

**Appendix  
Annenberg Public Policy Center  
2021 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? (DO NOT READ LIST)

(Highlighted items are correct)

	2021	2020	2019**	2018**	2017	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Freedom of the press</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Freedom of speech</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Freedom of religion</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Right to petition/Right to petition the government</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Right of assembly/Right of people peaceably to assemble</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
Right to bear arms	3	3	16	9	5	NA
Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness	NA	1	NA	NA	2	NA
Right to privacy	NA	NA	3	*	NA	NA
Right to remain silent	NA	NA	5	*	NA	NA
Right to vote	NA	NA	14	2	NA	NA
Can't name any	13	13	21	35	25	39
Other	2	3	2	3	1	NA
Don't know	4	6	NA	NA	12	
Refused	2	2	2	1	1	
N	1,007	1,009	1,007	1,009	1,013	1,006

\*=less than 0.5%

\*\*Data from Freedom Forum's State of the First Amendment Survey conducted by SSRS  
(Total is greater than 100% because multiple responses were accepted.)

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

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	
2021	83	16	*	1	1,007
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

\*=less than 0.5%

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

**CIV12/CIV13 Summary Table  
Based on Total Respondents**

	Named all three branches	Named two branches	Named one branch	Could not name any branches	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	%	
2021	56	14	9	20	1	1,007
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

\*=less than 0.5%

**Correct answers= Executive branch, Legislative branch, Judicial branch**

CIV15. How accurate is it to say that the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of speech means that Facebook must permit all Americans to freely express themselves on Facebook pages?

2021	ACCURATE (NET)	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	INACCURATE (NET)	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate	Don't know	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
TOTAL	<b>61</b>	30	31	<b>39</b>	18	21	*	*	1,007
CONSERVATIVE	<b>66</b>	35	30	<b>33</b>	13	21	*	1	340
MODERATE	<b>61</b>	27	34	<b>38</b>	22	16	1	1	375
LIBERAL	<b>55</b>	27	29	<b>44</b>	20	25	1	-	282

\*=less than 0.5%

**Correct answers=Somewhat inaccurate/Very inaccurate**

CIV16. How accurate is it to say that arresting those who entered the U.S. Capitol on January 6th to disrupt the certification of the 2020 presidential election violated the U.S. Constitution, because they were exercising their constitutional right to petition the government for redress of grievances?

2021	ACCURATE (NET)	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	INACCURATE (NET)	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate	Don't know	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
TOTAL	<b>49</b>	24	25	<b>49</b>	19	30	1	1	1,007
CONSERVATIVE	<b>53</b>	24	30	<b>45</b>	17	28	1	1	340
MODERATE	<b>51</b>	26	26	<b>46</b>	20	25	2	1	375
LIBERAL	<b>42</b>	24	18	<b>56</b>	18	38	*	2	282

\*=less than 0.5%

CIV19. 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
	%	%	%	%	%	
2021	7	26	51	16	*	1,007
2020	4	29	51	15	*	1,009
2019	4	21	61	15	*	1,104

\*=less than 0.5%

**Correct answer= Supreme Court**

CIV10. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean? (READ LIST)

	2021	2020	2019	2018
	%	%	%	%
The decision is the law and needs to be followed	61	54	59	55
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	19	17	12	17
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals* to be decided there	15	13	10	14
Don't know (NOT READ)	4	13	18	13
Refused (NOT READ)	1	2	1	1
N	1,007	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 (NOT READ)	18	25	26	29	34
Refused (NOT READ)	1	-	*	*	*
N	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,514

\*=less than 0.5%

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

CIV18. What is the number of years in a single term which a member of (INSERT ITEM) is elected? (DO NOT READ LIST)

a. the U.S. Senate

	2021
	%
1 year	*
2 years	19
3 years	4
4 years	28
5 years	4
<b>6 years</b>	<b>35</b>
7 years	1
8 years	2
More than 8 years	1
Not 6 years (NET)	59
Don't know	6
Refused	1
N	1,007

\*=less than 0.5%

**Correct answer= 6 years**

b. the U.S. House of Representatives

	2021
	%
1 year	1
<b>2 years</b>	<b>36</b>
3 years	5
4 years	29
5 years	2
6 years	16
7 years	1
8 years	2
More than 8 years	1
Not 2 years (NET)	57
Don't know	6
Refused	*
N	1,007

\*=less than 0.5%

**Correct answer= 2 years**

**(Asked if respondent has at least some high school education)**

US-06. In high school, did you ever take a class in civics or a course that focused on the U.S. Constitution or the judicial system, or do you not remember?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Don't remember	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	
2021	59	28	13	-	993
2019	62	24	14	*	1,076
2015	54	30	15	*	1,012
2013	61	25	14	0	1,255
2011	62	23	15	*	1,190

\*=less than 0.5%

**(Asked if respondent has at least some college education)**

US-07. While you were in college, did you ever take a course that focused on understanding the U.S. system of government and the Constitution, or do you not remember?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Don't remember	Refused	N
	%	%	%	%	
2021	48	43	9	-	787
2019	38	59	3	*	822
2015	36	62	2	*	613
2013	38	61	2	0	800
2011	39	57	4	*	820

\*=less than 0.5%

**Linear regression: Taking a high school civics class as a predictor of civics knowledge items (controlling for sex, age, education, race, and political ideology)**

*We created a Knowledge Index comprising seven items: 1) correctly naming all three branches, 2) correctly naming First Amendment rights, 3) knowing the number of years to which a member of the U.S. Senate is elected, 4) knowing the number of years to which a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is elected, 5) saying it is inaccurate that the First Amendment says Facebook must permit all Americans to freely express themselves on Facebook pages, 6) saying the Supreme Court has the final say about whether a law is constitutional, and 7) knowing the meaning of a 5-4 Supreme Court decision*

	Model (Unstandardized B)(SE)
High School Civics (Yes, have taken)	.107 (.014)***
Sex (Male)	.034 (.013)*
Education (range low to high)	.018 (.004)***
Race (White)	.082 (.016)**
Age (18-97)	-.003 (.000)*
Ideology (Very liberal to very conservative)	-.018 (.006)**
Constant	.368 (.032)***
R <sup>2</sup> =.14	
N=960	

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

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2021 Annenberg Civics Knowledge survey was conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center via telephone (CATI) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from August 3-8, 2021, with 1,007 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 776 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 +/- 3.8 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](#).