



Justice at Stake/Brennan Center National Poll, 10/22-10/24, 2013
1200 Registered Voters, Margin of Error: +/- 2.8% at 95% Confidence Level

Q1 I know it's a long way off, but thinking ahead to the election for Congress in November 2014, how likely are you to vote? Are you certain to vote, will you probably vote, is there a 50/50 chance that you will vote, or will you probably not vote?

RV

87 Certain to Vote
7 Probably
3 50/50 Chance
3 Not Planning to Vote
1 Not Sure

Q2 Thinking about the direction of things here in the country, would you say they are going in the right direction or have they gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

RV

18 Right Direction
75 Wrong Track
8 Not Sure

Q3 Now I am going to read the names of some people and things to you and ask you to rate them on a scale of 1 to 5 using the numbers on your phone, with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best. Think of it the same way restaurants or movies are rated in the newspaper - the more stars something gets the better it is. If you've heard a name but can't rate it, that's fine, and if you haven't heard a name before, that's fine too. [1-5 Scale converted to 0-100 Temperature scale and averaged for those who can rate - 50 implies a neutral balanced rating between negative and positive]

			1 (Worst)	2	3	4	5 (Best)	Can't Rate	Not Heard	Temperature	Can Rate	Heard of
A	President Barack Obama	RV	44	7	6	15	24	2	3	42	95	97
B	US Supreme Court	RV	13	23	32	13	7	6	7	44	87	93
C	Chief Justice John Roberts	RV	14	17	22	11	4	11	22	40	67	78
D	Justice Sandra Day O'Connor	RV	13	9	17	15	19	11	15	56	73	85



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Q4 Now, thinking for a moment about our court system. How much trust and confidence do you have in the courts and judges in your state - a great deal, some, just a little, or none at all?

RV

11	Great Deal
45	Some
25	Just Little
15	No Confidence
3	Not Sure

Q5+6 Now, I'm going to read you some words that some people might use to describe qualities they look for in supreme court judges on your state's supreme court. After you hear the list, please tell me which one you consider to be the most important. Here's the list: [rotate: Accountable, Ethical, Fair, Impartial, Independent, Open-Minded, Nonpartisan, Trustworthy]. Which one of those descriptions of state supreme court judges do you consider to be most important? [Follow-up second most important trait.]

RV

1st	+	2nd	= Any 1/2	
19		21	40	Ethical
18		13	31	Impartial
16		11	27	Nonpartisan
12		12	24	Fair
9		14	23	Trustworthy
8		8	15	Accountable
9		6	15	Open-Minded
4		4	8	Independent
6		7		Not Sure

Q7 Now thinking for a minute about election campaigns for judges. Are you aware that judges in 39 states are allowed to receive campaign contributions and support from individuals, attorneys, businesses, or special interest groups, just like candidates running campaigns for offices like Congress?

RV

49	Yes
42	No
9	Not Sure



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Respondents were split into two tracks A-left or B-right for Q8-Q10
Responses in each track from 600 RV, 4.0% Margin of Error

Q8 During a campaign, candidates running for judge often raise money for their campaigns by taking contributions from individuals, attorneys, businesses and interest groups that may later have a court case in front of an elected judge. How much influence do you think campaign contributions made to judges have on their decisions - a great deal of influence, some influence, just a little influence or no influence at all?

Sometimes instead of contributing directly to a candidate's campaign, individuals, attorneys, businesses and interest groups that may later have a court case in front of an elected judge will place their own ads to support the judicial candidate they want to win. How much influence do you think this kind of independent spending in support of a judge has on the judge's later decisions - a great deal of influence, some influence, just a little influence or no influence at all?

A	RV	B	RV
	59		53
	Great Deal		Great Deal
	28		34
	Some		Some
	8		7
	Just Little		Just Little
	2		3
	None		None
	2		2
	Not Sure		Not Sure

Q9 And what about when a judicial candidate receives a contribution from an individual, attorney, business or interest group that has a pending case that the elected judge might have to rule on? Do you think that is a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, not that serious a problem or no problem at all?

And what about when an individual, attorney, business, or interest group that places their own ads to support a judicial candidate has a pending case that the elected judge might have to rule on? Do you think that is a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, not that serious of a problem or no problem at all?

A	RV	B	RV
	70		67
	Very Serious		Very Serious
	20		23
	Somewhat		Somewhat
	5		4
	Not That Serious		Not That Serious
	1		1
	No Problem		No Problem
	4		5
	Not Sure		Not Sure



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- Q10** If there were a court case where one of the two opposing parties had contributed a significant amount to the judge's election campaign, do you think that judge should hear the case or should that judge step aside and let another judge hear it?
- If there were a court case where one of the two opposing parties had spent a significant amount to support the election of the judge, do you think that judge should hear the case or should that judge step aside and let another judge hear it?

A	RV	B	RV
	5		4
	Hear the Case		Hear the Case
	92		92
	Step Aside		Step Aside
	3		4
	Not Sure		Not Sure

Respondent split-track finished, remaining questions asked of all respondents.

- Q11** 35 percent of all funds spent on state Supreme Court races in 2011 and 2012 came from just ten special interest groups and political parties. Does this information give you more or less confidence in our courts?

RV
4
More confidence
76
Less confidence
13
No difference
7
Not Sure

- Q12** Age

RV
17
18-29
28
30-44
35
45-64
16
65 & Older
3
Refused

- Q13** Sex

RV
52
Female
45
Male
3
Refused



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Q14 Ethnicity/Race

RV

11	Hispanic Total
85	Not Hispanic
1	Not Sure on Origin
3	Refused Hispanic Answer
76	White Total
11	Black Total
2	American Indian/Alaska Native
1	Asian
0	Native Hawaii/Pacific Islander
2	Other Race
3	More Than One Race
0	Not Sure on Race
4	Refused on Race

Q15 Party

RV

39	Democrat
31	Republican
26	Independent
2	Third Party
3	Not Sure/Refused

Q16 And now think about how often you vote in elections. As you know, the main elections are held every four years for President, but there are also elections for things like Governor, Congress, Mayor and School Board. And in addition to the November elections, the political parties hold primary elections that decide who their nominees will be in the summer. Over the past few years, how often have you voted? Have you voted sometimes when there is a Presidential race, in most Presidential elections or years when your state's governor is running, also in one or two primaries, or almost always even in primaries and special elections?

RV

5	Sometimes when Presidential race
15	Most Presidential/Governor race
17	One or two primaries in addition to general elections
61	Almost Always/Even primaries and special elections
2	Not Sure



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Q17 Ideology

RV

18	Liberal
36	Moderate
36	Conservative
9	Not Sure

Q18 Last year of education

RV

3	Not High School Grad
20	High School Grad
9	Some non-college post-HS
25	Some college
21	College Grad
21	Post Grad
0	Not Sure
1	Refused

That concludes our survey today. Thank you for your time.

Q19 Not asked, coded from file region of country:

RV

16	Northeast
25	Midwest
36	South
23	West/Pacific