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Final Court Rulings: Public Equally Interested in Voting Rights, Gay Marriage

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Final Court Rulings: Public Equally Interested in Voting Rights, Gay Marriage

A new poll finds that the public is as interested in the Supreme Court's upcoming ruling on the Voting Rights Act as in its long-awaited decisions on same-sex marriage.

Roughly a third of Americans (35% each) say they are very interested in both how the court will rule on whether parts of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary and on federal and state laws on gay marriage.

A third (33%) express little or no interest in how the court rules on the Voting Rights Act, while 40% say they are not too or not at all interested in the court's rulings on gay marriage.

The Pew Research Center survey was conducted June 20-23 among 1,005 adults, before the Supreme Court's ruling Monday on affirmative action in college admissions. About three-in-ten (31%) had said they were very interested in that decision.

There are wide racial differences in interest in all three court rulings. More whites than blacks say they are very interested in the same-sex marriage decisions (37% vs. 23%). Blacks express much more interest than whites in both the voting rights and affirmative action decisions.

Public Interest in End-of-Term Supreme Court Rulings

Whether parts of Voting Rights Act are still necessary



Federal and state laws about gay marriage



Affirmative action in college admissions



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 20-23, 2013.
Don't know responses not shown.

Blacks, in particular, express a great deal of interest in both the voting rights and affirmative action decisions (56% each). About a third (32%) of whites say they are very interested in the voting rights ruling while 25% are very interested in the affirmative action ruling.

There are no partisan differences in interest in the court's upcoming decisions on same-sex marriage: 39% of Republicans and 38% of Democrats are very interested, as are 34% of independents.

But there are wide partisan differences in interest in the voting rights and affirmative action decisions. A plurality of Democrats (44%) are very interested in the court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act, compared with about three-in-ten Republicans (32%) and independents (30%). On the affirmative action case, 42% of Democrats were very interested in the decision, compared with 25% of Republicans and 27% of independents.

Racial Differences in Interest in Major Court Decisions

<i>% 'very interested' in the Supreme Court's decision on...</i>	Gay marriage	Voting rights	Affirmative action
	%	%	%
Total	35	35	31
Men	32	36	28
Women	38	35	34
White	37	32	25
Black	23	56	56
18-29	35	25	27
30-49	32	36	32
50-64	40	39	32
65+	35	38	31
Republican	39	32	25
Democrat	38	44	42
Independent	34	30	27

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 20-23, 2013. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 20-23, 2013, among a national sample of 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 504 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 244 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,005	3.7 percentage points
Republican	270	7.2 percentage points
Democrat	306	6.7 percentage points
Independent	357	6.2 percentage points
White	764	4.3 percentage points
Black	96	12.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
June 20-23, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,005

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
December 6-9, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
November 8-11, 2012	41	31	15	12	1
November 1-4, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
October 25-28, 2012	44	30	14	11	1
October 18-21, 2012	39	36	12	12	1
October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2013/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

b. Debate over immigration policy in the U.S.

June 20-23, 2013	20	28	23	29	1
June 13-16, 2013	23	26	22	29	1
June 6-9, 2013	21	28	21	30	1
May 23-26, 2013	17	23	23	37	1
May 9-12, 2013	20	24	25	30	1
April 25-28, 2013	19	25	24	32	*
April 18-21, 2013	21	22	25	31	1
April 4-7, 2013	23	22	22	32	*

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

January 31-February 3, 2013: <i>Debate in Washington over immigration policy</i>	23	25	22	29	1
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on Arizona's immigration law</i>	29	21	19	30	1
April 26-29, 2012: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	24	26	27	1
May 12-15, 2011	18	22	27	32	1
September 2-6, 2010	30	31	19	20	1
August 12-15, 2010	27	31	19	21	1
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect</i>	40	32	17	10	1
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law</i>	30	27	19	23	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	34	30	20	14	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants</i>	38	27	13	21	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*
c. Debate over government phone and internet surveillance programs					
June 20-23, 2013	23	30	17	29	1
June 13-16, 2013: <i>The government collecting information about telephone calls, e-mails and other online communications as part of efforts to monitor terrorist activity</i>	35	27	15	21	1
June 7-9, 2013: <i>The government collecting emails and other online activities directly from large internet companies to track foreign suspects in terror investigations</i>	26	24	17	33	1
June 6-9, 2013: <i>The government collecting records about Verizon phone calls for national security purposes</i>	27	21	17	35	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 27-May 22, 2006: <i>Reports that the National Security Agency has been collecting telephone records of millions of American citizens</i>	33	28	22	16	1
d. Recent Supreme Court rulings and cases before the court					
June 20-23, 2013	13	21	25	40	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 28-31, 2013: <i>The Supreme Court hearing cases about same-sex marriage</i>	22	29	22	26	1
July 2-5, 2009: <i>The Supreme Court ruling that a group of firefighters were unfairly denied promotions because of their race</i>	19	25	18	38	*
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>The California Supreme Court upholding a ban on gay marriage</i>	22	35	19	23	1
Nov. 7-10, 2008: <i>CA vote bans gay marriage</i>	18	26	24	32	*
June 20-23, 2008: <i>Same sex marriage in CA</i>	22	26	25	27	*
May 16-19, 2008: <i>CA Supreme Court ruling</i>	19	27	25	28	1
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>A Supreme Court ruling that public schools cannot use race to decide where students attend classes</i>	23	23	19	34	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Thinking about some cases the Supreme Court will decide on next week... How interested are you in the court's decision on **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [READ RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY]** - very interested, fairly interested, not too interested, or not at all interested?

	<u>Very interested</u>	<u>Fairly interested</u>	<u>Not too interested</u>	<u>Not at all interested</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Federal and state laws about gay marriage June 20-23, 2013	35	23	15	25	2
b. Affirmative action in college admissions June 20-23, 2013	31	31	17	19	2
c. Whether parts of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary June 20-23, 2013	35	29	16	17	2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
June 13-16, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,004

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
December 6-9, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
November 8-11, 2012	41	31	15	12	1
November 1-4, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
October 25-28, 2012	44	30	14	11	1
October 18-21, 2012	39	36	12	12	1
October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2013/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

b. Debate over immigration policy in the U.S.

June 13-16, 2013	23	26	22	29	1
June 6-9, 2013	21	28	21	30	1
May 23-26, 2013	17	23	23	37	1
May 9-12, 2013	20	24	25	30	1
April 25-28, 2013	19	25	24	32	*
April 18-21, 2013	21	22	25	31	1
April 4-7, 2013	23	22	22	32	*

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

January 31-February 3, 2013: <i>Debate in Washington over immigration policy</i>	23	25	22	29	1
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on Arizona's immigration law</i>	29	21	19	30	1
April 26-29, 2012: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	24	26	27	1
May 12-15, 2011	18	22	27	32	1
September 2-6, 2010	30	31	19	20	1
August 12-15, 2010	27	31	19	21	1
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect</i>	40	32	17	10	1
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law</i>	30	27	19	23	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	34	30	20	14	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants</i>	38	27	13	21	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
c. The government collecting information about telephone calls, e-mails and other online communications as part of efforts to monitor terrorist activity					
June 13-16, 2013	35	27	15	21	1
June 7-9, 2013: <i>The government collecting emails and other online activities directly from large internet companies to track foreign suspects in terror investigations</i>	26	24	17	33	1
June 6-9, 2013: <i>The government collecting records about Verizon phone calls for national security purposes</i>	27	21	17	35	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 27-May 22, 2006: <i>Reports that the National Security Agency has been collecting telephone records of millions of American citizens</i>	33	28	22	16	1
d. The NBA Finals					
June 13-16, 2013	14	12	14	58	1
June 14-17, 2012	16	9	16	59	*
June 2-5, 2011	14	12	14	60	*
June 10-13, 2010	15	13	15	56	1
June 5-8, 2009	13	9	12	67	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 20-23, 2008: <i>The Boston Celtics winning the NBA Finals</i>	18	17	22	42	1
e. The trial of George Zimmerman for the shooting death of Florida teen Trayvon Martin					
June 13-16, 2012	15	26	24	35	1
April 26-29, 2012: <i>Developments in the case against George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin</i>	24	28	22	25	1
April 20-22, 2012	27	29	21	21	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>George Zimmerman being charged with second-degree murder in the death of Trayvon Martin</i>	35	31	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012: <i>Controversy over the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teen in Florida</i>	34	30	18	18	*
March 29-April 1, 2012	30	35	15	20	*
March 22-25, 2012	35	24	15	26	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
July 31-August 3, 2009: <i>Reports about the arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates and President Obama's response to the incident</i>	25	26	22	25	2
July 24-27, 2009: <i>The arrest of Henry Louis Gates, a black Harvard professor, at his home after a dispute with a police officer</i>	30	31	17	21	1
April 25-28, 2008: <i>The acquittal of three New York City police officers in the shooting of an unarmed man on his wedding day</i>	13	24	24	38	1
September 21-24, 2007: <i>Demonstrations in Jena, Louisiana, about six black teenagers involved in a schoolyard fight</i>	18	27	25	30	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 2001: <i>Rioting in Cincinnati after an unarmed black man was shot by police</i>	24	32	23	20	1
July 2000: <i>The video showing Philadelphia police kicking and beating a carjacking suspect</i>	22	32	22	23	1
March 2000: <i>The acquittal of four New York policemen who shot and killed Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant</i>	28	35	20	17	0
February 1999: <i>The Texas murder trial of a man accused of dragging a black man behind a pickup truck</i>	24	41	20	14	1
May 1993: <i>The Rodney King trial and verdict in Los Angeles</i>	47	34	13	6	*
May 1992: <i>The verdict in the Rodney King case and the riots and disturbances that followed</i>	70	22	5	2	1
March 1991: <i>The videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase</i>	46	30	13	10	1
f. Political protests and rioting in Turkey					
June 13-16, 2013	10	20	25	45	*
June 6-9, 2013	9	15	23	53	*
ASKED JUNE 14-16, 2013 ONLY [N=733]:					
g. Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups					
June 14-16, 2013	15	30	20	33	2
April 25-28, 2013	18	25	24	33	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	23	22	42	*
May 9-12, 2013	17	24	25	33	1
March 28-31, 2013	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-18, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	29	25	27	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*