

Annenberg Public Policy Center  
2022 Judicial Branch Survey

**SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The 2022 Annenberg Judicial Branch 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 224 landline phone respondents, 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. 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%.*

JUD1. Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Supreme Court is handling its job? Do you strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

	<b>2022</b>
<b>Disapprove (NET)</b>	<b>53</b>
Disapprove strongly	36
Disapprove somewhat	17
<b>Approve (NET)</b>	<b>39</b>
Approve somewhat	22
Approve strongly	7
Don't know	7
Refused	1
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>

JUD1. Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Supreme Court is handling its job? Do you strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

By Party Identification

Party	NET Approve	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	NET Disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/Refused
Democrat	21	5	16	76	20	56	3
Ind/Oth/None <sup>†</sup>	38	15	22	51	16	35	11
Republican	68	38	31	25	13	13	6
Total	39	17	22	53	17	36	8

<sup>†</sup> Those who identify as *Independents, other party, or no party*

Q16. Generally speaking, how much do you trust (INSERT ITEM) to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

e. the U.S. Supreme Court

	<b>NET Distrust</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Not too much</b>	<b>NET Trust</b>	<b>A fair amount</b>	<b>A great deal</b>	<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>	<i>N</i>
2022	<b>53</b>	24	28	<b>46</b>	30	16	1	<i>1,113</i>
2019	<b>31</b>	10	21	<b>68</b>	42	26	2	<i>1,104</i>
2013	<b>38</b>	13	26	<b>58</b>	44	14	4	<i>1,302</i>
2011	<b>37</b>	11	26	<b>60</b>	46	14	2	<i>1,230</i>
2007	<b>31</b>	10	21	<b>66</b>	50	16	3	<i>1,514</i>
2006	<b>30</b>	10	19	<b>64</b>	47	17	7	<i>1,002</i>
2005	<b>22</b>	7	15	<b>75</b>	54	21	3	<i>1,504</i>

Q16. Generally speaking, how much do you trust (INSERT ITEM) to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

e. the U.S. Supreme Court

By Party Identification

Year	Party	NET Distrust	Not at all	Not too much	NET Trust	A fair amount	A great deal	Don't know/Refused
2022	Democrat	<b>68</b>	36	32	<b>32</b>	24	8	0
2022	Ind/Oth/None	<b>54</b>	25	29	<b>44</b>	28	16	2
2022	Republican	<b>29</b>	8	21	<b>70</b>	42	28	1
2022	Total	<b>53</b>	24	28	<b>46</b>	30	16	1
2019	Democrat	<b>36</b>	6	30	<b>63</b>	44	19	1
2019	Ind/Oth/None	<b>32</b>	13	19	<b>67</b>	43	24	1
2019	Republican	<b>22</b>	8	15	<b>76</b>	39	36	2
2019	Total	<b>31</b>	10	21	<b>68</b>	42	26	2
2013	Democrat	<b>33</b>	9	25	<b>64</b>	47	18	2
2013	Ind/Oth/None	<b>39</b>	14	24	<b>56</b>	43	14	5
2013	Republican	<b>45</b>	16	29	<b>52</b>	43	9	3
2013	Total	<b>38</b>	13	26	<b>58</b>	44	14	4
2011	Democrat	<b>36</b>	10	26	<b>61</b>	43	19	2
2011	Ind/Oth/None	<b>41</b>	13	29	<b>56</b>	43	14	2
2011	Republican	<b>31</b>	8	23	<b>67</b>	56	10	2
2011	Total	<b>37</b>	11	26	<b>60</b>	46	14	3
2007	Democrat	<b>39</b>	11	28	<b>56</b>	44	11	5
2007	Ind/Oth/None	<b>33</b>	12	21	<b>64</b>	49	15	3
2007	Republican	<b>17</b>	5	12	<b>80</b>	56	24	3
2007	Total	<b>31</b>	10	21	<b>66</b>	50	16	4
2006	Democrat	<b>32</b>	9	23	<b>63</b>	50	13	5
2006	Ind/Oth/None	<b>34</b>	14	20	<b>59</b>	45	13	8
2006	Republican	<b>21</b>	7	14	<b>74</b>	49	25	5
2006	Total	<b>30</b>	10	19	<b>64</b>	47	17	7
2005	Democrat	<b>24</b>	8	16	<b>74</b>	58	16	2
2005	Ind/Oth/None	<b>23</b>	9	14	<b>74</b>	56	17	4
2005	Republican	<b>20</b>	4	16	<b>77</b>	48	29	3
2005	Total	<b>22</b>	7	15	<b>75</b>	54	21	3

Q16. Generally speaking, how much do you trust (INSERT ITEM) to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

f. the Federal and state courts

	<b>NET Distrust</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Not too much</b>	<b>NET Trust</b>	<b>A fair amount</b>	<b>A great deal</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
2022	<b>51</b>	18	32	<b>48</b>	39	8	1	<i>1,113</i>

Q17. 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

	<b>NET Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>NET Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
2022	<b>72</b>	49	23	<b>26</b>	16	10	2	<i>1,113</i>
2021	<b>65</b>	41	24	<b>34</b>	23	11	1	<i>1,008</i>
2019	<b>77</b>	57	20	<b>20</b>	12	8	3	<i>1,104</i>
2018	<b>73</b>	51	22	<b>21</b>	12	9	7	<i>1,008</i>
2015	<b>70</b>	46	24	<b>25</b>	12	14	5	<i>1,012</i>
2013	<b>74</b>	51	23	<b>23</b>	15	8	3	<i>1,302</i>
2011	<b>74</b>	56	18	<b>22</b>	11	11	5	<i>1,230</i>
2007	<b>80</b>	61	20	<b>17</b>	9	8	2	<i>1,514</i>
2005	<b>75</b>	52	22	<b>22</b>	11	10	3	<i>1,504</i>

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: By Party Identification

Year	Party	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/Refused
2022	Democrat	72	43	29	27	19	8	1
2022	Ind/Oth/None	69	47	22	29	17	12	2
2022	Republican	82	65	17	15	9	7	3
2022	Total	72	49	23	26	16	10	2
2021	Democrat	58	35	24	42	28	14	0
2021	Ind/Oth/None	69	48	21	30	22	8	1
2021	Republican	69	43	26	30	20	10	1
2021	Total	65	41	24	34	23	11	1
2019	Democrat	78	59	19	19	12	7	2
2019	Ind/Oth/None	76	54	22	22	13	10	2
2019	Republican	80	64	16	18	10	8	2
2019	Total	77	57	20	20	12	8	3
2018	Democrat	75	50	24	20	13	7	6
2018	Ind/Oth/None	68	48	21	25	16	9	7
2018	Republican	85	63	22	12	5	7	3
2018	Total	73	51	22	21	12	9	6
2015	Democrat	73	50	24	22	12	10	5
2015	Ind/Oth/None	69	45	24	27	11	16	4
2015	Republican	69	46	23	29	14	16	2
2015	Total	70	46	24	25	12	14	5
2013	Democrat	77	51	26	21	13	8	2
2013	Ind/Oth/None	74	53	21	22	15	7	4
2013	Republican	72	48	24	26	17	9	2
2013	Total	74	51	23	23	15	8	3
2011	Democrat	76	56	19	21	11	10	3
2011	Ind/Oth/None	72	55	17	24	12	13	4
2011	Republican	77	60	17	19	10	9	4
2011	Total	74	56	18	22	11	11	4
2007	Democrat	79	59	20	18	10	8	4
2007	Ind/Oth/None	79	57	22	19	10	9	2
2007	Republican	84	69	15	14	8	6	2
2007	Total	80	61	20	17	9	8	3
2005	Democrat	72	49	23	26	14	13	2
2005	Ind/Oth/None	76	54	21	21	11	10	4
2005	Republican	78	56	22	18	10	8	4
2005	Total	75	53	22	22	11	10	3

Q17. 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)? (CONTINUED)

- 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

	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/Refused	N
2022	<b>48</b>	23	25	<b>50</b>	28	21	2	1,113
2019	<b>63</b>	32	31	<b>35</b>	23	12	3	1,104

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

	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/Refused	N
2022	<b>28</b>	12	16	<b>69</b>	28	42	3	1,113
2019	<b>39</b>	18	21	<b>57</b>	30	27	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

	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/Refused	N
2022	<b>41</b>	25	17	<b>56</b>	22	35	2	1,113
2019	<b>47</b>	34	14	<b>49</b>	19	29	4	1,104

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

	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/Refused	N
2022	<b>49</b>	28	21	<b>48</b>	27	20	3	1,113
2019	<b>57</b>	33	24	<b>36</b>	24	12	7	1,104

Q17. 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)?  
(CONTINUED)

- f. 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

	<b>NET Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>NET Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
2022	<b>58</b>	37	21	<b>38</b>	26	12	4	<i>1,113</i>
2021	<b>61</b>	33	28	<b>38</b>	26	12	1	<i>1,008</i>
2018	<b>65</b>	43	22	<b>28</b>	17	11	7	<i>1,008</i>
2015	<b>67</b>	40	27	<b>26</b>	17	10	6	<i>1,012</i>
2013	<b>71</b>	49	22	<b>23</b>	17	6	6	<i>1,302</i>
2011	<b>69</b>	48	21	<b>23</b>	15	8	9	<i>1,230</i>
2007	<b>73</b>	51	22	<b>21</b>	14	8	6	<i>1,514</i>

f. 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  
By Party Identification

Year	Party	NET Disagree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	NET Agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't Know/Refused
2022	Democrat	44	20	24	51	34	17	5
2022	Ind/Oth/None	59	37	22	38	26	12	3
2022	Republican	77	62	15	21	14	7	2
2022	Total	58	37	21	38	26	12	4
2021	Democrat	57	25	32	41	27	14	2
2021	Ind/Oth/None	67	37	30	32	21	11	1
2021	Republican	60	39	21	40	30	11	0
2021	Total	61	33	28	38	26	12	1
2018	Democrat	65	45	20	31	19	12	4
2018	Ind/Oth/None	64	40	24	28	18	11	7
2018	Republican	72	51	22	24	15	8	4
2018	Total	65	43	22	28	17	11	8
2015	Democrat	73	47	26	21	12	9	6
2015	Ind/Oth/None	66	38	28	28	18	10	6
2015	Republican	66	37	28	31	21	10	4
2015	Total	67	40	27	26	17	10	6
2013	Democrat	74	52	22	20	15	5	6
2013	Ind/Oth/None	68	49	19	25	18	6	7
2013	Republican	71	47	24	24	17	7	5
2013	Total	71	49	22	23	17	6	6
2011	Democrat	69	50	19	25	15	10	7
2011	Ind/Oth/None	70	49	21	21	12	8	9
2011	Republican	69	46	24	21	16	5	10
2011	Total	69	48	21	23	15	8	9
2007	Democrat	72	50	22	22	12	10	6
2007	Ind/Oth/None	73	50	23	21	14	6	7
2007	Republican	75	54	21	20	14	6	5
2007	Total	73	51	22	21	14	8	6



Q19. 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?<sup>1</sup>

	Too much power	Too little power	About the right amount of power	Don't know	Refused	N
2022	42	3	54	1	*	1,113
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

JUD3. What is your guess as to whether a majority of the current US Supreme Court Justices were appointed by Democratic or Republican presidents? Would you say definitely or probably appointed by Democratic/Republican presidents?

	2022
<b>Definitely/Probably appointed by Democratic presidents (NET)</b>	<b>18</b>
Definitely a majority appointed by Democratic presidents	6
Probably a majority appointed by Democratic presidents	11
<b>Probably/Definitely appointed by Republican presidents (NET)**</b>	<b>68</b>
Probably a majority appointed by Republican presidents	28
Definitely a majority appointed by Republican presidents	40
Don't know	13
Refused	1
N	1,113

\*\* Correct answers= Probably a majority appointed by Republican presidents, Definitely a majority appointed by Republican presidents

Q18. 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	N
2022	8	36	49	6	1,113
2019	9	19	63	9	1,104
2013	20	18	56	6	1,302

<sup>1</sup> Before 2019, surveys used the term “the courts.”

**(Respondents who think the U.S. Supreme Court is generally liberal or conservative)**

Q20. 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?

	<b>Good</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	<b>N</b>
2022	18	75	7	465
2019	22	72	6	308
2013	27	67	7	495

**Q18/Q20 Combo Table  
Based on Total Respondents**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>
The U.S. Supreme Court is generally liberal	8	9
Good for our system of government	2	2
Bad for our system of government	5	7
Don't know/Refused	*	*
The U.S. Supreme Court is generally conservative	36	19
Good for our system of government	6	4
Bad for our system of government	27	13
Don't know/Refused	3	1
The U.S. Supreme Court is sometimes liberal, sometimes conservative depending on the law and the facts of the case	49	63
Don't know/Refused	6	9
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>	<i>1,104</i>

Q23. Now, I'd like you to think about individual Supreme Court justices. Which comes closer to your view:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
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	40	59	56	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	49	37	37	41
Don't know	9	2	6	7
Refused	2	1	1	3
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,009</i>	<i>1,104</i>

Q23. Now, I'd like you to think about individual Supreme Court justices. Which comes closer to your view:  
By Party Identification

<b>Year</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
2022	Democrat	62	29	8
2022	Ind/Oth/None	48	41	11
2022	Republican	34	55	10
2022	Total	49	40	11
2021	Democrat	37	59	4
2021	Ind/Oth/None	40	56	4
2021	Republican	36	62	2
2021	Total	37	59	4
2020	Democrat	38	56	5
2020	Ind/Oth/None	38	53	9
2020	Republican	34	61	5
2020	Total	37	56	7
2019	Democrat	50	42	8
2019	Ind/Oth/None	37	51	12
2019	Republican	38	53	9
2019	Total	41	49	10

JUD4. How much do you favor or oppose a proposal to increase the number of justices on the US Supreme Court, or don't you have an opinion one way or the other? Do you strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

	<b>2022</b>
<b>Favor (NET)</b>	<b>30</b>
Strongly favor	18
Somewhat favor	11
<b>Oppose (NET)</b>	<b>38</b>
Somewhat oppose	9
Strongly oppose	29
No opinion, one way or the other	32
Refused	1
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>

INTROQ36. The following questions are about the courts, in general.

Q36. 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

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important, but not essential</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	<i>N</i>
2022	12	22	27	38	2	<i>1,113</i>
2019	13	22	28	35	2	<i>1,104</i>
2013	14	27	28	28	3	<i>1,302</i>
2007	11	24	28	37	1	<i>1,514</i>

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

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important, but not essential</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	<i>N</i>
2022	65	25	6	3	1	<i>1,113</i>
2019	66	22	6	3	2	<i>1,104</i>
2013	50	37	9	2	2	<i>1,302</i>
2007	64	25	7	2	1	<i>1,514</i>

Q36. 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)? (CONTINUED)

d. is fair and impartial

	Essential	Very important, but not essential	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know/ Refused	N
2022	66	25	6	2	1	1,113
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	N
2022	18	27	27	25	3	1,113
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
2022	4	12	14	70	*	1,113
2019	8	13	15	61	2	1,104
2013	10	18	16	54	1	1,302
2007	5	16	16	63	1	1,514

**Q36 Essential/Very important Summary Table  
Based on Total Respondents**

	2022	2019
Shares your political beliefs	34	35
Will make rulings based on the facts of the case, the law and the Constitution	90	89
Is fair and impartial	91	87
Is highly recommended by the state bar association	45	41
Shares your religious beliefs	16	21
N	1,113	1,104

**Q36 Somewhat/Not too important Summary Table  
Based on Total Respondents**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>
Shares your political beliefs	64	63
Will make rulings based on the facts of the case, the law and the Constitution	9	9
Is fair and impartial	9	12
Is highly recommended by the state bar association	52	55
Shares your religious beliefs	84	77
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>	<i>1,104</i>

Q37. As you may know, a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision found that the United States Constitution does not guarantee a right to abortion and that abortion laws can be set by each state. All in all, do you (approve) or (disapprove) of this decision? Do you strongly or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?]

	<b>2022</b>
<b>Disapprove (NET)</b>	<b>58</b>
Strongly disapprove	50
Somewhat disapprove	8
<b>Approve (NET)</b>	<b>39</b>
Somewhat approve	12
Strongly approve	27
Don't know	2
Refused	1
<i>N</i>	<i>1,113</i>