

To: *Interested Parties*
From: *Guy Molyneux, Hart Research*
Date: *May 6, 2024*
Re: *The Supreme Court and the 2024 Election*

Hart Research conducted a national survey among 1,202 registered voters from March 20 to 24, 2024 about the Supreme Court, on behalf of Stand Up America. The survey has a confidence interval of ± 3.2 percentage points, and this memo presents the survey's key findings.

The Supreme Court will be a salient voting issue this year, and that appears likely to benefit Democrats. Three in four voters (74%) say that the selection and confirmation of Supreme Court justices will be an important consideration for them in voting for both president and U.S. senator in 2024, including 42% who say *very important*. Significantly, the survey reveals substantial differences on this question along partisan and ideological lines:

- Democrats (49%) are more likely than Republicans (38%) to say the Court will be very important for them.
- Fully half (50%) of voters who supported Joe Biden in 2020 view the Court as a very important issue now, compared to just 37% of 2020 Trump voters.
- Voters for whom the Court will be a very important voting issue name abortion as the most important issue on which the Court rules, and by a 30-point margin (65%-35%) these voters believe abortion should be legal rather than illegal.

Voters want Congress to take action to reform the Supreme Court, and specifically embrace the establishment of term limits for justices. By a robust 17-point margin (53%-36%), voters favor Congress taking action to reform the Supreme Court and the way it operates. Voters in 2024 presidential and senate battleground states* want Congress to reform the Court by a margin of 54% to 37%.

By an overwhelming 40-point margin, 64% to 24%, voters favor Congressional action specifically to set 18-year term limits for current and future Supreme Court justices. Support for term limits crosses both partisan and ideological lines (including 51% of both Republicans and conservatives), and it encompasses a large majority in every region of the country.

In addition, by a 25-point margin voters say they would be more likely (45%) rather than less likely (20%) to vote for a congressional candidate who supports term limits for justices.

Supreme Court voters (those who say the Court will be a very important voting issue this year) support term limits for justices even more strongly than voters overall. Voters who say the Supreme Court will be a very important in their voting decisions this year embrace reform of the Court by a remarkable 61%-28% margin. These Supreme Court voters strongly favor establishing 18-year term limits for the justices (67% to 24%) and say they would reward pro-term-limit congressional candidates (54% more likely to support, 21% less likely).

	Total Favor Term Limits %	Total Oppose Term Limits %	Diff
All voters	64	24	+40
Democrats	78	12	+66
Independents	59	26	+33
Republicans	51	37	+14
Liberal	82	9	+72
Moderate	65	18	+46
Conservative	51	40	+11
Northeast	65	21	+44
South	62	27	+35
Midwest	62	26	+37
West	68	21	+47
Battleground states	65	30	+35
Supreme Court voters	67	24	+43

Voters favor reform because many doubt that the current Supreme Court is ethical, uses its power responsibly, or is politically balanced. Voters overall are as likely to feel the Supreme Court too often abuses its power today (43%) as that it uses its power responsibly (43%). Moreover, fewer than half (49%) say the Court is “ethical” today, while 44% say it’s “corrupt,” signifying considerable concerns about the justices’ honesty and integrity. By 55% to 39%, voters also say that the Court is politically unbalanced rather than balanced. Overall, just 41% express a great deal or fair amount of confidence in the current Court, while 32% have little or no confidence and 27% have “just some” confidence.

* Battleground states include Arizona, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.