

# Appendix – Topline Results & Question Wording

Generally speaking, how much do you trust **the U.S. Supreme Court** to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

- 4 A great deal
- 3 A fair amount
- 2 Not too much
- 1 Not at all
- 998 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 [PN: IF WEB:] Decline/Web blank

**Figure 1 – Trust in the Supreme Court**

Year	Independents*	Democrats	Republicans	U.S. Adults
2005	74%	74	77	75
2006	59	63	74	64
2007	64	56	80	66
2011	56	61	67	60
2013	56	64	52	58
2019	67	63	76	68
2022	44	32	70	46
2023	49	39	72	53

\*Includes Independents and those who identify with a third party or no party.

Note: Percent reporting “a great deal” or “a fair amount”.

**Figure 2 – Confidence in the Three Branches**

This data is originally from Gallup:

1972 – 2022: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/402737/trust-federal-government-branches-continues-falter.aspx>

2023: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/512651/americans-trust-local-government-congress-least.aspx>

### Figure 3 – Trust in the Judiciary

Generally speaking, how much do you trust **the judicial branch as a whole** to operate in the best interests of the American people—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all?

- 4 A great deal
- 3 A fair amount
- 2 Not too much
- 1 Not at all
- 998 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 [PN: IF WEB:] Decline/Web blank

Demographic	Category	Not at all	Not too much	A fair amount	A great deal
Age	65+	3%	27	51	19
	50-64	3	25	57	15
	30-49	3	35	51	12
	18-29	12	32	48	8
Education	No College	6	32	50	13
	College+	3	27	56	15
Gender	Female	4	31	53	12
	Male	5	28	52	15
Party ID	Independent	6	30	51	13
	Republican	3	27	53	17
	Democrat	2	33	52	14
Race	White	4	32	52	12
	Black	7	34	45	14
	Hispanic	4	26	52	18
	Asian	4	21	68	7
Education	Civics Education	4	27	53	16
	No Civics	4	29	58	10

\*Includes Independents and those who identify with a third party or no party.  
 Note: Values less than 3% are omitted from the figure for clarity.

## Figure 4 – Civics Knowledge

BRANCH1. Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 998 **[PN: IF CATI:]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 **[PN: IF CATI:]** (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Decline/Web blank

BRANCH2. Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?

**[PN: IF CATI: (DO NOT READ LIST; ALLOW UP TO 3 RESPONSES)]**

**[PN: IF CATI: (IF RESPONDENT NAMES ONLY 1 OR 2, PROBE: “Any others?”)]**

**[PN: IF WEB: (Please type each branch of government you know of in the text boxes below, up to 3)]**

Branches Named	U.S. Adults
0	19%
1	9
2	13
3	58

SCAPPOINT. Some judges in the U.S. are (elected); others are (appointed) to the bench. Do you happen to know if the justices to the U.S. Supreme Court are (elected) or (appointed) to the bench?

- 1 Elected
- 2 Appointed **[CORRECT]**
- 998 **[PN: IF CATI:]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 **[PN: IF CATI:]** (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Decline/Web blank

Response	U.S. Adults
Elected	19
Appointed	81

CHECKBALANCE. 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?

- 1 President
- 2 Congress
- 3 Supreme Court **[CORRECT]**
- 8 Not sure
- 999 **[PN: IF CATI:]** (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Decline/Web blank

<b>Response</b>	<b>U.S. Adults</b>
President	4%
Congress	23
Supreme Court	59
Not Sure	15

**Figure 5 – CIVICS KNOWLEDGE AND TRUST IN THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

<b>Knowledge Scale</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Not too much</b>	<b>A fair amount</b>	<b>A great deal</b>
Low (0) Knowledge	19%	45	31	5
Middle (1-2) Knowledge	10	37	46	7
High (3) Knowledge	9	31	49	12

**Figure 6 – Civics Knowledge and Specific Confidence in the Federal Courts**

Q2. Thinking about federal judges and federal courts, if you were accused of a crime you did not commit, how likely, if at all, would you be to get a fair trial?

Q3. Thinking about the federal judiciary, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Federal courts tend to favor the poor over the wealthy.

Q4. Thinking about the federal judiciary, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Federal courts get too mixed up in politics.

Q5. Thinking about the federal judiciary, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Federal courts are fair and impartial in their rulings.

[PN: IF CATI:] (READ LIST)

- 004 Very likely
- 003 Somewhat likely
- 002 Not too likely
- 001 Not at all likely
- 998 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 [PN: IF WEB:] Decline/Web blank

**Q2.**

<b>Knowledge Scale</b>	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>
Low (0) Knowledge	7%	19	61	14
Middle (1-2) Knowledge	8	25	54	13
High (3) Knowledge	5	21	56	18

**Q3.**

<b>Knowledge Scale</b>	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>
Low (0) Knowledge	38	15	31	9
Middle (1-2) Knowledge	29	30	31	7
High (3) Knowledge	42	24	28	5

**Q4.**

<b>Knowledge Scale</b>	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>
Low (0) Knowledge	1	6	44	32
Middle (1-2) Knowledge	3	7	26	39
High (3) Knowledge	4	10	16	40

**Q5.**

<b>Knowledge Scale</b>	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>
Low (0) Knowledge	9	19	41	28
Middle (1-2) Knowledge	8	26	31	31
High (3) Knowledge	8	29	20	38

**Figure 8 – Civics Knowledge and Trust in the Supreme Court by Party Identification**

<b>Branches</b>					
<b>Known</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	
0	2007	63%	54	48	
1	2007	69	57	55	
2	2007	73	64	62	
3	2007	75	60	56	
0	2011	57	48	58	
1	2011	60	49	64	
2	2011	57	62	55	
3	2011	62	58	58	
0	2019	63	55	69	
1	2019	78	60	59	
2	2019	71	62	57	
3	2019	71	66	57	
0	2022	52	48	55	
1	2022	62	43	45	
2	2022	65	48	37	
3	2022	75	43	22	

\*Includes Independents and those who identify with a third party or no party.

Note: Values less than 3% are omitted from the figure for clarity.



**Figure 9 – The Public’s Institutional Support for the Federal Courts**

Thinking about the federal judiciary, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Q1. Federal judges who consistently make unpopular decisions should be removed from their position as judges.
- Q2. The right of federal courts to decide certain types of controversial issues should be reduced.
- Q3. The federal courts ought to be made less independent so that they listen more to what the people want.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 998 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Refused
- 999 [PN: IF WEB:] Decline/Web blank

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Remove Judges	13	19	31	22	14
Strip Jurisdiction	11	16	33	30	10
Listen to People	16	14	23	29	17

How much do you favor or oppose each of the following proposals?

Q4. Setting a specific number of years that federal judges serve instead of granting them lifetime appointments

Q5. Requiring that federal judges retire by a certain age

Q6. Prohibiting federal judges from participating in cases in which they have personal or financial interests

- 1 Strongly oppose
- 2 Somewhat oppose
- 3 Neither favor nor oppose
- 4 Somewhat favor
- 5 Strongly favor
- 998 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 999 [PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ) Refused / [PN: IF WEB:] Web blank

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat favor</b>	<b>Strongly favor</b>
Term Limits Mandatory	3	5	13	30	48
Retirement Age	2	5	13	31	48
Public Referenda	17	17	17	25	24