



Alaska Survey on the U.S. Supreme Court – August 2018

Hello, may I speak with *[FIRST NAME ONLY]* please?

My name is _____. First, I'm not selling anything or asking for money. I'm calling from Harstad Research, the national public opinion research firm. We are doing a survey in your area and would like to ask your opinion on some local issues and interesting topics.

First, I would like to confirm that I'm speaking with *[FULL NAME FROM LIST]*.

SCREENER

- A1. Do you or does anyone in your household happen to work for a radio station, a newspaper, or a TV station?
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| No | 100% | |
| Yes..... | - | ⇒ <i>Terminate</i> |
| DK/NS / Refused | - | ⇒ <i>Terminate</i> |
-
- A. This November, there will be an election for Governor, Congress, and the state legislature. How likely will you be to vote in this election? Will you definitely vote, probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or will you probably not vote? *[n=602]*
- | | | |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Definitely vote | 84% | |
| Probably vote..... | 12% | |
| 50-50 chances | 4% | |
| Probably not vote..... | - | ⇒ <i>Terminate</i> |
| Refused/DK/NS | - | ⇒ <i>Terminate</i> |
-
- B. Sex *[Do not ask] [n=602]*
- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Male | 49% | |
| Female..... | 51% | |
-
- C. Party registration *[Do not ask] [n=602]*
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| Democrat | 15% | |
| Republican..... | 30% | |
| Rest..... | 55% | |

Preliminary

1. I'd like to read you the names of some people and organizations and issues in politics and get a sense of what you think about them. Please tell me if you feel very favorably, somewhat favorably, somewhat unfavorably, or very unfavorably about each one. If you don't know who they are, just let me know. *[Randomize people after Trump, and then ask groups. Ask h last] [n=602]*

	<u>V/S</u> <u>Favorable</u>	<u>V/S</u> <u>Unfav.</u>	<u>Very</u> <u>Fav</u>	<u>Smwht</u> <u>Fav</u>	<u>Smwht</u> <u>Unfav</u>	<u>Very</u> <u>Unfav</u>	<u>Unfa-</u> <u>miliar</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
Donald Trump	44	51	30%	14%	6%	46%	1%	4%
A.C.L.U., or the American Civil Liberties Union	46	30	23%	24%	12%	19%	16%	7%

2. Recently, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy resigned, and President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace him. The U.S. Senate is reviewing Kavanaugh's record and will soon vote on whether to confirm him as the new justice.

How much have you seen, read or heard about Brett Kavanaugh being nominated to the Supreme Court – a lot, some, only a little, or nothing at all? *[n=602]*

A lot.....	46%
Some	30%
Only a little	14%
Nothing at all.....	10%
DK/NS.....	*%

3. The Senate will vote on President Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh's to the Supreme Court. When it comes to confirming Kavanaugh as a justice on the Supreme Court, do you strongly favor his confirmation, mildly favor it, mildly oppose it, or strongly oppose his confirmation to the Supreme Court. *[n=602]*

Favor.....	44%
Oppose	42%
Strongly favor.....	30%
Mildly favor.....	14%
Mildly oppose.....	10%
Strongly oppose.....	32%
DK/NS.....	13%

4. In terms of the TIMING of the Senate's vote, do you think that the Senate should vote on confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court BEFORE the midterm election in November, or should the Senate wait until AFTER new Senators have taken office in January following the midterm election? *[n=602]*

Senate should vote on confirming Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court BEFORE the midterm election in November	45%
Senate wait until AFTER new Senators have taken office in January following the midterm election	46%
DK/NS.....	9%

Preliminary

5. When it comes to voting for Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court, do you think Senators SHOULD or should NOT consider how he would be likely to vote on political and social issues that might come before the Supreme Court? [n=602]
- Senators SHOULD consider how he would be likely to vote on political and social issues that might come before the Supreme Court 62%
- Senators SHOULD NOT consider how he would be likely to vote on political and social issues that might come before the Supreme Court 26%
- DK/NS 13%
6. Brett Kavanaugh has argued that presidents should NOT be subject to civil lawsuits, criminal indictments, or criminal investigations while in office. Do you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree, or strongly disagree with this position? [n=602]
- Agree 31%
- Disagree 63%
- Strongly agree 14%
- Mildly agree 17%
- Mildly disagree..... 14%
- Strongly disagree..... 50%
- DK/NS 6%
7. Kavanaugh has said he believes that the president should be IMMUNE – or EXEMPT – from civil and criminal investigation while in office. He also has suggested that the 1974 unanimous Supreme Court decision that required President Nixon to release his secret tapes and ultimately led to his impeachment – that the case may have been WRONGLY decided.
- How important is it to you that the next supreme court justice be INDEPENDENT of Trump’s influence and committed to holding him accountable – extremely important, very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not important at all? [n=602]
- Extremely / Very important 73%
- Somewhat / Not important 16%
- Extremely important..... 52%
- Very important 21%
- Fairly important..... 5%
- Just somewhat important 9%
- Not important at all 8%
- DK/NS 6%
8. In 1973, the Supreme Court’s Roe-versus-Wade decision established a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion. The Supreme Court will have a chance in the next couple years to overturn its Roe-versus-Wade decision. Do you think the Supreme Court should OVERTURN the Roe-versus-Wade decision and eliminate a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion – or should it AFFIRM the Row decision and keep the constitutional right to have an abortion? [IF “OVERTURN” or “AFFIRM,” ask:] And do you feel strongly about that, or not? [n=602]
- Overturn Roe v Wade 22%
- Affirm Roe v Wade 65%
- Overturn Roe v Wade, feel strongly 19%
- Overturn Roe v Wade, not strongly 3%
- Affirm Roe v Wade, not strongly..... 8%
- Affirm Roe v Wade, strongly..... 57%
- DK/NS 13%

Preliminary

9. Let me read you some possible Supreme Court rulings that could occur if Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed as the next justice. For each one, please tell me how much it might concern you if this occurred – very concerned, fairly concerned, just somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all.
 [Randomize] [n=602]

Ranked by Concern	<u>Very / Fairly</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Fairly</u>	<u>Just Somewhat</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
g. Allowing laws that restrict the ability of minorities to vote.....	72	69%	3%	9%	11%	8%
k. Allowing corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money in election campaigns	71	64%	7%	13%	13%	3%
j. Allowing immigration bans based on racial or religious factors	65	57%	8%	12%	17%	6%
h. Rolling back Subsistence hunting and fishing rights for Alaska Natives	65	56%	9%	16%	15%	4%
m. Expanding authority to use tax dollars for private and religious school tuition vouchers at the expense of public school funding	65	56%	9%	13%	16%	6%
d. Removing adults' constitutional right to access to reproductive care and contraception	63	56%	7%	12%	16%	9%
f. Striking down the Affordable Care Act and its health care coverage and protections for people with pre-existing conditions.....	63	55%	8%	13%	18%	5%
a. Repealing or reversing the rights of gay and lesbian couples to marry.....	58	52%	6%	10%	26%	5%
i. Restricting the right of Alaska Natives to govern their lands and police their communities.....	60	47%	12%	20%	16%	5%
e. Favoring the rights of employers over the rights of employees.....	57	49%	8%	19%	13%	11%
c. Striking down internet protections and open access regulations known as "net neutrality"	57	49%	8%	14%	14%	15%
b. Allow private business to deny services to gay and lesbian couples on the grounds of the business owners' religious beliefs	55	48%	7%	14%	25%	6%
l. Weakening states' rights to legalize and regulate marijuana	51	42%	9%	22%	22%	5%

Preliminary

10. Now, as it happens, if confirmed for the Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh would very likely vote for nearly all of these positions we just heard. Knowing this, do you strongly favor Kavanaugh’s confirmation, mildly favor it, mildly oppose it, or strongly oppose his confirmation to the Supreme Court?

	Q10 Heard Rulings <i>[n=602]</i>	Q3 Initial Choice <i>[n=602]</i>
Favor Kavanaugh confirmation	39%	44%
Oppose Kavanaugh confirmation	54%	42%
Strongly favor.....	26%	30%
Mildly favor.....	13%	14%
Mildly oppose.....	11%	10%
Strongly oppose.....	44%	32%
DK/NS.....	6%	13%

11. Suppose for a moment that your Senator, Lisa Murkowski, voted NOT to confirm Kavanaugh. Would Senator Murkowski’s vote NOT to confirm Kavanaugh give you a MORE favorable view of Murkowski, a LESS favorable view of her, or would it NOT change your thinking on Senator Murkowski? *[n=602]*

More favorable of Murkowski if voted not to confirm.....	43%	
Less favorable of Murkowski if voted not to confirm	27%	
<i>Differential: More-Less</i>	<i>+16%</i>	
No change in view of Murkowski	27%	
DK/NS.....	4%	

12. Do you believe it should be ACCEPTABLE or NOT acceptable for the President of the United State to refuse to enforce a law or regulation he believes is UN-constitutional -- even though the courts have upheld it as constitutional? *[n=602]*

Acceptable	15%	
Not acceptable.....	67%	
DK/NS.....	18%	

13. How important is it to you that the Supreme Court and its justices hold the President accountable for any violations of the law or the Constitution – extremely important, very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not important at all? *[n=602]*

Extremely / Very important	76%	
Somewhat / Not important.....	12%	
Extremely important.....	55%	
Very important	21%	
Fairly important.....	7%	
Just somewhat important	8%	
Not important at all	4%	
DK/NS.....	5%	

14. Sometimes conflicts between the rights of individuals and those of corporations come before the Supreme Court. In these cases, – do you think the court should give more weight to the interests of individuals or of corporations? *[n=602]*

More weight to interests of individuals	66%	
More weight to interests of corporations	2%	
DK/NS.....	32%	

Preliminary

Our last few questions are about you and your family and are for statistical purposes only.

D1. May I ask how old you are? [n=602]

18 to 29 years	9%
30 to 39 years	17%
40 to 49 years	19%
50 to 59 years	23%
60 to 69 years	20%
70 years and older.....	12%
Refused/DK/NS	1%

D2. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else? [If Democrat, ask:] Would you call yourself a strong Democrat, or a not very strong Democrat? [If Republican, ask:] Would you call yourself a strong Republican, or a not very strong Republican? [If Independent, ask:] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party, closer to the Republican Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly Independent? [n=602]

Democrat	15%
Independent/DK.....	60%
Republican.....	21%
Strong Democrat	11%
Not strong Democrat	4%
Independent / lean Democrat	12%
Strictly Independent.....	27%
Independent / lean Republican.....	12%
Not strong Republican	6%
Strong Republican	15%
Other party / something else	4%
DK/NS / Refused	9%

D3. What is the last grade or level of school you have completed? [Read list if necessary] [n=602]

Less than high school degree	2%
High school graduate.....	13%
Some college – but less than two years of college	12%
Some college – two years or more/AA degree	15%
College graduate/bachelors degree/BA/BS	29%
Postgraduate courses.....	3%
Masters degree.....	17%
MBA or Law degree	1%
PhD or MD	2%
DK/NS	5%

Preliminary

D4. Do you – or does anyone in your immediate family – happen to come from an Inuit, Alaska Native, American Indian, Hispanic, African American, or Asian background? *[If 'no,' ask:]* Just to be sure we're representing everybody, may I ask your race? *[DO NOT READ CHOICES]* *[n=602]*

Alaska Native / Inuit / Yupik.....	13%
American Indian / Native American.....	6%
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish-speaking.....	3%
Asian / Hawaiian.....	3%
African-American/Black.....	2%
White, Caucasian, Anglo, WASP, etc.	64%
Other / mixed.....	1%
Refused.....	3%
DK/NS.....	5%

Thank you for taking our survey, your answers have been extremely helpful.

Methodology

The August 2018 Alaska Statewide National Survey was conducted by Harstad Strategic RESEARCH, INC, the national public opinion research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The survey results are based upon 602 random telephone interviews among likely November 2018 voters in the state of Alaska. Sample was obtained using a statewide voter list. Interviews were conducted by live interviewers reaching land lines and cell phones from August 14-20, 2018. A random sample of 602 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.0% about any one reported percentage.