

Marquette University: New Marquette Law School national survey finds four-point increase in overall public approval of U.S. Supreme Court's performance and plurality support of five recent major decisions

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MILWAUKEE – A new Marquette Law School Poll national survey finds that 45% of adults approve of the job the U.S. Supreme Court is doing and 55% disapprove. While approval remains below disapproval, this is a 4-percentage point increase in approval since May and the second highest rating since March 2022, when approval stood at 54%. The trend in approval since 2020 is shown in Table 1. (All results in the tables are stated as percentages; the precise wording of the questions can be found in the online link noted above.) For each of five June 2023 decisions inquired about, a plurality of people with an opinion favored the Court's ruling, as discussed after the first two tables.

Table 1: Supreme Court approval

Among adults

Poll dates	Approval	
	Approve	Disapprove
7/7-12/23	45	55

Poll dates	Approval	
	Approve	Disapprove
5/8-18/23	41	59
3/13-22/23	44	56
1/9-20/23	47	53
11/15-22/22	44	56
9/7-14/22	40	60
7/5-12/22	38	61
5/9-19/22	44	55
3/14-24/22	54	45
1/10-21/22	52	46
11/1-10/21	54	46
9/7-16/21	49	50
7/16-26/21	60	39
9/8-15/20	66	33

Marquette Law School Poll, national survey, July 7-12, 2023

Question: Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Supreme Court is handling its job?

Approval among Republicans rose by 12 percentage points, to 71% in July, up from 59% in May. Approval among independents rose 2 percentage points, while among Democrats it declined 2 percentage points from May to July. Approval of the Court by party identification is shown in Table 2 for July and for May.

Table 2: Approval of the Supreme Court, with party identification, May and July 2023

Among adults

Party ID	Approval	
	Approve	Disapprove
July 2023		
Total	45	55
Republican	71	29
Independent	40	60
Democrat	24	76

Party ID	Approval	
	Approve	Disapprove
May 2023		
Total	41	59
Republican	59	41
Independent	38	62
Democrat	26	74

Marquette Law School Poll, national survey, July 7-12, 2023

Question: Overall, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Supreme Court is handling its job?

Other headlines

- Each of five decisions released in June 2023 and included in the survey found a plurality of support, with at least two-thirds awareness in cases involving race in college admissions, student-loan forgiveness, and religious beliefs and free speech:
 - Half of all respondents, 50%, favored the Court's decision that colleges cannot use race as one of several factors in deciding which applicants to admit, while 37% favored the decision against President Biden's student loan forgiveness program and 35% favored the decision that a business owner's religious beliefs or free speech rights can justify refusing some services to gay people. About a third of those surveyed had not heard enough to weigh in on the decisions.
- Cases involving the need for employers to accommodate religious practices and Alabama's congressional map elicited awareness of only about one-third of respondents:
 - A ruling that federal civil rights law requires an employer to accommodate an employee's religious practice was favored by 27%, but 63% had not heard enough to have an opinion. Similarly, 24% favored the ruling that Alabama, in drawing a congressional districting map, had diluted the power of Black voters, in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but 66% had not heard enough.

The latest Marquette Law School Poll's national Supreme Court survey was conducted July 7-12, 2023. The survey interviewed 1,005 adults nationwide and has a margin of error of +/-4 percentage points.

Confidence in the Court as an institution rose in July, with 31% of respondents saying they have a great deal or a lot of confidence in the Court, an increase from May when 25% said the same. The full trend is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

Among adults

Poll dates	Confidence		
	Great deal/a lot	Some	Little/None
7/7-12/23	31	32	37
5/8-18/23	25	36	39
3/13-22/23	28	40	32
1/9-20/23	31	38	31
11/15-22/22	30	36	34
9/7-14/22	30	34	36
7/5-12/22	28	28	44
9/8-15/20	39	45	16
9/3-13/19	37	42	20

Marquette Law School Poll, national survey, July 7-12, 2023

Question: Here is a list of institutions in American society. How much confidence do you have in each one? . . . The U.S. Supreme Court.

Confidence in Congress and in the presidency also increased from May to July, though by less than confidence in the Court. In July, 14% said they had a great deal or a lot of confidence in Congress, up from 11% in May. Those saying the same about the presidency were 28% in July, compared to 25% in May. These trends are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 4: Confidence in Congress

Among adults

Poll dates	Confidence		
	Great deal/a lot	Some	Little/None
7/7-12/23	14	44	43
5/8-18/23	11	41	49

Poll dates	Confidence		
	Great deal/a lot	Some	Little/None
3/13-22/23	15	43	42
1/9-20/23	13	43	44
11/15-22/22	17	43	40
9/7-14/22	16	37	47
7/5-12/22	10	35	56
9/8-15/20	13	42	44
9/3-13/19	10	39	51

Marquette Law School Poll, national survey, July 7-12, 2023

Question: Here is a list of institutions in American society. How much confidence do you have in each one? . . . Congress.

Table 5: Confidence in the presidency

Among adults

Poll dates	Confidence		
	Great deal/a lot	Some	Little/None
7/7-12/23	28	32	40
5/8-18/23	25	30	45
3/13-22/23	26	34	40
1/9-20/23			