

To: Gabe Roth, Fix the Court
From: John McLaughlin
Re: National Survey Results – Importance of Supreme Court Appointments in 2016 Presidential Balloting
Date: November 2nd, 2015

Methodology: These national surveys of 1,003 and 1,001 likely 2016 general election voters were conducted from September 18th to 22nd, 2015 and from October 23rd to 27th, 2015. All interviews were conducted online; survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a nationwide general election. Both polls of 1,003 and 1,001 likely general election voters have an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval.

Survey Results: A nationwide survey of 2016 likely general election voters conducted by McLaughlin & Associates for Fix the Court finds that more than 4 out of 5 voters, 84%, would categorize the potential for a Supreme Court Appointment as “Important” in their Presidential vote. The plurality, 43%, said “very important,” with another 41% on “somewhat important.” One in ten voters, 10%, said it was “not important at all,” with the remaining 7%, didn’t know.

“IT’S THE PRESIDENT’S ROLE TO APPOINT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. HOW IMPORTANT IS THE POTENTIAL FOR A SUPREME COURTPPOINTMENT IN YOUR PRESIDENTIAL VOTE?” - 9/15

	<u>Total</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>Hisp.</u>	<u><55</u>	<u>>55</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
IMPORTANT	83.8	84.3	86.1	80.4	87.3	80.2	84.5	82.0	87.0	91.2	84.3	83.1	84.8	82.9
Very	42.7	42.1	48.1	36.7	49.5	34.6	45.2	41.0	50.0	43.9	40.1	46.5	41.9	43.5
Somewhat	41.1	42.3	38.0	43.7	37.8	45.6	39.2	40.9	37.0	47.3	44.2	36.6	42.9	39.4
NOT IMP. AT ALL	9.6	8.0	8.9	12.2	9.1	11.2	8.3	12.0	4.5	2.4	7.6	12.5	10.6	8.7
DK/Ref.	6.6	7.6	5.0	7.3	7.2	8.6	7.2	6.0	8.4	6.4	8.0	4.4	4.6	8.3

As illustrated in the above cross-tabs there is little difference between voters who identify with different parties, ideologies, races, age groups or genders. Some notes: The more liberal or conservative a voter is, the more importance they put on the potential for a Supreme Court Appointment on their Presidential ballot. African- Americans and Hispanics place slightly more importance than whites. The intensity of importance among voters over 55 is 7 points higher on “very important” than it is for voters under 55.

The following month, voters were asked the same question, including an additional informative phrase; “when the next President takes office, 3 of the 9 justices will be over 80 years old.” This phrase increases the already strong number , 84% to 87%. In addition the intensity on “very important” grows 6% to 49%. **Half** of all voters would describe the potential for a Supreme Court Appointment in their Presidential vote as “very important.”

“IT’S THE PRESIDENT’S ROLE TO APPOINT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, AND WHEN THE NEXT PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE, 3 OF THE 9 JUSTICES WILL BE OVER 80 YEARS OLD. HOW IMPORTANT IS THE POTENTIAL FOR A SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT IN YOUR PRESIDENTIALVOTE?” - 10/15

	<u>Total</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>Hisp.</u>	<u><55</u>	<u>>55</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
IMPORTANT	87.3	90.0	87.1	84.5	89.9	82.3	90.4	86.6	84.5	91.5	87.7	86.6	89.0	85.7
Very	49.4	55.2	49.5	43.1	57.2	37.1	56.1	48.8	89.8	53.4	46.9	53.0	54.3	45.1
Somewhat	37.9	34.9	37.6	41.4	32.7	45.2	34.3	37.8	34.7	38.1	40.8	33.6	34.7	40.6
NOT IMP. AT ALL	6.4	5.3	6.0	8.1	4.6	9.0	5.2	6.9	6.1	4.4	5.2	8.2	7.4	5.5
DK/Ref.	6.3	4.7	6.8	7.4	5.5	8.6	4.5	6.5	9.4	4.1	7.1	5.2	3.6	8.8

Almost all voter sub-groups saw rises in the importance and intensity of importance when voters were made



aware that 3 of the 9 Supreme Court Justices will be over the age of 80 when the next President takes office. The largest increases were among Republicans (+6%), Conservatives (+6%), Men (+5%), Whites (+5%) and voters over the age of 55 (+4%).

Conclusion: It is clear that in the 2016 election for President, the potential for a Supreme Court Appointment is going to be important to all voters.

Demographic Breakdowns

Party	9/15	10/15	Age	9/15	10/15	Race	9/15	10/15
Republican	32%	32%	18-29	15%	15%	White	72%	71%
Democrat	38%	38%	30-40	18%	18%	African American	13%	13%
Independent	30%	30%	41-55	26%	26%	Hispanic	11%	12%
<u>Ideology</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	56-65	22%	22%	Asian	4%	3%
Liberal	32%	29%	Over 65	19%	19%	<u>Gender</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Moderate	36%	37%				Male	47%	47%
Conservative	32%	34%				Female	53%	53%