



OVERVIEW

The study was conducted for CNN via web on the SSRS Opinion Panel. SSRS is an independent research company. Surveys were conducted from **September 21-22, 2020** among a sample of **901** respondents. The margin of sampling error for total respondents is +/- **4.0** at the 95% confidence level. The design effect is **1.52**. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com. Unless otherwise noted, results beginning with the March 31-April 2, 2006 survey and ending with the April 22-25, 2017 survey are from surveys conducted by ORC International. Results before March 31, 2006 are from surveys conducted by Gallup.

Question text noted in parentheses was rotated or randomized. Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (*).

NOTE ABOUT CROSSTABS

Surveys were conducted among a representative sample of the adult population, age 18 or older, of the United States. Members of demographic groups not shown in the published crosstabs are represented in the results for each question in the poll. Crosstabs on the pages that follow only include results for subgroups with a minimum N=125 unweighted cases. Results for subgroups with fewer than N=125 unweighted cases are not displayed and instead are denoted with "**SN**" because samples of that size carry larger margins of sampling error and can be too small to be projectable with confidence to their true values in the population.

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m.



SC1. In general, do you think the current Supreme Court is (too liberal), (too conservative), or just about right?

	Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
September 21-22, 2020	22%	34%	44%	*

CNN/ORC TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

	<u>Too liberal</u>	<u>Too conservative</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2015 June 26-28	37%	20%	40%	3%
2012 June 28-July 1	30%	22%	46%	2%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP AND GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Too liberal</u>	<u>Too conservative</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Sep 13-15	28%	27%	40%	5%
2003 Sep 8-10	31%	25%	39%	5%
2001 Sep 7-10	22%	25%	46%	7%
1995 July 7-9	31%	20%	41%	8%
1993 Jun 18-21*	22%	24%	45%	9%
* Asked of half sample				

SC2. As you may know, the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has created a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Do you, personally, think that (the president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat), or do you think that (President Trump should make the appointment now)?

	The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat	President Trump should make the appointment now	No opinion
September 21-22, 2020	59%	41%	0%

CNN/ORC TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

	The president elected in <u>November</u>	<u>President Obama</u>	Depends on who is elected in <u>November (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 March 17-20	40%	57%	1%	2%
QUESTION WORDING: And how about you, do you, personally, think that (the president elected in November) should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat, or do you think that (President Obama) should make the appointment? (TEXT ROTATED)				



SC3. President Trump has said that he will nominate someone to fill the vacancy. Do you think the Republican leadership in the Senate should or should not hold hearings on the nominee?

	Should hold hearings	Should not hold hearings	No opinion
September 21-22, 2020	53%	47%	0%

CNN/ORC TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

	Should	Should not	Depends on who is nominated (vol.)	No opinion
2016 Feb 24-27	66%	32%	1%	2%

QUESTION WORDING: President Obama has said that he will nominate someone to fill the vacancy. Do you think the Republican leadership in the Senate should or should not hold hearings on the nominee?

SC4. In recent years, the Senate has changed its rules so a Supreme Court nomination can move forward to a confirmation vote with the support of a simple majority of 51 Senators rather than the 60 votes that had been required traditionally. Do you approve or disapprove of this change to the rules?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
September 21-22, 2020	46%	54%	0%

SC5. If Donald Trump nominates someone to the Supreme Court and that person is confirmed, they will be the third justice Trump has appointed during his presidency. In general, do you think Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court so far have: **[FIRST TWO RESPONSES ROTATED IN ORDER FOR HALF/IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF]**

	Changed the Court for the better	Changed the Court for the worse	Have not made much of an impact on the Court	No opinion
September 21-22, 2020	29%	38%	32%	*



MORE ON METHODOLOGY

A total of **901** adults were surveyed online through the SSRS Opinion Panel, a nationally representative panel of U.S. adults age 18 or older recruited using probability-based sampling techniques. Surveys were conducted in English. Among the entire sample, **29%** described themselves as Democrats, **26%** described themselves as Republicans, and **45%** described themselves as independents or members of another party.

The entire sample was weighted to reflect national Census figures for gender, race, age, education, region of country, and civic engagement.

Results for the full sample have a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.

Surveys were conducted among a representative sample of the adult population, age 18 or older, of the United States. Members of demographic groups not shown in the published crosstabs are represented in the results for each question in the poll. Crosstabs on the pages that follow only include results for subgroups with a minimum N=125 unweighted cases. Results for subgroups with fewer than N=125 unweighted cases are not displayed and instead are denoted with "**SN**" because samples of that size carry larger margins of sampling error and can be too small to be projectable with confidence to their true values in the population.



CNN/SSRS Poll -- September 21, 2020 to September 22, 2020

TABLE 001

Question SC1

SC1. In general, do you think the current Supreme Court is too liberal, too conservative, or just about right?

Base: Total Respondents

	Total	Men	Women	White	Ppl of Color
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Too liberal	22%	23%	21%	24%	19%
Too conservative	34%	28%	39%	30%	42%
About right	44%	48%	40%	46%	40%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	*	0%	*	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.0

	Total	18-49	50+	<45	45+
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Too liberal	22%	18%	27%	18%	26%
Too conservative	34%	38%	30%	38%	32%
About right	44%	44%	43%	44%	42%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	*	0%	*	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.7

	Total	<\$50K	\$50K+	Non-coll. grad	Coll. grad.	White non-coll.	White coll. grad.
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Too liberal	22%	23%	22%	25%	17%	28%	16%
Too conservative	34%	33%	35%	29%	44%	25%	41%
About right	44%	44%	43%	46%	40%	47%	43%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	0%	*	*	0%	*	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	6.3	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.6	7.2

	Total	Demo-cratic	Indep endnt Other	Repub lican	Lib-eral	Mode-rate	Con serva tive
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Too liberal	22%	9%	16%	46%	6%	14%	47%
Too conservative	34%	59%	32%	10%	70%	31%	8%
About right	44%	32%	51%	44%	24%	55%	45%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	0%	*	0%	0%	0%	*
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	7.5	6.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	7.3

	Total	Lean Demo-cratic	Lean Repub lican	Reg. voter
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Too liberal	22%	7%	39%	23%
Too conservative	34%	53%	12%	35%
About right	44%	39%	49%	41%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	*	0%	*
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	5.9	4.4



CNN/SSRS Poll -- September 21, 2020 to September 22, 2020

TABLE 002
 Question SC2

SC2. As you may know, the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has created a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Do you, personally, think that the president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat, or do you think that President Trump should make the appointment now?

Base: Total Respondents

	Total	Men	Women	White	Ppl of Color
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat.	59%	52%	65%	50%	76%
President Trump should make the appointment now	41%	48%	35%	50%	24%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.0

	Total	18-49	50+	<45	45+
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat.	59%	65%	52%	67%	52%
President Trump should make the appointment now	41%	35%	48%	33%	48%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.7

	Total	<\$50K	\$50K+	Non-coll. grad	Coll. grad.	White non-coll.	White coll. grad.
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat.	59%	60%	58%	55%	68%	43%	63%
President Trump should make the appointment now	41%	40%	42%	45%	32%	57%	37%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	6.3	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.6	7.2

	Total	Demo-cratic	Indep endnt Other	Repub lican	Lib-eral	Mode-rate	Con serva tive
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat.	59%	97%	59%	17%	91%	63%	27%
President Trump should make the appointment now	41%	3%	41%	83%	9%	37%	73%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	7.5	6.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	7.3

	Total	Lean Demo-cratic	Lean Repub lican	Reg. voter
	=====	=====	=====	=====
The president elected in November should be the one to appoint the justice who will fill the seat.	59%	93%	21%	57%
President Trump should make the appointment now	41%	7%	79%	43%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	5.9	4.4



CNN/SSRS Poll -- September 21, 2020 to September 22, 2020

TABLE 003
 Question SC3

SC3. President Trump has said that he will nominate someone to fill the vacancy. Do you think the Republican leadership in the Senate should or should not hold hearings on the nominee?

Base: Total Respondents

	Total	Men	Women	White	Ppl of Color
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Should hold hearings	53%	57%	50%	54%	52%
Should not hold hearings	47%	43%	50%	46%	48%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.0

	Total	18-49	50+	<45	45+
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Should hold hearings	53%	59%	47%	59%	48%
Should not hold hearings	47%	41%	53%	41%	52%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.7

	Total	<\$50K	\$50K+	Non-coll. grad.	Coll. grad.	White non-coll.	White coll. grad.
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Should hold hearings	53%	54%	52%	56%	49%	57%	46%
Should not hold hearings	47%	46%	48%	44%	51%	43%	54%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	6.3	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.6	7.2

	Total	Demo-cratic	Indep endnt Other	Repub lican	Lib-eral	Mode-rate	Con serva tive
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Should hold hearings	53%	32%	54%	76%	34%	53%	70%
Should not hold hearings	47%	68%	46%	24%	66%	47%	30%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	7.5	6.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	7.3

	Total	Lean Demo-cratic	Lean Repub lican	Reg. voter
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Should hold hearings	53%	36%	73%	51%
Should not hold hearings	47%	64%	27%	49%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	5.9	4.4



CNN/SSRS Poll -- September 21, 2020 to September 22, 2020

TABLE 004
 Question SC4

SC4. In recent years, the Senate has changed its rules so a Supreme Court nomination can move forward to a confirmation vote with the support of a simple majority of 51 Senators rather than the 60 votes that had been required traditionally. Do you approve or disapprove of this change to the rules?

Base: Total Respondents

	Total	Men	Women	White	Ppl of Color		
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====		
Approve	46%	50%	44%	53%	36%		
Disapprove	54%	50%	56%	47%	64%		
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.0		

	Total	18-49	50+	<45	45+
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Approve	46%	46%	47%	46%	48%
Disapprove	54%	54%	53%	54%	52%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.7

	Total	<\$50K	\$50K+	Non-coll. grad	Coll. grad.	White non-coll.	White coll.
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Approve	46%	47%	46%	50%	40%	58%	42%
Disapprove	54%	53%	54%	50%	60%	42%	58%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	6.3	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.6	7.2

	Total	Demo-cratic	Indep endnt Other	Repub lican	Lib-eral	Mode-rate	Con serva tive
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Approve	46%	21%	45%	77%	26%	44%	67%
Disapprove	54%	79%	55%	23%	74%	56%	33%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	7.5	6.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	7.3

	Total	Lean Demo-cratic	Lean Repub lican	Reg. voter
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Approve	46%	22%	73%	46%
Disapprove	54%	78%	27%	54%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	5.9	4.4



CNN/SSRS Poll -- September 21, 2020 to September 22, 2020

TABLE 005
 Question SC5

SC5. If Donald Trump nominates someone to the Supreme Court and that person is confirmed, they will be the third justice Trump has appointed during his presidency. In general, do you think Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court so far have:

Base: Total Respondents

	Total	Men	Women	White	Ppl of Color
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Changed the Court for the better	29%	33%	26%	37%	15%
Changed the Court for the worse	38%	33%	43%	33%	48%
Have not made much of an impact on the Court	32%	33%	32%	30%	37%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	*	0%	0%	*
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.0

	Total	18-49	50+	<45	45+
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Changed the Court for the better	29%	26%	33%	24%	34%
Changed the Court for the worse	38%	41%	36%	41%	36%
Have not made much of an impact on the Court	32%	34%	31%	35%	30%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	0%	*	0%	*
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.7

	Total	<\$50K	\$50K+	Non-coll. grad	Coll. grad.	White non-coll.	White coll. grad.
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Changed the Court for the better	29%	30%	29%	32%	23%	41%	27%
Changed the Court for the worse	38%	37%	39%	32%	51%	26%	48%
Have not made much of an impact on the Court	32%	33%	32%	36%	26%	33%	25%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	*	0%	*	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	6.3	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.6	7.2

	Total	Demo-cratic	Indep endnt Other	Repub lican	Lib-eral	Mode-rate	Con serva tive
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Changed the Court for the better	29%	5%	26%	61%	10%	20%	58%
Changed the Court for the worse	38%	73%	34%	7%	74%	37%	10%
Have not made much of an impact on the Court	32%	22%	39%	32%	17%	42%	32%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	0%	*	0%	0%	*	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	7.5	6.0	7.9	7.3	6.5	7.3

	Total	Lean Demo-cratic	Lean Repub lican	Reg. voter
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Changed the Court for the better	29%	5%	56%	30%
Changed the Court for the worse	38%	67%	7%	39%
Have not made much of an impact on the Court	32%	28%	38%	31%
Don't know/Undecided/Refused	*	0%	0%	0%
Sampling Error (+/-)	4.0	5.5	5.9	4.4