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Few Conservatives View the Roberts Court as
Conservative

Supreme Court's Favorable Rating Still at Historic Low

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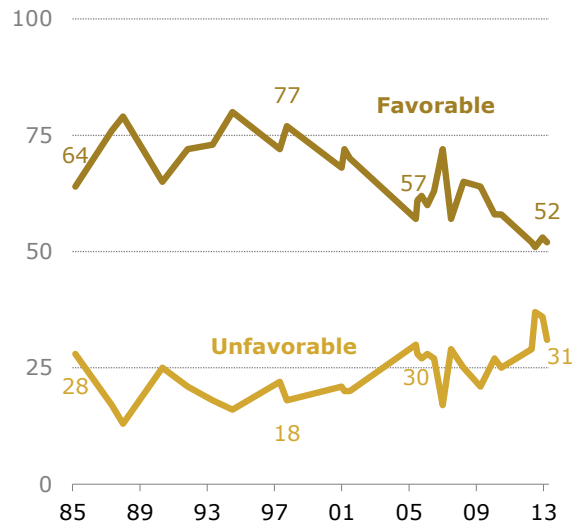
As the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments on two same-sex marriage cases, and with several other high-profile cases on its docket, the court's favorability rating remains close to an all-time low.

A national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17 among 1,501 adults, finds that 52% view the court favorably, while 31% view it unfavorably. Those ratings have changed only modestly since last July, shortly after the court's ruling to uphold most of the Affordable Care Act.

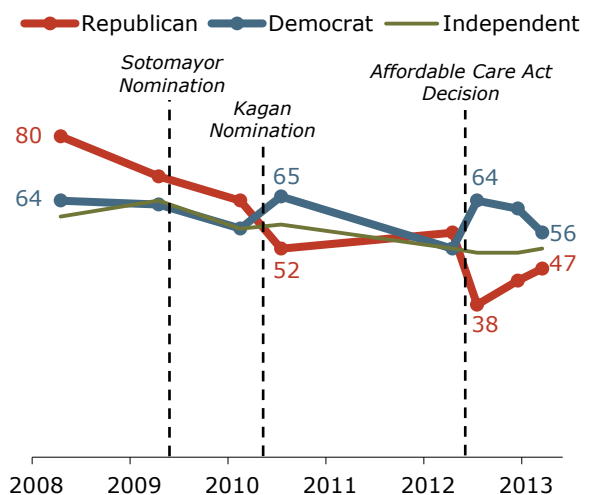
Republicans' views of the court, which tumbled 18 points following the court's ruling on the health care law, have rebounded somewhat in the current survey. Nearly half of Republicans (47%) have a favorable opinion of the Supreme Court, up from 38% last July, but still lower than the 56% who viewed the court positively prior to its decision on the health care law.

By contrast, Democrats' impressions of the court have slipped since last July, from 64% to 56%. Independents' views of the court have changed little during this period. About half of independents (52%) continue to have a favorable impression of the court.

Supreme Court's Favorable Rating Little Changed



Partisan Divide in Favorable View of Supreme Court



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.

Little Agreement on Supreme Court's Ideological Leanings

The public continues to have mixed perceptions of the Supreme Court's ideology. A plurality (40%) now say the court is middle of the road, while 24% say it is liberal and about the same share (22%) says it is conservative.

But conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats have very different impressions of the ideology of the

Roberts Court. About as many conservative Republicans say the Supreme Court is liberal (45%) as middle of the road (39%). Very few conservative Republicans, just 9%, say the court is conservative.

More Conservatives View the Court as Liberal; More Liberals View It as Conservative

| | <i>Supreme Court is...</i> | | | | N |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------|------|
| | Conser- vative % | Middle of the road % | Liberal % | DK % | |
| Total | 22 | 40 | 24 | 14=100 | 1501 |
| Conservative Rep | 9 | 39 | 45 | 8=100 | 289 |
| Mod/Liberal Rep | 15 | 45 | 29 | 11=100 | 127 |
| Independent | 22 | 41 | 24 | 13=100 | 498 |
| Conserv/Mod Dem | 26 | 45 | 13 | 17=100 | 290 |
| Liberal Democrat | 48 | 31 | 15 | 6=100 | 178 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly half of liberal Democrats (48%) say

the Supreme Court is conservative; 31% say it is middle of the road and just 15% view the court's ideology as liberal. Both overall public views of the court's ideology as well as the partisan and ideological differences in those views are little changed since 2012.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 13-17, 2013, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (750 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 751 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 385 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. 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 and Spanish. 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 the 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 nativity 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), 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 | 1,501 | 2.9 percentage points |
| Republican | 420 | 5.6 percentage points |
| Democrat | 487 | 5.2 percentage points |
| Independent | 498 | 5.1 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 FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 13-17, 2013
N=1,501

Q.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 2-4****QUESTIONS 5a-c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Would you say your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS a-c; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF a-c BLOCK WITH ITEM d]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [ITEM] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

| | ----- Favorable ----- | | | ----- Unfavorable ----- | | | (VOL.) | (VOL.) |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|-------------------------|------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| | Total | Very | Mostly | Total | Very | Mostly | Never heard of | Can't rate/Ref |
| d. The Supreme Court | | | | | | | | |
| Mar 13-17, 2013 | 52 | 7 | 45 | 31 | 10 | 21 | 2 | 15 |
| Dec 5-9, 2012 | 53 | 8 | 45 | 36 | 12 | 24 | 1 | 10 |
| Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 | 51 | 10 | 41 | 37 | 14 | 23 | 1 | 11 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 52 | 11 | 41 | 29 | 10 | 20 | * | 18 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 58 | 9 | 49 | 25 | 8 | 17 | 1 | 16 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 58 | 8 | 50 | 27 | 8 | 19 | * | 15 |
| Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009 | 64 | 8 | 56 | 21 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| April, 2008 | 65 | 15 | 50 | 25 | 7 | 18 | * | 10 |
| July, 2007 | 57 | 12 | 45 | 29 | 9 | 20 | 0 | 14 |
| January, 2007 | 72 | 18 | 54 | 17 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 9 |
| July, 2006 | 63 | 7 | 56 | 27 | 8 | 19 | 1 | 9 |
| February, 2006 | 60 | 16 | 44 | 28 | 10 | 18 | * | 12 |
| Late October, 2005 | 62 | 12 | 50 | 27 | 10 | 17 | * | 11 |
| July, 2005 | 61 | 12 | 49 | 28 | 10 | 18 | * | 11 |
| June, 2005 | 57 | 8 | 49 | 30 | 8 | 22 | * | 13 |
| July, 2001 | 70 | 15 | 55 | 20 | 6 | 14 | * | 10 |
| March, 2001 | 72 | 15 | 57 | 20 | 5 | 15 | * | 8 |
| January, 2001 | 68 | 18 | 50 | 21 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 10 |
| October, 1997 | 77 | 13 | 64 | 18 | 6 | 12 | * | 5 |
| May, 1997 | 72 | 16 | 56 | 22 | 5 | 17 | 0 | 6 |
| July, 1994 | 80 | 18 | 62 | 16 | 3 | 13 | * | 4 |
| May, 1993 | 73 | 17 | 56 | 18 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 9 |
| November, 1991 | 72 | 18 | 54 | 21 | 5 | 16 | 0 | 7 |
| May, 1990 | 65 | 10 | 55 | 25 | 7 | 18 | 1 | 9 |
| January, 1988 | 79 | 14 | 65 | 13 | 2 | 11 | * | 8 |
| May, 1987 | 76 | 13 | 63 | 17 | 2 | 15 | * | 7 |
| Roper: March 1985 | 64 | 17 | 47 | 28 | 7 | 21 | -- | 8 |

QUESTIONS 6-7, 15C, 18, 20-24, 26-29, 35-38 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 8-14, 16-17, 19, 25, 30-34, 39-44****QUESTION 15a,b,e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Q.45 Thinking about the Supreme Court...In your view, do you think the current Supreme Court is conservative, middle of the road, or liberal?

| Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u> | | Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u> | Jul 1-5 <u>2010</u> | Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u> | July <u>2007</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 22 | Conservative | 24 | 23 | 24 | 36 |
| 40 | Middle of the road | 41 | 39 | 36 | 35 |
| 24 | Liberal | 23 | 23 | 24 | 14 |
| 14 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 12 | 14 | 16 | 15 |

NO QUESTIONS 49-55, 58-60, 64, 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84, 93-97

QUESTIONS 46-48, 56-57, 77, 85-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS 61-63, 65, 70-71, 73, 98-102 PREVIOUS RELEASED

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?

| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | (VOL.) No preference | (VOL.) Other party | (VOL.) DK/Ref | Lean <u>Rep</u> | Lean <u>Dem</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mar 13-17, 2013 | 26 | 33 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 15 |
| Feb. 13-18, 2013 | 22 | 32 | 41 | 2 | * | 2 | 15 | 19 |
| Jan 9-13, 2013 | 25 | 32 | 38 | 2 | * | 2 | 15 | 16 |
| Dec 17-19, 2012 | 21 | 32 | 38 | 4 | * | 4 | 15 | 14 |
| Dec 5-9, 2012 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 19 |
| Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 | 26 | 34 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 28 | 33 | 33 | 4 | * | 2 | 12 | 16 |
| Oct 4-7, 2012 | 27 | 31 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 15 |
| Sep 12-16, 2012 | 24 | 35 | 36 | 2 | * | 2 | 14 | 16 |
| Jul 16-26, 2012 | 22 | 33 | 38 | 4 | * | 3 | 14 | 15 |
| Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 | 24 | 33 | 37 | 3 | * | 3 | 15 | 17 |
| Jun 7-17, 2012 | 24 | 33 | 39 | 2 | * | 2 | 17 | 17 |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012 | 24 | 32 | 36 | 4 | * | 4 | 13 | 14 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 24 | 31 | 39 | 3 | * | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| Mar 7-11, 2012 | 24 | 34 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 17 |
| Feb 8-12, 2012 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 17 |
| Yearly Totals | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |

PARTY PARTYLN CONTINUED...

| | | | | (VOL.) | (VOL.) | (VOL.) | Lean | Lean |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|------------|------------|
| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | No preference | Other party | DK/Ref | <u>Rep</u> | <u>Dem</u> |
| 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 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=623]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

| Mar 13-17 | | Feb 13-18 | Jan 9-13 |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2013</u> | | <u>2013</u> | <u>2013</u> |
| 43 | Agree | 36 | 35 |
| 7 | Disagree | 9 | 10 |
| 47 | No opinion either way | 52 | 51 |
| 1 | Haven't heard of (VOL.) | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | Refused (VOL.) | 3 | 2 |