

**2019 ANNENBERG CIVICS KNOWLEDGE CONSTITUTION DAY SURVEY  
APPENDIX**

Q1. Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
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

Q2. Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?

**Q2 Summary Table  
Based on Total Respondents**

	<b>Named all three branches</b>	<b>Named two branches</b>	<b>Named one branch</b>	<b>Could not name any branches</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
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

Q3. And which political party is in control of the U.S. House of Representatives, or are you not sure?

	Republican	Democrat	Other (volunteered)	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
2019	19	55	1	25	*	1,104
2013	49	17	2	32	*	1,302
2007	14	56	1	30	-	1,514

\* 2019 Correct answer= Democrat

Q4. And which political party is in control of the U.S. Senate, or are you not sure?

	Republican	Democrat	Other (volunteered)	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
2019	61	13	1	24	-	1,104

\* 2019 Correct answer= Republican

Q5. 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
2019	4	21	61	15	*	1,104

\* Correct answer= Supreme Court

Q6. 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 (volunteered)	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
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

Q7. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean (READ LIST)?

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

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

	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 <sup>1</sup>	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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Before 2018, the term "lower courts" was used.

**READ TO ALL:** I'm going to read you some statements about the U.S. Constitution, for each one please tell me how accurate you think that statement is.

Q8. How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Supreme Court has held that a citizen has a constitutional right to own a handgun?

	ACCURATE			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2019	<b>83</b>	63	20	<b>12</b>	6	7	4	1	1,104

*\* Correct answer= Accurate*

Q9. How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution allows a judge to insist that a defendant testify at his own trial?

	ACCURATE			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2019	<b>27</b>	15	13	<b>63</b>	12	50	10	*	1,104

*\* Correct answer= Inaccurate*

Q10. How accurate is it to say that those who are in the country **ILLEGALLY** do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution.

	ACCURATE			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2019	<b>40</b>	22	18	<b>55</b>	23	31	5	1	1,104
2017	<b>53</b>	34	19	<b>40</b>	19	20	6	2	1,013

*\* Correct answer= Inaccurate*

## **2019 ANNENBERG CIVICS KNOWLEDGE CONSTITUTION DAY SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The 2019 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics 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.

## Predicting Civics Knowledge Methodology

### Creating the “Civics Knowledge Scale”

Six items were included in the “Civics Knowledge Scale” (Cronbach’s alpha=.72):

- 1) Named all 3 branches of the government (q2)
- 2) Know Democrats are in control of the U.S. House of Representatives (q3)
- 3) Know Republicans are in control of the U.S. Senate (q4)
- 4) Correct in saying the Supreme Court determines if a law is constitutional (q5)
- 5) Know that it takes a 2/3 vote by both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to overturn a presidential veto (q6)
- 6) Know that a 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court means that decision is the law and needs to be followed (q7)

### Creating the “Took a High School Civics Class” Variable

The variable “Took a high school civics class” was defined by creating a dichotomous variable from the following question: “In high school, did you ever take a class in civics or a course that focused on the U.S. Constitution or judicial system, or do you not remember?” “Yes” responses were assigned a code 1 and all other responses were assigned a code 0. Those who refused to answer the question were coded as missing. 62% of the sample said they took such a course.

### Creating the “News Usage” Variable

“News Usage” was created by combining the following questions: “Now, I would like to ask about where you got your news during the past week. Please tell me how many days in the past week, if any, you did each of the following. How many days in the past week, did you:

- a) watch national network or cable news;
- b) watch local TV news—for example, ‘Eyewitness News’ or ‘Action News’;
- c) read a daily newspaper;
- d) get news online, whether on a computer, cell phone, tablet or other device.”

Answers were recorded on a 0-7 scale. The mean (avg.) number of news usage days for the combined variable created by adding each of the news usage variables and divided by 4 is 2.77 days.

## Predicting Civics Knowledge: Regression Models

We ran an OLS linear regression to determine whether taking a civics class in high school or level of media usage predicts higher civics knowledge, in the presence of statistical controls.

	MODEL 1: High School Civics as Predictor of Civics Knowledge		MODEL2: News Usage as Predictor of Civics Knowledge	
	Unstandardized B coefficient	Standard Error	Unstandardized B coefficient	Standard Error
<b>High School Civics: Yes</b>	0.764***	0.103	NA	NA
Education (low to high)	0.254***	0.023	0.278***	0.022
Gender (Male)	0.752***	0.099	0.787***	0.100
Race (White)	0.624***	0.116	0.783***	0.116
Age (18-97)	0.016***	0.003	0.007*	0.003
Ideology (Liberal to Conservative)	-0.167***	0.040	-0.129**	0.041
<b>News Use</b>	NA	NA	0.167***	0.033
Constant	0.523*	0.234	0.541*	0.235
R <sup>2</sup>	0.29		0.29	
N	985		992	

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01. \*\*\*p<.001