



New C-SPAN/Penn Schoen Berland Poll
on American Attitudes on U.S. Supreme Court:
Two-thirds view Supreme Court
as “split on partisan ground” – similar to Congress

**** Support for Televised Arguments Continues to Rise ****

(For Immediate Release: July 21, 2015) Following a Supreme Court term with several landmark cases, a new national poll conducted by Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) for C-SPAN suggests that fully 85% of Americans believe that “decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court have an impact on my everyday life as a citizen,” including 83% of liberals, 84% of moderates, and 87% of conservatives.

However, two in three say that recent Supreme Court decisions demonstrate that justices are “split on political grounds, similar to Republicans and Democrats in Congress.”

Meanwhile, public support for televised coverage of the Court's oral arguments has never been greater. In the survey, 76% say that “the U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments.” That's an increase of 15 percentage points since measured by PSB in June 2009. Forty-three percent of Americans say televising oral arguments would increase public respect for the proceedings of the Supreme Court.

PSB Principal Robert Green, citing the poll’s finding that three quarters of respondents are in favor of televising the Court’s proceedings, suggests that, “Greater visibility from televised oral arguments may represent a path for the U.S. Supreme Court to better explain their decisions and also improve their image.”

PSB has examined public attitudes toward the Supreme Court 10 times in the last six years; five of those polls were conducted for C-SPAN.

Also among the findings in the new survey:

- three in five Americans (60%) disagree that Supreme Court Justices should be a lifetime appointment;

- 79% say they would prefer an 18-year term with the possibility of reappointment for justices, a proposal advocated by some Court watchers; only one in twenty respondents (6%) *strongly* prefer lifetime appointments for justices
- by a 4:1 margin (51%-13%) respondents say it would be useful if the next Supreme Court justice nominee comes from a “different educational background” than the Ivy League. (All nine of the current justices attended Harvard, Yale, or Columbia.)

Complete poll results here: <http://cs.pn/1CESRLT>

Methodology: Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) conducted online interviews from July 1-6, 2015 among n=1,201 American adults nationally. The margin of error for this study is +/- 2.83% at the 95% confidence level and larger for subgroups.

About C-SPAN

Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three HD public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington DC and nationwide via an app for smartphones; and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/> to learn more.

About Penn Schoen Berland

Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) is a global strategic communication advisory rooted in the science of public opinion that specializes in messaging and strategy for blue-chip political, corporate, and entertainment clients. PSB has over 40 years of experience leveraging unique insights about consumer opinion to provide clients with a competitive advantage, what we call Winning Knowledge™. Penn Schoen Berland serves Fortune 100 corporations and has helped elect more than 30 presidents and prime ministers around the world. PSB is a part of Y&R Brands and WPP.