

**Center for American Progress
Supreme Court Survey
Pennsylvania Statewide**

**April 19-21, 2016
600 Registered Voters**

Q.2 First of all, are you currently registered to vote in Pennsylvania?

	Total
Yes	100
No.....	-
(Don't know/refused).....	-
(ref:SCREEN1)	

Q.4 I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the election for President, Congress, and other offices in November, what are the chances of your voting in the election - are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances fifty-fifty, or don't you think you will vote?

	Total
Almost certain	85
Probably	10
Fifty-fifty	3
Will not vote.....	1
(Don't know/refused).....	0
(ref:VOTE16)	

[300 Respondents in splits A and B]

I am going to read you a list of people and organizations. After I read each one, please tell me if you have a favorable, neutral, or unfavorable view of that person. If you have not heard of that person or organization or are unfamiliar with them, just tell me that.

	Very Fav	Smwt Fav	Neu- tral	Smwt Unfav	Very Unfav	Never Heard Unfam	Can't Rate	Total Fav	Total Unfav	Fav - Unfav
5 Barack Obama	28	14	15	8	34	1	1	42	42	0
6 Bob Casey Jr.	11	23	26	11	11	14	5	34	22	12
7 Pat Toomey	10	18	28	12	13	13	7	28	24	4
8 (SPLIT A) Merrick Garland.....	7	6	11	3	4	61	8	13	7	6
9 (SPLIT B) Merrick Garland, President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court	13	15	22	7	11	22	9	28	19	10
10 (SPLIT A) Antonin Scalia	27	11	15	7	10	20	9	37	18	19
11 (SPLIT B) Antonin Scalia, former Supreme Court Justice.....	24	16	24	5	14	11	5	41	19	21
12 The U.S. Supreme Court..... (ref:THERM2)	14	25	33	11	7	4	5	40	18	22

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court deals with a wide range of issues. Please tell me how important each of the following is for you personally when it comes to the role of the U.S. Supreme Court.

	Very Impt	Smwt Impt	Not That Impt	Not At all Impt	DK/ Ref	Total Impt	Total Not Impt	Impt - Not
13 Ensuring that all Americans are treated equally regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.....	77	15	4	3	1	92	7	85
14 Making sure the President and Congress do not overstep their Constitutional authorities.	78	17	2	1	1	95	4	91
15 Protecting the rights of all people to vote and participate in the political process.....	81	13	3	2	2	93	4	89
16 Defending the rights of those in the criminal justice system.....	48	35	9	6	2	83	15	69
17 Making sure Congress and the President don't place unfair regulations on the private sector.....	60	28	7	3	2	88	10	77
18 Ensuring that the wealthy and corporations don't have too much power in the political system.	63	22	7	7	1	85	14	71
19 Protecting Americans from intrusive government actions and privacy violations.	66	27	4	2	1	93	6	87
20 Making sure that all Americans have access to basic education, housing, and health care..... (ref:IMPORT)	64	23	7	5	1	87	11	76

Q.21 As you may have heard, Justice Antonin Scalia died in February, creating a vacant seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, and President Obama recently named his nominee to fill this vacancy. How closely would you say you have followed this Supreme Court nomination process so far - very closely, somewhat closely, not that closely, or not at all?

	Total
Very closely	22
Somewhat closely	42
Not that closely	20
Not at all	15
(Don't know/refused)	1
Total Closely	64
Total Not closely	35
(ref:FOLLOW)	

Q.22 As you may have heard, President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to fill the vacant seat on the Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should hold hearings and then have an up-or-down confirmation vote on Judge Garland's nomination?

	Total
Yes, strongly	47
Yes, somewhat	19
No, somewhat	8
No, strongly	20
(Don't know/refused)	6
Total Yes	66
Total No	28
Yes - No	38
(ref:INITVOTE)	

Q.23 Based on what you know, do you think Judge Merrick Garland should be confirmed by the U.S. Senate and seated as the next Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?

	Total
Yes, strongly	23
Yes, somewhat	19
No, somewhat	11
No, strongly	25
(Don't know/refused)	23
Total Yes	42
Total No	35
Yes - No	7
(ref:CONFIRM)	

Q.24 The Republican leadership in the U.S. Senate has said that it will not hold confirmation hearings or an up-or-down vote for President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland. Do you support or oppose this decision by the Republican leadership in Congress?

	Total
Strongly support	26
Somewhat support.....	12
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	44
(Don't know/refused).....	8
Total Support	37
Total Oppose	55
Support - Oppose	-18
(ref:GOPBLOCK)	

Q.25 If Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey refuses to support holding hearings and a confirmation vote for Judge Merrick Garland for the U.S. Supreme Court, would you view him more favorably or less favorably, or would it make no difference?

	Total
Much more favorable	9
Somewhat more favorable	11
No difference.....	39
Somewhat less favorable	13
Much less favorable	25
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Total More Favorable	20
Total Less Favorable	38
Net Less Favorable.....	-18
(ref:POLIMPACT)	

Q.26 Do you think Senate Republican leaders are refusing to hold hearings or a confirmation vote mostly for political reasons or mostly because they think it is the best thing for the country?

	Total
Mostly for political reasons.....	64
Mostly because it's best for the country.....	30
(Don't know/refused).....	6
Mostly for political reasons –	
Mostly because it's best for the country	35
(ref:GOPMOTIVE)	

[300 Respondents in splits A and B]

Now I'm going to read you some statements from those who support Judge Garland's nomination and believe the U.S. Senate should hold confirmation hearings and a vote. For each statement, please tell me whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT confirmation hearings and a vote on Judge Garland's nomination.

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	A Little Conv	Not At all Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
27 The President has a Constitutional duty to nominate a qualified nominee to fill any vacant seat on the Supreme Court, and the U.S. Senate has a Constitutional duty to offer its advice and consent. The President has done his job, now the Senate should do theirs.	48	21	5	24	2	69	29
28 Merrick Garland has the most extensive judicial experience of any recent Supreme Court nominee.	27	34	11	24	4	61	35
29 Merrick Garland has a proven record as a prosecutor and led the effort to bring the Oklahoma City bombers to justice.	32	33	10	23	3	64	33
30 Merrick Garland is a moderate judge who has been confirmed previously by both Democrats and Republicans.	32	34	8	24	2	66	32
31 (SPLIT A) Those opposed to granting Judge Garland a fair hearing and a confirmation vote have never accepted that President Obama was elected twice by the American people, and they are disrespecting him and the office of the President. If this were a different President, they would never behave in this manner.	30	18	7	42	3	48	49
32 (SPLIT B) By leaving the Supreme Court with a 4-to-4 split, opponents of the President have created a Constitutional crisis that leaves the Court in limbo and threatens important rulings on issues from women's rights and voting access to climate change and immigration reform.	35	21	8	34	2	56	42

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	A Little Conv	Not At all Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
33 (SPLIT A) The refusal to grant Judge Garland a fair hearing and a confirmation vote is just another example of Senate Republicans obstructing the President, putting their partisan goals ahead of the country as a whole and blocking him from doing his Constitutional duty.	39	18	8	33	2	57	41
34 (SPLIT B) Senators opposed to the President's Supreme Court nominee aren't acting on principle. They are simply doing the bidding of the big corporations and special interests like the National Rifle Association that fund their campaigns.	25	24	12	36	3	48	48
(ref:PROMSG)							

[300 Respondents in splits C and D]

Now I'm going to read you some statements from those who believe the U.S. Senate should NOT hold confirmation hearings or a vote on Judge Garland's nomination. For each statement, please tell me whether it is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all convincing reason to OPPOSE any confirmation hearings or a vote on Judge Garland's nomination.

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	A Little Conv	Not At all Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
35 (SPLIT C) Since this is an election year, we should wait until we know who the next president will be before filling an important vacancy to the U.S. Supreme Court, so that voters can have their voices heard on this decision.	34	16	7	42	1	50	49
36 (SPLIT D) President Obama is in his final months of office and should not make a decision that will alter the course of the Supreme Court for years to come.	35	13	10	40	1	49	50
37 Since the Supreme Court is now split evenly between four liberal and four conservative justices, it is important to let voters make the final decision in the upcoming election about the ideological direction of the Court.	38	21	9	31	2	58	40
38 (SPLIT C) Justice Antonin Scalia was an important conservative voice on the Court and should not be replaced by someone who will shift the Court in a more liberal direction.	25	21	6	46	2	46	52

	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	A Little Conv	Not At all Conv	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
39 (SPLIT D) Justice Antonin Scalia was an important conservative voice on the Court and should not have his replacement chosen by a liberal President.....	22	17	10	47	3	39	58
40 (SPLIT C) President Obama says that Judge Garland is a moderate judge, but he will ultimately vote with the liberal justices to write laws from the bench, threatening our rights and giving the government too much power over our lives.....	25	22	5	44	4	47	49
41 (SPLIT D) Any Senator who goes forward with a hearing and vote for President Obama's nominee to the Court is ignoring the will of the people and should be challenged in upcoming primaries.....	24	23	10	40	2	47	50
42 (SPLIT C) The Obama administration is being hypocritical. When Vice President Joe Biden was in the Senate, he argued the same thing Republicans are saying today - no hearings or vote on Supreme Court nominees until after upcoming elections.	26	20	13	38	3	46	51
43 (SPLIT D) Given the importance of this vacancy, we should wait to see the results of the November elections. If the President's party wins, then the Senate should consider moving forward with hearings and a vote for Judge Garland. (ref:BASICCON)	22	25	10	42	2	47	51

Q.44 Now let me ask one last time, do you think the U.S. Senate should hold hearings and then have an up-or-down confirmation vote on Judge Garland's nomination?

	Total
Yes, strongly	45
Yes, somewhat.....	19
No, somewhat.....	10
No, strongly.....	23
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Total Yes	64
Total No	33
Yes - No.....	31
(ref:FINVOTE)	

Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

Q.45 In what year were you born?

	Total
18 - 24.....	7
25 - 29.....	7
30 - 34.....	9
35 - 39.....	4
40 - 44.....	7
45 - 49.....	11
50 - 54.....	8
55 - 59.....	8
60 - 64.....	12
Over 64	24
(No answer).....	2
(ref:AGE)	

Q.46 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade.....	3
High School graduate	21
Non-college post H.S.	3
Some college	22
College graduate	33
Post-graduate school	17
(Don't know/refused).....	1
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.47 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat.....	30
Weak Democrat	16
Independent-lean Democrat	4
Independent	5
Independent-lean Republican	5
Weak Republican.....	14
Strong Republican.....	25
(Don't know/Refused)	0
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.50 Which of the following do you feel best describes your political perspective?

	Total
Progressive	13
Liberal	16
Moderate	27
Libertarian.....	4
Conservative.....	33
(Other)	2
(Don't know/refused).....	5
(ref:SELFIDEO)	

Q.51 In the 2012 election for President, did you vote for Democrat Barack Obama or Republican Mitt Romney?

	Total
Democrat Barack Obama.....	48
Republican Mitt Romney.....	42
(Other candidate)	2
(Did not vote)	5
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Democrat Barack Obama - Republican Mitt Romney	7
(ref:VOTE12)	

Q.52 What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	Total
White or Caucasian	80
African-American or Black.....	8
Hispanic or Latino.....	5
Asian	2
Native American	1
(Other)	1
(Don't know/refused).....	3
(ref:RACETHN)	

Q.3 Respondent's gender

	Total
Male	48
Female	52
(ref:GENDER)	