

Annenberg Public Policy Center
2022 Constitution Day Survey

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2022 Annenberg Civics Survey was conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center via telephone (CATI) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted **August 2 – August 13, 2022**, among **1,113** U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 889 cell phone respondents and 37 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 +/-3.58% at the 95% confidence level. The design effect is 1.48. Totals in the topline may add up to either greater than or less than 100% due to rounding. For more information on the [methodology click here](#).

Results are reported as percentages. Because percentages are rounded, they may not total 100%. Overall and net percentages may not exactly match sum of corresponding percentages.

An asterisk () indicates less than 0.5%.*

CIVI3. Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	N
2022	84	14	2	-	1,113
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
2006	68	26	5	*	1,002

CIVI4. Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?

CIVI3/CIVI4 Summary Table**
Based on Total Respondents

	Named all three branches	Named two branches	Named one branch	Could not name any branches	Refused	N
2022	47	18	11	25	*	1,113
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
2006	33	14	17	36	-	1,002

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

CIVI5. 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?

	2022	2021	2020	2019**	2018**	2017	2016**
Freedom of the press	20	50	42	22	13	14	11
Freedom of speech	63	74	73	64	56	48	54
Freedom of religion	24	56	47	29	15	15	17
Right to petition/ Right to petition the government	6	20	14	4	2	3	2
Right of assembly/Right of people peaceably to assemble	16	30	34	12	12	10	12
Right to bear arms	9	3	3	16	9	5	NA
Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness	2	NA	1	NA	NA	2	NA
Right to Privacy	NA	NA	NA	3	*	NA	NA
Right to Remain Silent	NA	NA	NA	5	*	NA	NA
Right to Vote	NA	NA	NA	14	2	NA	NA
Can't name any	19	13	13	21	35	25	39
Other	6	2	3	2	3	1	NA
Don't know	7	4	6	NA	NA	12	
Refused	*	2	2	2	1	1	
N	1,113	1,007	1,009	1,007	1,009	1,013	1,006

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

CIVI9. How accurate is it to say that protection from "unreasonable searches and seizures" is a protection, guarantee or right that appears in the U.S. Bill of Rights? Is that... [READ LIST]

	2022
Accurate (NET)**	78
Very accurate	54
Somewhat accurate	24
Inaccurate (NET)	16
Somewhat inaccurate	11
Very inaccurate	6
Don't know	6
Refused	*
N	1,113

** Correct answer= Accurate

CIVI9a. 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? [READ LIST]

	2022
Accurate (NET)	51
Very accurate	26
Somewhat accurate	25
Inaccurate (NET)**	46
Somewhat inaccurate	21
Very inaccurate	24
Don't know	3
Refused	1
N	1,113

** Correct answer= Inaccurate

2022	ACCURATE (NET)	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	INACCURATE (NET)	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate	Don't know	Refused	N
TOTAL	51	26	25	46	21	24	3	1	1,113
CONSERVATIVE	63	40	23	34	14	19	2	*	377
MODERATE	50	22	28	48	24	24	2	-	319
LIBERAL	41	16	25	55	26	29	3	1	366

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

CIVI12. According to the U.S. Constitution, which of the following is true? (READ LIST)

	Congress can prohibit citizens from attending a church if that church holds positions that a majority of the public considers dangerous	Congress can outlaw atheism because the United States is one country under God	Congress cannot establish an official religion of the United States**	Don't know	Refused	N
2022	8	7	76	8	2	1,113
2016	6	9	77	7	1	1,021

** Correct answer= "Congress cannot establish an official religion of the United States"

CIVI15A. 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? [READ LIST]

	ACCURATE**			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate			
2022	76	50	25	16	11	6	7	1	1,113
2018	73	52	21	18	11	7	8	1	1,008

** Correct answer= Accurate

CIVI17. 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? [READ LIST]

	President	Congress	Supreme Court**	Not sure/ Don't know	Refused	N
2022	4	22	46	28	*	1,113
2021	7	26	51	16	*	1,007
2020	4	29	51	15	*	1,009
2019	4	21	61	15	*	1,104

** Correct answer= Supreme Court

CIVI18. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean?

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
The decision is the law and needs to be followed**	55	61	54	59	55
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	16	19	17	12	17
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals to be decided there***	16	15	13	10	14
Don't know	13	4	13	18	13
Refused	*	1	2	1	1
<i>N</i>	1,113	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	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.

CIVI23. 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? [READ LIST]

	ACCURATE			INACCURATE **			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate			
2022	22	7	15	73	18	54	5	-	1,113
2018	27	9	18	65	21	43	7	1	1,008

** Correct answer= Inaccurate

CIVI27. How accurate is it to say that under the U.S. Constitution, U.S. citizens who are atheists have the same rights as all other citizens? Is that... [READ LIST]¹

	ACCURATE**			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	NET	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate			
2022	88	79	9	10	4	5	2	*	1,113
2017	79	61	18	15	5	10	5	2	1,013

** Correct answer= Accurate

CIVI29. How accurate is it to say that those who are in the country ILLEGALLY do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution. [READ LIST]

	ACCURATE			INACCURATE**			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2022	40	23	17	57	28	30	3	*	1,113
2019	40	22	18	55	23	31	5	1	1,104
2017	53	34	19	40	19	20	6	2	1,013

** Correct answer= Inaccurate

CIVI30. 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? [READ LIST]

	ACCURATE**			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2022	82	61	20	15	5	10	3	1	1,113
2019	83	63	20	12	6	7	4	1	1,104

** Correct answer= Accurate

CIVI31. How accurate is it to say that the U.S. Constitution allows a judge to insist that a defendant testify at his own trial? [READ LIST]

	ACCURATE**			INACCURATE			Don't know	Refused	N
	NET	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	NET	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate			
2022	32	13	19	63	15	48	4	*	1,113
2019	27	15	13	63	12	50	10	*	1,104

** Correct answer= Inaccurate

¹ Question was originally read as "Under the U.S. Constitution, U.S. citizens who are atheists have the same rights as all other citizens"

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

Q54. In high school, did you ever take a class in civics or a course that focused on the US Constitution or the judicial system, or do you not remember?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Don't remember	Refused	N
2022	65	23	11	*	1,083
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

(Asked if respondent has at least some college education)

Q55. 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
2022	36	54	10	*	835
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

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 five items: 1) correctly naming all three branches, 2) correctly naming First Amendment rights, 3) saying it is inaccurate that the First Amendment says Facebook must permit all Americans to freely express themselves on Facebook pages, 4) saying the Supreme Court has the final say about whether a law is constitutional, and 5) knowing the meaning of a 5-4 Supreme Court decision.

	Model (Unstandardized B)(SE)
High School Civics (Yes, have taken)	.079 (.014)***
Sex (Male)	.081 (.013)***
Education (range low to high)	.031 (.003)***
Race (White)	.064 (.014)***
Age (18-97)	-.002 (.000)***
Ideology (Very liberal to very conservative)	-.009 (.006)
Constant	.187 (.028)***
R ² =.19	
N=952	