



**Supreme Court Survey
Agenda of Key Findings
March 2022**

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Interviews Conducted by Mercury Analytics

METHODOLOGY:

Pierrepont Consulting LLC in association with Mercury Analytics conducted online interviews from March 3-6, 2022 among n=1,011 U.S. likely voters.

The margin of error for this study is +/- 3.10% at the 95% confidence level and higher for subgroups. Some percentages may add to more or less than 100% due to rounding. Where applicable, tracked findings reflect prior C-SPAN Supreme Court studies.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. The three branches of U.S. government are the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branch. Are the three branches of government equal or not?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Equal	56	62	51	64	54	53	53	60	54	55	55	54	60	64	59	53
Not equal	31	28	34	28	35	31	33	29	32	33	32	35	31	29	32	35
Don't know	13	10	15	9	11	17	13	11	14	12	13	11	10	7	9	12

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2. Which branch of government has the most power, more than the other two? (IF RESPONDENT SELECTED “NOT EQUAL” FOR Q1)

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Judicial	23	22	23	22	22	24	23	23	27	20	22	22	34	24	21	29
Executive	51	50	52	53	53	46	53	52	47	54	54	45	35	50	55	41
Legislative	26	28	25	26	25	29	23	25	26	26	25	33	31	27	23	29

3. Speaking generally, would you say you trust the Federal government branches and agencies more today than several years ago, trust them less than several years ago, or is your level of trust unchanged from several years ago?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Trust federal government more	13	13	13	19	12	11	9	24	7	8	10	21	20	18	16	8
Trust Federal government less	57	58	56	48	61	54	65	41	69	60	63	39	45	59	56	66
Level of trust is unchanged	24	25	24	26	22	28	22	29	17	27	23	29	25	20	25	20
Don't know	6	5	7	7	6	7	4	6	6	5	4	11	10	3	3	6

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4. Generally speaking, how often do you follow news stories about the U.S. Supreme Court?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Very often	22	26	18	20	24	20	26	26	21	19	21	28	19	37	24	21
Somewhat often	38	41	36	40	31	37	44	42	37	37	38	32	44	63	42	34
Just a little	30	25	34	30	33	32	23	23	30	36	30	28	29	0	27	36
Not at all	8	6	10	8	9	9	6	7	10	8	9	9	5	0	7	8
Don't know	2	1	2	2	3	2	0	2	3	1	1	3	3	0	1	1

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings				
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	Mar 2012
Very often	22	29	22	22	20
Somewhat often	38	39	43	46	46
Just a little	30	26	30	28	30
Not at all	8	6	6	4	4

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5. Where do you typically get information about the U.S. Supreme Court? Please select all that apply. **(MULTIPLE RESPONSES PERMITTED)**

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Television	65	67	63	48	59	72	78	66	61	66	66	65	56	69	65	65
Newspapers	29	33	25	26	26	27	36	27	26	34	30	21	29	36	30	30
Online media	38	37	38	48	43	29	32	37	34	41	37	35	40	42	40	34
Social media	34	31	36	56	40	26	15	35	32	34	31	40	43	35	37	29
Websites	31	35	27	40	38	25	20	31	26	35	29	29	38	37	32	33
Radio	22	23	22	25	25	21	20	21	22	24	23	20	23	27	24	23
Magazines	8	10	7	9	11	4	11	11	5	9	8	9	9	11	9	8
Blogs	9	10	8	16	11	3	6	9	8	10	7	13	13	11	10	7
Schools	4	4	5	8	6	1	2	5	3	4	3	6	9	5	5	3
Books	5	6	4	9	7	1	4	6	5	5	5	5	6	7	6	4
Other	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	2	2	2

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U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings				
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	June 2010
Television	65	74	70	73	75
Newspapers	29	37	37	35	53
Online media	38	44	35	37	39
Social media	34	31	27	25	13
Websites	31	35	24	27	31
Radio	22	24	19	24	27
Magazines	8	9	8	7	15
Blogs	9	8	5	7	7
Schools	4	3	1	1	4
Books	5	4	3	3	6
Other	2	2	2	3	1

6. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

Decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court have an impact on my everyday life as a citizen

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Strongly agree	46	46	46	43	45	42	54	53	44	40	46	46	47	57	50	44
Somewhat agree	38	39	38	37	38	40	38	34	40	41	40	35	32	35	40	37
Somewhat disagree	9	9	9	12	10	9	4	7	9	11	8	11	13	6	7	13
Strongly disagree	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1	0	1	2
Don't know	5	4	6	6	6	6	3	5	6	5	5	6	6	2	2	4

U.S. Likely Voters (%)

Tracked Findings

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	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	Sept 2009
Strongly agree	46	46	47	41	39
Somewhat agree	38	45	43	46	49
Somewhat disagree	9	7	8	10	10
Strongly disagree	2	2	2	3	2

7. Can you name any of the current justices on the U.S. Supreme Court? (OPEN-END WITH PRE-CODES)

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Clarence Thomas	24	27	22	13	20	26	39	23	23	27	26	23	13	31	24	28
John Roberts	22	28	17	11	16	23	39	21	20	26	25	17	12	30	22	25
Sonia Sotomayor	17	16	18	8	15	19	26	20	14	18	19	9	14	23	16	20
Brett Kavanaugh	15	19	13	10	14	16	22	12	16	18	20	3	6	20	14	19
Amy Coney Barrett	13	12	13	7	11	15	16	13	12	13	16	4	5	18	11	17
Stephen Breyer	11	13	9	6	9	10	19	11	10	11	12	6	5	15	10	12
Elena Kagan	9	9	9	8	9	6	16	11	10	8	11	6	4	12	9	11
Neil Gorsuch	7	8	6	4	4	7	13	5	8	8	9	4	4	10	6	8
Samuel Alito	7	8	6	3	7	6	12	6	7	7	8	3	3	10	6	10
Don't know	3	2	4	4	4	2	1	4	3	3	2	4	4	3	3	2
Other	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	0	5	3	3	5
Non-Responsive	48	43	52	64	51	45	30	46	49	47	44	62	58	36	48	42

U.S. Likely Voters (%)

Tracked Findings

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	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	July 2009
Clarence Thomas	24	14	10	10	14
John Roberts	22	14	12	11	11
Sonia Sotomayor	17	8	3	8	n/a
Brett Kavanaugh	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Amy Coney Barrett	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stephen Breyer	11	2	0	0	1
Elena Kagan	9	4	1	1	n/a
Neil Gorsuch	7	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Samuel Alito	7	3	1	1	2

8. Can you name any cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court? (OPEN-END WITH PRE-CODES)

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Roe v. Wade	40	41	39	24	33	44	57	40	38	41	46	21	26	44	39	45
Brown v. Board of Education	6	6	7	7	6	5	9	7	5	7	7	7	3	7	6	8
Gore v. Bush	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Marbury v. Madison	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Miranda	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0
Dred Scott	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Any other case	15	16	14	16	17	11	16	16	13	16	15	18	10	20	16	16
Don't Know	46	42	50	57	51	46	30	45	50	44	42	57	62	38	45	42

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9. Generally speaking, would you say the U.S. Supreme Court is transparent (they provide a lot of information concerning how the justices decide cases) or are they not very transparent (they do not provide a lot of information concerning how justices decide cases)?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Transparent, the U.S. Supreme Court provides a lot of information about how the justices decide cases	29	35	24	30	36	27	23	35	26	26	28	29	33	40	34	24
Not transparent, the U.S. Supreme Court does not provide a lot of information about how the justices decide cases	37	37	38	39	31	32	48	38	38	37	37	37	38	39	38	44
I don't have a strong view on Supreme Court transparency either way	26	22	29	23	25	32	22	20	25	31	27	24	21	18	24	25
Don't know	8	6	10	9	8	9	7	7	10	6	8	10	8	3	5	6

10. How important is a diverse U.S. Supreme Court as it relates to gender and/or ethnicity, for example, having justices who are women, or Black, Hispanic, or Asian?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Very important	47	43	51	53	45	43	50	70	30	43	44	62	55	54	55	35
Somewhat important	22	23	20	24	22	20	22	17	25	22	24	14	19	21	23	23
Just a little important	10	11	9	12	10	12	7	5	12	13	9	12	16	8	8	16
Not at all important	13	17	11	7	15	17	15	3	23	15	16	5	6	14	11	20
No opinion / Don't know	7	6	8	5	8	8	7	5	10	6	7	7	4	4	3	6

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U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings		
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017
Very important	47	51	51
Somewhat important	22	25	29
Just a little important	10	12	10
Not at all important	13	13	10

11. How closely have you been following the news in recent weeks concerning President Biden's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
A lot	23	25	22	21	19	23	30	31	18	21	23	27	25	36	27	19
Some	38	41	35	29	35	39	49	38	39	37	40	35	30	46	39	40
Just a little	25	23	26	31	27	25	16	21	25	28	24	25	24	13	24	29
Not at all	11	8	14	15	14	12	3	7	15	11	11	9	17	4	9	12
Don't know	3	3	3	4	5	2	1	2	3	2	2	5	3	1	2	1

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12. (IF RESPONDENT SELECTED “A LOT,” “SOME” OR “JUST A LITTLE” FOR Q11) Would you say you are following this nomination more closely, less closely, or about the same as recent past nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
More closely	30	30	31	40	31	24	29	43	26	22	26	46	43	37	35	23
Less closely	19	21	16	23	21	18	14	15	24	18	18	18	19	16	18	22
About the same	51	49	52	37	48	58	57	43	49	60	56	36	38	47	47	55

13. Can you identify the individual recently named by President Biden to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?* (OPEN-END WITH PRE-CODES)

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Yes - Ketanji Brown Jackson	29	29	29	19	25	30	41	31	27	29	31	27	20	37	28	31
Close but not quite – other famous recent judges	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0
Don't remember name - But know it's a Female/Black Judge	15	16	15	7	11	21	22	15	14	17	17	13	8	16	15	18
Non Responsive	55	55	55	73	62	48	37	54	57	53	51	60	70	46	55	51

**28% could name Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and 35% Brett Kavanaugh in 2018*

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14. The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee holds televised confirmation hearings in which Senators from both parties ask the nominee how they might decide cases and about their judicial philosophy. Would you say these hearings are an effective and fair tool for deciding who should sit on the U.S. Supreme Court or not an effective and fair tool?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
The hearings are an effective and fair tool for deciding on new Supreme Court justices	42	46	38	45	40	41	43	47	40	39	40	46	42	50	48	37
The hearings are not an effective or fair tool for deciding on new Supreme Court justices	24	26	22	26	27	23	20	23	23	27	24	26	27	25	24	33
Neither	16	15	17	14	16	15	21	14	18	16	17	9	16	14	16	17
Don't know	18	12	23	16	17	21	17	16	19	18	18	19	16	10	13	14

15. From what you've read or heard, does the U.S. Supreme Court provide live audio of its oral arguments?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Yes, they provide	46	46	46	61	51	41	33	53	42	44	43	55	55	49	53	34
No they don't provide	54	54	54	39	49	59	67	47	58	56	57	45	45	51	47	66

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16. Have you ever listened to live audio of a U.S. Supreme Court oral argument? **(IF Q15 SAYS YES)**

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
I have listened to live audio of Supreme Court oral arguments	46	48	44	49	53	39	37	49	46	42	41	57	58	56	50	41
I have never listened to live audio of Supreme Court oral arguments	54	52	56	51	47	61	63	51	54	58	59	43	42	44	50	59

17. Did what you hear affect your opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court? **(IF Q16 HAS LISTENED)**

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Yes, it did - it gave me a more positive view of the Court	48	48	48	56	60	34	25	61	38	41	43	57	53	56	53	34
Yes, it did - it gave me a more negative view of the Court	22	21	23	29	14	22	25	23	22	22	19	25	27	19	20	39
No, not really	26	29	24	7	24	44	51	15	37	31	33	17	18	23	25	21
Don't know	3	2	4	8	1	0	0	1	3	6	4	0	3	1	2	6

18. The U.S. Supreme Court currently does not allow television coverage of oral arguments. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

The U.S. Supreme Court should allow television coverage of its oral arguments

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Strongly agree	34	34	33	43	36	30	27	39	33	29	29	42	50	41	52	0
Somewhat agree	31	35	28	32	28	31	33	35	23	35	31	39	19	30	48	0
Somewhat disagree	15	14	15	11	18	15	15	12	15	16	16	5	18	12	0	61
Strongly disagree	9	10	8	5	9	12	10	5	13	9	11	5	5	10	0	39
Don't know	12	7	15	9	10	13	15	8	16	10	13	9	8	8	0	0

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings												
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	Nov 2014	June 2014	Apr 2013	Jan 2013	Mar 2012	Dec 2011	June 2010	Sept 2009	July 2009
Strongly agree	34	33	32	35	24	27	31	28	36	33	24	30	27
Somewhat agree	31	40	44	42	37	42	42	40	38	31	39	35	34
Somewhat disagree	15	16	17	17	28	19	18	21	18	23	24	22	19
Strongly disagree	9	10	7	6	11	12	10	11	8	13	13	13	19

19. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

Allowing television coverage of U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments would build trust in the Court's process and the rulings it makes*

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Strongly agree	35	34	35	44	40	29	28	41	31	32	32	43	47	43	46	19
Somewhat agree	35	36	35	34	33	39	35	38	32	37	36	37	26	33	41	28
Somewhat disagree	13	14	12	12	12	11	17	9	15	15	14	7	14	11	8	29
Strongly disagree	6	7	6	2	6	8	9	4	9	6	6	5	6	6	2	18
Don't know	11	8	12	8	10	13	11	9	13	10	12	8	7	7	3	6

**72% of likely voters who now trust the Federal government less than they did several years ago say allowing cameras in the courtroom would build trust*

20. Eight of the nine current justices got their law degree at northeastern Ivy League colleges and many were Ivy League undergraduates also. The new nominee attended Harvard. Do you think it would be better if the justices came from a more diverse set of colleges and universities?

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U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Yes, it would be better if there was more diverse higher education	59	62	57	67	65	49	59	64	53	61	57	65	68	67	67	52
No, it would not be better if there was more diverse higher education	22	21	22	18	18	29	21	21	25	19	23	18	19	21	18	35
Don't know	19	17	20	15	17	22	20	15	21	20	20	17	13	13	15	13

21. Some say that instead of lifetime appointments, it would be better if U.S. Supreme Court justices served an 18-year term with possible reappointment by the President (subject to Senate confirmation). Which of the following comes closest to your view on the length of terms for U.S. Supreme Court justices?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Strongly prefer 18 year appointment	38	38	38	38	36	36	44	43	37	34	38	34	43	46	42	34
Somewhat prefer 18 year appointment	31	29	33	33	36	29	25	32	28	33	31	34	29	29	34	28
Somewhat prefer lifetime appointment	10	12	9	10	6	11	13	9	11	10	10	10	10	10	9	15
Strongly prefer lifetime appointment	7	9	6	3	8	10	9	3	10	8	8	5	6	8	6	12
Don't know	14	12	15	16	15	15	9	13	13	15	13	18	12	8	10	11

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings				
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	Sept 2009
Strongly prefer 18 year appointment	38	27	33	31	31
Somewhat prefer 18 year appointment	31	47	44	48	47

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Somewhat prefer lifetime appointment	10	16	15	14	12
Strongly prefer lifetime appointment	7	9	8	6	11

22. Uniquely among Federal courts, the U.S. Supreme Court does not have a code of ethics to provide guidance on matters such as conflict of interest for the justices. Do you think Supreme Court justices need their own Code of Ethics or do their actions receive enough public scrutiny that no official Code of Ethics is needed?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	All	Gender		Age				Party			Race/Ethnicity			SCOTUS Informed	TV in Court	
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp		Agr	Dis
Yes, they need to create a Code of Ethics	72	68	75	77	69	69	72	77	69	70	72	66	78	77	79	64
No, I don't think they need a Code of Ethics	15	19	11	12	16	15	15	13	15	16	15	17	10	14	12	24
Don't know	14	13	14	11	15	16	12	10	16	14	13	17	12	9	9	12

23. Do you think that recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions demonstrate that the U.S. Supreme Court acts in a serious and constitutionally sound manner, OR do recent decisions demonstrate that the Supreme Court justices split into parties, similar to Republicans and Democrats in Congress?

U.S. Likely Voters (%)		Gender	Age	Party	Race/Ethnicity	SCOTUS	TV in Court
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C-SPAN/Pierrepont 2022 Supreme Court Survey – Agenda of Key Findings

	All	M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Informed	Agr	Dis
Act in a serious and constitutional manner	37	39	35	37	43	36	33	37	42	32	37	35	36	42	41	35
Split into parties, similar to Republicans and Democrats in Congress	46	47	45	49	42	43	51	49	38	51	45	46	53	49	48	51
Don't know	17	14	19	14	15	21	17	13	19	18	18	19	11	9	11	14

U.S. Likely Voters (%)	Tracked Findings*					
	Mar 2022	Aug 2018	Mar 2017	July 2015	Mar 2012	Dec 2011
Act in a serious and constitutional manner	45	33	38	34	33	39
Split into parties, similar to Republicans and Democrats in Congress	55	67	62	66	66	61

**For comparative purposes, March 2022 excludes those who say “No opinion / Don't know”*