

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
MARCH 2016 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
MARCH 17-27, 2016  
N=2,254**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 6-13, THOUGHT, REG, OFTVOTE, 23-25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTIONS 3-5, 14-22, 26-34**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.35 How much, if anything, have you heard about Barack Obama's choice of Merrick Garland to be the next Supreme Court justice? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**?

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

Mar 17-27 <u>2016</u>		Feb 18-21 <u>2016</u> <sup>1</sup>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>
32	A lot	45	46	39
44	A little	26	33	38
24	Nothing at all	26	19	21
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	2	2

-----Sotomayor-----

**ASK ALL:**

Q.36 How important is the choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Mar 17-27 <u>2016</u>		Feb 18-21 <u>2016</u>	Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u> <sup>2</sup>	Nov <u>2005</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2005</u> <sup>3</sup>	July <u>2005</u>	June <u>2005</u>	Late March <u>2005</u>
56	Very important	57	40	47	48	47	47	38
27	Somewhat important	24	32	28	34	30	29	36
11	Not too important	8	14	13	9	14	14	15
5	Not at all important	9	11	11	7	8	8	8
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3	1	2	1	2	3

-----Bush-----

**ASK ALL:**

Q.37 From what you've seen and heard so far, do you think the Senate should or should not confirm Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court?

		<u>Should</u>	<u>Should not</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>Garland</b>	Mar 17-27, 2016	46	30	24
<b>Kagan</b>	June 17-20, 2010	33	25	42
<b>Kagan</b>	May 13-16, 2010	33	21	46
<b>Sotomayor</b>	July 22-26, 2009	50	23	27
<b>Sotomayor</b>	June 10-14, 2009	50	25	25
<b>Alito</b>	January, 2006	33	19	48
<b>Alito</b>	Early December, 2006	32	19	49
<b>Alito</b>	November, 2005	40	23	37
<b>Miers</b>	Early October, 2005	33	27	40
<b>Roberts</b>	Mid-September, 2005	46	21	33
<b>Roberts</b>	Early September, 2005	35	19	46

<sup>1</sup> In February 2016, the question read: "How much, if anything, have you heard about the death of Supreme Court Antonin Scalia and the vacancy on the court?"

<sup>2</sup> In April 2010 and earlier, the question read: "How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally?"

<sup>3</sup> In mid-September 2005 the question was asked about the two Supreme Court openings: "How important are the president's choices of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

**QUESTIONS 38, 50, 54-55, 58, 60, 62, 68-70, 74-78, 80, 85-88, 90, 99-100 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 39-49, 51-53, 56-57, 59, 61, 63-67, 71-73, 79, 81-84, 89****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Mar 17-27, 2016	25	31	38	3	*	2	15	20
Jan 7-14, 2016	24	30	38	5	1	2	14	17
Dec 8-13, 2015	26	31	37	4	*	2	16	15
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	24	29	41	4	*	2	17	17
Sep 22-27, 2015	26	30	40	2	*	2	15	16
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--