% confidence level. The response rate was 6% (AAPOR RR 3). Totals in the topline may add up to either greater than or less than 100% due to rounding. Similarly, NETs may not add up due to rounding.