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TO: Interested parties

FROM: Robert Green

DATE: March 24, 2016

RE: Findings in Supreme Court questions

Ranking all the top domestic issues critical to deciding the presidential vote including "Supreme Court vacancies"
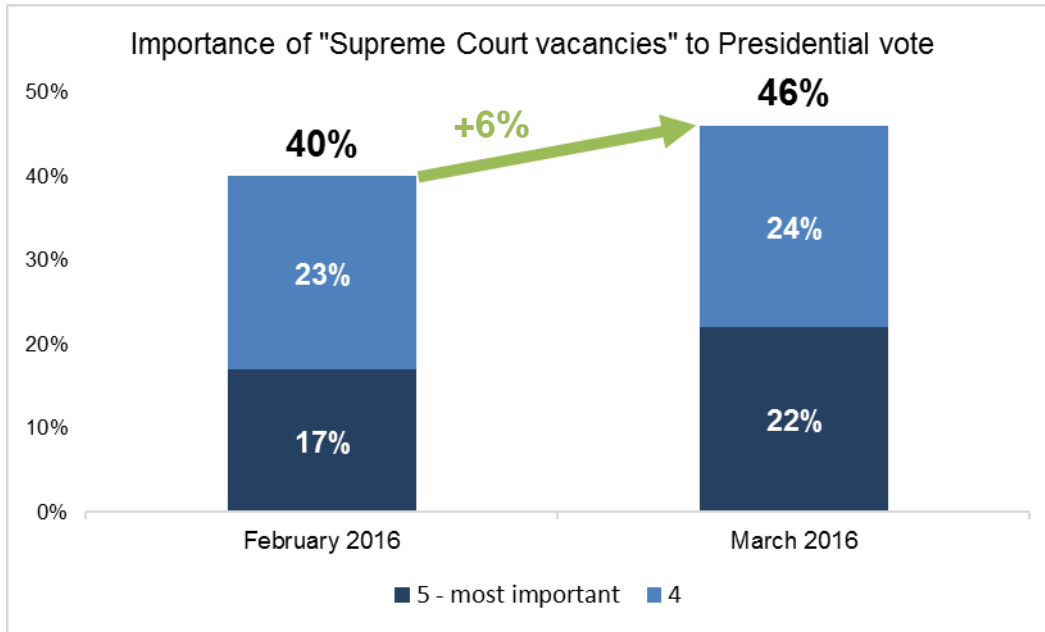
Surveyed March 8-11, likely 2016 voters say "improving the economy" the single most important issue to consider when deciding whom to support for president. Nearly six in ten (58%) voters rank "improving the economy" as a "5" (most important), while just 1% of voters rate it as a "1" (least important).

Yet while voters remain focused on the economy, they have also noticed the recent Supreme Court vacancy created by Justice Scalia's death. Nearly half (46%) of voters rate the issue of "Supreme Court vacancies" as a "5" or "4" when considering their vote for president, a statistically significant six-percentage-point increase from last month's poll, conducted Feb. 2-5. "Supreme Court vacancies" also ranks as more important than "Wall Street reform" by a 46%-40% margin. By contrast, last month, "Wall Street reform" edged out "Supreme Court vacancies" by two points.

1.   On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "least important" and 5 means "most important", how important are the following domestic issues to your vote for president?

(%) US Likely Voters	5 – most important	4	3	2	1 – least important
Improving the economy	**58**	30	9	2	1
Healthcare reform	**41**	34	16	6	4
Immigration reform	**32**	29	34	9	5
Education reform	**27**	31	27	10	6
Supreme Court vacancies	**22**	24	30	14	10
Wall Street reform	**17**	23	34	13	12

(%) US Likely Voters	Displaying % who selected either "5 – most important" or "4"		
	March 2016	February 2016	% Change
Improving the economy	**88**	85	+3
Healthcare reform	**75**	76	+1
Immigration reform	**61**	62	-1
Education reform	**58**	59	-1
Supreme Court vacancies	**46**	40	+6
Wall Street reform	**40**	45	-5

Ranking the top domestic issue including "Supreme Court vacancies"

Voters were asked to identify the *single most importa*nt issue of six domestic issues we asked about in terms of considering for when voting for president. The table below displays the topline number (in bold) as well as answers broken down by gender, age, party self-identification and level of education.

Likely 2016 presidential voters again selected "improving the economy" as the single most important issue to consider when deciding whom to support for president by a 51% majority. Health care reform (20%) took second. One in twenty voters say "Supreme Court vacancies" are the single most important issue to consider, the same number who said so last month. Republicans (9%) and seniors (8%) tend to rate Supreme Court vacancies as a more important issue than voters of other types or descriptions do.

2.   Which of the following domestic issues is the **most** important to consider when voting for president?

(%) US Likely Voters		Gender		Age				Party			Education		
		M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	HS or less	Some Coll.	Coll. Grad
Improving the economy	**51**	51	51	51	53	52	48	52	46	54	60	49	49
Healthcare reform	**20**	18	22	17	23	21	19	18	20	21	17	22	19
Education reform	**13**	15	11	8	11	17	17	7	22	12	14	11	14
Immigration reform	**7**	6	9	17	6	2	2	13	3	6	5	9	8
Supreme Court vacancies	**5**	6	4	2	4	5	9	4	8	3	2	5	6
Wall Street reform	**4**	4	4	4	3	3	5	6	1	4	2	4	5

Demographics

1.   What is your gender?

(%) US Likely Voters		Gender		Age				Party			Education		
		M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	HS or less	Some Coll.	Coll. Grad
Male	**47**	100	-	48	47	47	45	42	47	50	43	42	54
Female	**53**	-	100	52	53	53	55	58	53	50	57	58	46

2.   Into which of the following categories does your age fall?

(%) US Likely Voters		Gender		Age				Party			Education		
		M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	HS or less	Some Coll.	Coll. Grad
18-24	**11**	11	11	41	-	-	-	15	7	11	20	13	5
25-34	**16**	16	16	59	-	-	-	19	14	15	15	14	19
35-49	**29**	29	29	-	100	-	-	29	30	29	23	27	34
50-64	**28**	28	28	-	-	100	-	25	28	30	22	30	30
65 and over	**16**	15	17	-	-	-	100	13	21	15	20	16	14

3.   PARTY **(CODED BASED ON RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS)**

(%) US Likely Voters		Gender		Age				Party			Education		
		M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	HS or less	Some Coll.	Coll. Grad
DEMOCRAT	**30**	27	33	37	30	27	24	100	-	-	28	34	28
REPUBLICAN	**26**	26	26	20	27	26	35	-	100	-	30	24	26
INDEPENDENT	**44**	47	41	43	44	47	42	-	-	100	42	43	47

4.   What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

(%) US Likely Voters		Gender		Age				Party			Education		
		M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	HS or less	Some Coll.	Coll. Grad
No high school diploma	**3**	3	3	5	1	2	2	1	4	3	12	-	-
High school graduate	**19**	17	21	23	16	15	25	19	21	18	88	-	-
Some college or 2-year college graduate	**38**	34	42	38	36	40	39	43	35	37	-	100	-
4-year college graduate	**29**	33	25	28	33	32	16	27	29	30	-	-	71
Post-graduate degree	**12**	14	10	6	14	11	18	10	11	13	-	-	29

Methodology

On behalf of Fix the Court, PSB added two questions to the national PSB monthly survey of n=1,099 likely voters. This national survey of likely voters fielded on March 8-11, 2016. The margin of error is +/-

2.95% at the 95% confidence level and larger for subgroups. Some percentages may add to more or less than 100% due to rounding.

Definition of crosstabs

Crosstab		Definition of crosstab	% total
% Likely Voters		American adults age 18+ who say they will "definitely vote" or "probably vote" in the next election for federal, state, and local offices	100
Gender	M	Male	47
	F	Female	53
Age	18-34	Age 18-34	27
	35-49	Age 35-49	29
	50-64	Age 50-64	28
	65+	Age 65+	16
Party	D	Considers self a Democrat	30
	R	Considers self a Republican	26
	I	Considers self an Independent or Other	44
Education	HS or less	High school graduate, high school equivalency test, or less	22
	Some Coll.	Some college	38
	Coll. Grad	College graduate	41