

2018 ANNENBERG CONSTITUTION DAY CIVICS SURVEY

For the next questions, if you aren't sure of the answer just give me your best guess

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

	2018	2017¹	2016	2015	2014	2013	2011²	2006³
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	74	74	77	74	72	75	73	68
No	25	26	21	22	25	24	22	26
Don't know	1	1	2	4	3	1	6	5
Refused	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
N →	1,008	1,013	1,021	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,002

Would you mind naming any of them (the three branches of government)?

Based on total sample

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2011	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Named all three branches	32	26	26	31	36	38	38	33
Named two branches	13	13	12	12	16	18	13	14
Named one branch	21	27	31	24	13	15	16	17
Could not name any branches	33	33	31	32	35	29	33	36
Refused	1	1	-	*	*	-	*	-
N →	1,008	1,013	1,021	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,002

¹ Total greater than 100% due to rounding

² Total greater than 100% due to rounding

³ Total less than 100% due to rounding

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. Very accurate, somewhat accurate, somewhat inaccurate, or very inaccurate?

How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution gives the president the power to grant pardons for offenses against the United States? **(ACCURATE)**

	ACCURATE %			INACCURATE %			Don't know %	Refused %
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET ⁴	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate		
2018 (N= 1,008)	68	35	33	24	12	13	6	1

How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution allows the president to be removed from office if the president is impeached for and convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors? **(ACCURATE)**

	ACCURATE %			INACCURATE %			Don't know %	Refused %
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET ⁵	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate		
2018 (N= 1,008)	82	62	20	13	6	6	5	1

How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count the number of persons in the United States every ten years? **(ACCURATE)**

	ACCURATE %			INACCURATE %			Don't know %	Refused %
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET ⁶	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate		
2018 (N= 1,008)	75	53	22	19	10	8	6	*

⁴ Net does not add up due to rounding

⁵ Net does not add up due to rounding

⁶ Net does not add up due to rounding

How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution permits the president to ignore a Supreme Court ruling if the president believes the ruling is wrong? **(INACCURATE)**

	ACCURATE %			INACCURATE %			Don't know %	Refused %
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate		
2018 (N= 1,008)	27	9	18	65⁷	21	43	7	1

US-09. How accurate is it to say that under the U.S. Constitution, when a president vetoes legislation, the bill becomes a law if two-thirds of the members in each house of the U.S. Congress vote to override the president's veto? **(ACCURATE)**

	ACCURATE %			INACCURATE %			Don't know %	Refused %
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate		
2018 (N= 1,008)	73	52	21	18	11	7	8	1

⁷ Net does not add up due to rounding

US-10. When a U.S. Supreme Court justice retires, the president nominates a new justice. According to the U.S. Constitution, which of the following decides whether to confirm the justice:
(READ LIST)

	2018 ⁸ %
The U.S. House of Representatives	9
Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate	41
The U.S. Senate (CORRECT)	30
The other justices on the Supreme Court	6
(Do not read) Don't know	12
(Do not read) Refused	1
N→	1,008

⁸ Total less than 100% due to rounding

US-11. *If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean (READ LIST)?

	2018
	%
The decision is the law and needs to be followed (CORRECT)	55
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	17
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals to be decided there	14
Don't know	13
Refused	1
N →	1,008

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

FOR COMPARISON ONLY:

	2015	2014⁹	2013¹⁰	2011	2007
	%	%	%	%	%
The decision is the law and needs to be followed (CORRECT)	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	-	*	*	*
N →	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,514

⁹ Total greater than 100% due to rounding

¹⁰ Total less than 100% due to rounding

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)**. What about **(INSERT)**?¹¹

	Agree			Disagree			DK/Ref
	NET	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	NET	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
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							
*2018 (n=1,008)	21	9	12	73	22	51	7
2013 (n=1,302)	23	8	15	74	23	51	3
*2011 (n=1,230)	22	11	11	74	18	56	5
2007(n=1,514)	17	8	9	81	20	61	2
**2005(n=1,504)	21	10	11	75	22	53	3
b. When Congress disagrees with the Supreme Court's decisions, Congress should pass legislation saying the Supreme Court can no longer rule on that issue or topic							
2018 (n=1,008)	28	11	17	65	22	43	7
2013 (n=1,302)	23	6	17	71	22	49	6
*2011 (n=1,230)	23	8	15	69	21	48	9
*2007(n=1,514)	22	8	14	73	22	51	6

¹¹ *Net+DK/Ref greater than 100% due to rounding**Net+DK/Ref less than 100% due to rounding

2018 ANNENBERG CONSTITUTION DAY CIVICS SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2018 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 during two time periods (where indicated) **August 8-12, 2018** among 1,008 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 610 cell phone respondents and 39 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 +/- 3.81 % at the 95% confidence level. The response rate was 5% (AAPOR RR 3). For more detail on the methodology, including sampling, within household respondent selection, weighting variables and procedures, please visit [SSRS Omnibus](#).