



Americans Looking for Moderation in the Next Supreme Court Justice

Americans generally favor equal rights but are divided on issues such as gun control and right to refuse business services

Washington, DC, July 3, 2018 — With the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, the Supreme Court’s swing vote, the makeup of the United States Supreme Court stands to see a long-term conservative shift. As the important replacement decision looms, Ipsos and Daily Beast have conducted a poll to find what the American people seek in their next Supreme Court.

According to the average American, the next Supreme Court Justice should be moderate with positions favoring equal rights and protections under the law. Furthermore, the next Justice should oppose allowing more partisan or corporate influence over government. However, Americans are divided on matters of conscience and gun ownership where there is much less unanimity.

Looking at specific laws, Americans want a moderate on abortion (33% agree abortion should be completely illegal, 63% disagree), political spending (26% for, 67% against corporations and unions spending as much as they wish), for same-sex marriage (64% for, 28% against), against the rights of companies to deny employees certain health coverage on religious grounds (27% for, 67% against), and against racially based gerrymandering (68% agree states should not be allowed to do this, 15% disagree). Americans are less clear on the rights of businesses to refuse services that violate their religious beliefs (48% for, 45% against) and the rights for states to impose restrictions on gun ownership – 45% agree states cannot do so and 48% disagree.

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1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about recent Supreme Court decisions?
 - a. Total agree.

	Total (n = 1003)	Democrat (n = 345)	Republican (n = 325)	Independent (n = 226)
States should not draw congressional district lines to disenfranchise racial groups (Abbott v Perez)	68%	75	68	66
Same-sex marriage should be legal (Obergefell)	64%	79	50	58
Businesses should be allowed to refuse services that violate their religious beliefs (Masterpiece Cakeshop)	48%	33	73	45
States cannot impose restrictions on gun ownership (Heller)	45%	28	69	44
Abortion should be made completely illegal (Roe v. Wade)	33%	22	49	28
Companies should be allowed to deny employees certain health coverage on religious grounds (Hobby Lobby)	27%	18	46	24
Corporations and unions should be allowed to spend as much money as they wish on political campaigns (Citizens United)	26%	23	36	20

- b. Abortion should be made completely illegal (Roe v. Wade).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	19%	22%	49%	28%
Somewhat agree	14	11	18	12
Somewhat disagree	16	12	23	18
Strongly disagree	46	63	26	46
Don't know	5	3	2	8
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>64</i>

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- c. Corporations and unions should be allowed to spend as much money as they wish on political campaigns (Citizens United).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	9%	8%	12%	8%
Somewhat agree	17	15	25	12
Somewhat disagree	24	24	23	25
Strongly disagree	43	49	34	47
Don't know	8	4	7	8
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>72</i>

- d. Businesses should be allowed to refuse services that violate their religious beliefs (Masterpiece Cakeshop).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	25%	12%	44%	27%
Somewhat agree	23	21	29	17
Somewhat disagree	16	19	12	16
Strongly disagree	30	43	11	30
Don't know	7	6	4	9
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>46</i>

- e. Same-sex marriage should be legal (Obergefell).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	46%	62%	28%	41%
Somewhat agree	18	17	22	17
Somewhat disagree	11	6	16	12
Strongly disagree	18	10	28	19
Don't know	8	4	6	12
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>30</i>

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f. Companies should be allowed to deny employees certain health coverage on religious grounds (Hobby Lobby).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	13	7	25	13
Somewhat agree	14	11	21	11
Somewhat disagree	17	14	21	18
Strongly disagree	50	64	28	50
Don't know	6	4	5	8
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>68</i>

g. States cannot impose restrictions on gun ownership (Heller).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	27%	15%	46%	27%
Somewhat agree	18	13	22	17
Somewhat disagree	17	21	13	17
Strongly disagree	31	47	16	29
Don't know	7	4	3	9
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>46</i>

h. States should not draw congressional district lines to disenfranchise racial groups (Abbott V Perez).

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	68%	75%	68%	66%
Somewhat agree	25	20	37	23
Somewhat disagree	9	6	11	10
Strongly disagree	6	8	5	5
Don't know	17	12	16	20
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>66%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14</i>

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2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about President Donald Trump’s upcoming pick to fill a seat on the Supreme Court? “President Trump should nominate someone who wants to...”
- a. Total agree.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Limit the amount of money corporations and unions can spend on political campaigns	64%	70	67	60
Grant states the right to impose restrictions on gun ownership	45%	62	34	37
Overturn the right of companies to deny employees certain health coverage on religious grounds	39%	39	39	36
Allow businesses to refuse services to those, including same sex couples, who violate their religious beliefs	32%	18	60	24
Make same-sex marriage illegal	29%	19	49	20
Make abortion illegal	29%	14	53	24
Give the states the ability to draw congressional district lines that disenfranchise racial groups	20%	16	29	15

- b. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to make abortion illegal.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	16%	7%	31%	11%
Somewhat agree	14	8	22	12
Somewhat disagree	15	12	19	13
Strongly disagree	48	68	21	53
Don’t know	8	5	6	11
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>66</i>

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- c. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to limit the amount of money corporations and unions can spend on political campaigns.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	37%	40%	34%	43%
Somewhat agree	27	30	33	17
Somewhat disagree	13	9	18	14
Strongly disagree	10	12	7	11
Don't know	13	8	9	15
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>

- d. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to allow businesses to refuse services to those, including to same sex couples, who violate their religious beliefs.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	15%	7%	30%	14%
Somewhat agree	17	11	30	10
Somewhat disagree	14	11	17	16
Strongly disagree	44	66	18	42
Don't know	11	5	6	18
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>58</i>

- e. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to make same-sex marriage illegal.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	15%	12%	26%	10%
Somewhat agree	14	7	24	10
Somewhat disagree	14	11	17	15
Strongly disagree	46	65	25	48
Don't know	11	5	9	17
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>62</i>

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- f. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to overturn the right of companies to deny employees certain health coverage on religious grounds.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	21%	24	17%	20%
Somewhat agree	18	15	22	16
Somewhat disagree	15	11	23	13
Strongly disagree	32	41	26	34
Don't know	14	9	12	16
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>47</i>

- g. President Trump should nominate someone who wants to grant states the right to impose restrictions on gun ownership.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	25%	37%	18%	17%
Somewhat agree	20	24	15	20
Somewhat disagree	16	12	20	15
Strongly disagree	28	19	37	32
Don't know	12	7	9	16
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>37%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>47</i>

3. How important are the following issues to your decision to vote in the upcoming election on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not at all important and 10 being very important.

- a. Mean summary

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Healthcare	8.7	9.1	8.4	8.7
Gun issues	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.3
Voting rights	8.3	8.8	8.1	8.2
Next Supreme Court nominee	7.9	8.2	8.1	7.6
Abortion	7.7	8.1	7.6	7.3
Religious liberty	7.6	7.5	8.1	7.5
Money in politics	7.4	7.8	7.1	7.1
LGBTQ rights	6.7	8	5.2	6.2

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b. The next Supreme Court nominee

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	2%	2%	1%	3
2	1	*	*	1
3	2	3	2	2
4	4	3	4	6
5	7	6	6	9
6	8	6	8	10
7	9	10	11	7
8	13	13	16	10
9	10	11	12	9
10	37	42	38	34
Don't know	6	4	3	9
<i>Mean</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>7.6</i>

c. Abortion

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	4%	1%	3%	9
2	2	3	2	1
3	2	1	3	2
4	3	3	4	3
5	8	7	7	10
6	9	7	11	8
7	9	6	13	11
8	15	20	16	8
9	9	12	7	8
10	35	39	33	34
Don't know	3	2	1	6
<i>Mean</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>

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d. Money in politics

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	3%	3%	2%	3%
2	2	1	2	2
3	3	2	3	5
4	5	3	6	7
5	9	6	12	9
6	11	10	12	11
7	15	15	17	10
8	13	14	14	12
9	8	9	8	8
10	28	36	22	28
Don't know	4	1	2	5
<i>Mean</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>7.1</i>

e. LGBTQ rights

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	13%	4%	23%	14%
2	3	2	3	4
3	4	1	8	5
4	4	1	7	7
5	8	5	9	9
6	7	7	8	6
7	9	12	9	6
8	9	12	8	9
9	8	12	4	6
10	29	41	16	25
Don't know	6	3	4	9
<i>Mean</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>6.2</i>

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f. Healthcare

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	1%	*	*	2%
2	*	1%	1%	*
3	*	*	*	*
4	1	*	2	*
5	4	1	6	5
6	5	4	5	7
7	9	5	13	9
8	14	13	19	12
9	14	16	14	11
10	50	58	39	51
Don't know	2	1	*	3
<i>Mean</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>8.7</i>

g. Religious liberty

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	6%	6%	3%	7%
2	1	2	1	1
3	3	2	2	4
4	2	3	3	1
5	7	8	5	8
6	9	10	8	9
7	11	13	9	12
8	12	11	15	8
9	9	10	10	8
10	36	34	42	36
Don't know	4	1	2	6
<i>Mean</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>7.5</i>

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h. Gun issues

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	2%	1	2%	1%
2	1	1	1	1
3	1	*	1	1
4	2	3	2	1
5	6	4	5	8
6	6	6	4	7
7	10	7	14	10
8	14	15	16	12
9	13	15	15	10
10	43	46	41	45
Don't know	3	1	1	4
<i>Mean</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.3</i>

i. Voting rights

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
1	2%	1%	2%	4%
2	1	*	1	1
3	2	1	3	5
4	1	*	2	1
5	5	3	4	5
6	5	4	6	6
7	11	9	13	11
8	14	12	18	15
9	11	12	12	11
10	45	55	38	41
Don't know	3	1	1	6
<i>Mean</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>8.2</i>

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted June 29-July 2, 2018. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,003 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 345 Democrats, 325 Republicans, and 226 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online nonprobability sampling polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,003, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=5.0).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 6.0 percentage points for Democrats, 6.2 percentage points for Republicans, and 7.4 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,780.5 million in 2017.

GAME CHANGERS

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