



# Fix the Court

## Agenda of Key Findings

May 2020

Adam Rosenblatt, Vice President & Senior Strategist  
[arosenblatt@ps-b.com](mailto:arosenblatt@ps-b.com)

PSB  
1801 K STREET, NW  
SUITE 900  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

## Methodology

PSB conducted online interviews from May 15 – 18, 2020 among n=1,100 U.S. consumers. The margin of error for this study 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. Where applicable, tracked findings reflect a June 2019 PSB online survey of n=1,153 U.S. likely voters and an October 2018 PSB online study of n=1,000 U.S. likely voters conducted on behalf of Fix the Court.

## Definition of Crosstabs

Crosstab		Definition	% total
(% U.S. Consumers		Americans age 18+	100
LV		Say they will definitely or probably vote in the next election for federal, state, local, and other offices	84
Gender	M	Male	47
	F	Female	53
Age	<35	Age 18-34	27
	35-49	Age 35-49	29
	50-64	Age 50-64	28
	65+	Age 65+	16
Party	D	Regardless of registration, those who consider themselves a Democrat	32
	R	Regardless of registration, those who consider themselves a Republican	29
	I	Regardless of registration, those who consider themselves an independent or something else	39
Habitat	Urban	Lives in a neighborhood located in an urban area	28
	Sub.	Lives in a neighborhood located in a suburban area	52
	Rural	Lives in a neighborhood located in a rural area	20

**Key Findings**

---

1. Would you support or oppose restrictions on length of service for U.S. Supreme Court justices (for example, setting a retirement age or capping total years of service)?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>77</b>	78	77	76	79	80	77	68	78	79	75	75	78	75
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>23</b>	22	23	24	21	20	24	32	22	22	26	25	22	25
Strongly support	33	36	37	29	28	33	37	35	36	35	30	33	33	33
Somewhat support	44	42	40	47	51	47	40	33	42	44	45	42	45	42
Somewhat oppose	15	14	13	17	15	13	12	23	14	13	17	15	14	17
Strongly oppose	8	8	10	7	6	7	12	9	8	9	9	10	8	8

(%)*		June 2019	October 2018
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>77</b>	77	78
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>23</b>	23	23
Strongly support	33	42	44
Somewhat support	44	24	24
Somewhat oppose	15	14	12
Strongly oppose	8	9	11

2. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**(SUMMARY)**

<b>U.S. Consumers (%)</b>	<b>Very persuasive</b>	<b>Somewhat persuasive</b>	<b>Only a little persuasive</b>	<b>Not at all persuasive</b>
No one with a position as powerful as Supreme Court justice should serve for life.	<b>35</b>	35	18	12
Some Supreme Court justices serve for more than 30 years. Term limits will ensure that the justices stay in touch with current values and are responsive to the needs of today's society.	<b>33</b>	37	19	11
Vacancies on the Supreme Court often occur unexpectedly and sporadically. Term limits will make it so that vacancies are routine, which will reduce the political gamesmanship around them.	<b>29</b>	41	18	12
Shorter terms mean a larger number of Americans, from all backgrounds, will have the opportunity to become justices.	<b>28</b>	35	21	16
Shorter terms will increase turnover at the Court, which will diminish the power of each individual justice and encourage the justices to seek out compromise and more limited rulings.	<b>27</b>	39	22	13

3. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**No one with a position as powerful as Supreme Court justice should serve for life.**

U.S. Consumers (%)		LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat		
			M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur
Very persuasive	<b>35</b>	36	38	32	27	33	42	38	39	36	30	35	35	34
Somewhat persuasive	<b>35</b>	34	32	38	42	43	28	23	33	34	38	35	35	36
Only a little persuasive	<b>18</b>	17	17	18	22	14	15	21	19	17	16	19	18	15
Not at all persuasive	<b>12</b>	12	13	12	9	9	15	18	8	13	15	11	12	15

4. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**Some Supreme Court justices serve for more than 30 years. Term limits will ensure that the justices stay in touch with current values and are responsive to the needs of today's society.**

U.S. Consumers (%)		LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat		
			M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur
Very persuasive	<b>33</b>	35	36	30	34	32	36	27	39	33	28	39	30	31
Somewhat persuasive	<b>37</b>	37	35	39	39	41	33	33	39	36	36	38	36	37
Only a little persuasive	<b>19</b>	17	15	22	19	21	16	21	17	18	21	13	22	19
Not at all persuasive	<b>11</b>	11	14	9	8	6	15	18	6	13	14	10	12	13

5. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**Vacancies on the Supreme Court often occur unexpectedly and sporadically. Term limits will make it so that vacancies are routine, which will reduce the political gamesmanship around them.**

U.S. Consumers (%)		LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat		
			M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur
Very persuasive	<b>29</b>	31	32	27	29	30	31	26	31	30	28	36	26	28
Somewhat persuasive	<b>41</b>	40	39	42	44	44	39	32	42	40	40	41	44	31
Only a little persuasive	<b>18</b>	17	16	20	18	18	15	23	20	15	19	13	18	26
Not at all persuasive	<b>12</b>	12	14	10	9	8	15	19	7	16	13	9	12	15

6. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**Shorter terms mean a larger number of Americans, from all backgrounds, will have the opportunity to become justices.**

U.S. Consumers (%)		LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat		
			M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur
Very persuasive	<b>28</b>	29	32	25	32	29	29	19	35	26	24	37	24	25
Somewhat persuasive	<b>35</b>	35	34	36	41	39	31	24	37	32	35	36	35	34
Only a little persuasive	<b>21</b>	20	18	25	17	23	19	29	18	23	23	14	24	26
Not at all persuasive	<b>16</b>	16	17	14	10	9	21	29	10	19	18	13	17	15

7. The following are arguments some have made in favor of term limits for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please rate how persuasive each argument is in support of implementing term limits.

**Shorter terms will increase turnover at the Court, which will diminish the power of each individual justice and encourage the justices to seek out compromise and more limited rulings.**

U.S. Consumers (%)		LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat		
			M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur
Very persuasive	<b>27</b>	29	29	25	28	29	27	20	34	25	22	34	23	26
Somewhat persuasive	<b>39</b>	37	39	39	40	43	36	34	36	38	41	39	39	37
Only a little persuasive	<b>22</b>	21	18	25	24	20	22	22	23	20	22	16	23	26
Not at all persuasive	<b>13</b>	13	15	11	8	9	15	24	8	17	14	10	15	11

## Demographics

### 8. What is your gender?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Male	47	49	100	-	44	45	51	50	43	46	51	52	48	37
Female	53	51	-	100	56	55	49	50	57	54	49	48	52	63

### 9. What is your age? (CODED)

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
18-24	11	9	10	12	41	-	-	-	15	6	12	9	12	11
25-34	16	15	16	16	59	-	-	-	19	15	14	25	13	12
35-49	29	29	28	30	-	100	-	-	26	33	28	31	28	28
50-64	28	29	30	26	-	-	100	-	25	30	28	25	28	33
65 and over	16	18	17	15	-	-	-	100	15	15	17	10	19	17

### 10. Regardless of how you might be registered to vote, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Democrat	32	35	29	35	40	29	29	30	100	-	-	38	30	29
Republican	29	32	28	29	22	33	32	28	-	100	-	27	30	31
Independent	37	32	40	34	36	37	37	39	-	-	94	34	38	36
Other	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	-	-	6	1	2	4

### 11. **AMONG THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES DEMOCRAT:** And would you say you are a strong Democrat or do you lean Democrat?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Strong Democrat	65	68	65	65	63	58	67	79	65	-	-	71	59	74
Lean Democrat	35	32	35	35	37	42	33	21	35	-	-	29	41	26

12. **AMONG THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES REPUBLICAN:** And would you say you are a strong Republican or do you lean Republican?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Strong Republican	<b>55</b>	57	58	52	53	49	57	66	-	55	-	54	52	64
Lean Republican	<b>45</b>	43	42	48	47	51	43	34	-	45	-	46	48	36

13. **AMONG THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES INDEPENDENT OR SOMETHING ELSE OR DON'T ALIGN WITH ANY PARTY:** Do you tend to...?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Closer to Democrats	<b>25</b>	29	25	25	32	26	20	20	-	-	25	27	27	18
Closer to Republicans	<b>28</b>	33	35	21	23	23	33	36	-	-	28	25	29	29
Neither	<b>47</b>	38	40	54	45	51	46	44	-	-	47	48	45	53

14. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself...?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Very liberal	<b>11</b>	11	10	11	16	12	8	5	24	3	5	14	9	11
Somewhat liberal	<b>12</b>	14	12	13	12	15	11	11	28	3	7	12	14	6
Moderate	<b>42</b>	40	42	41	47	40	42	36	34	24	61	43	42	40
Somewhat conservative	<b>17</b>	18	18	16	9	14	22	25	6	34	13	13	19	17
Very conservative	<b>14</b>	15	16	12	11	14	13	18	5	35	5	14	12	19
None of the above	<b>5</b>	2	3	7	6	5	5	5	4	1	10	5	4	8

15. How likely are you to vote in the November 2020 election for federal, state local, and other offices? Will you...?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Definitely vote	<b>71</b>	85	74	67	52	69	80	89	80	77	58	72	71	68
Probably vote	<b>13</b>	15	13	12	20	14	8	6	12	13	13	13	13	12
50/50 chance	<b>10</b>	-	8	12	18	10	7	1	6	6	16	10	9	13
Probably not vote	<b>2</b>	-	2	2	3	2	2	1	0	2	3	2	2	1
Definitely not vote	<b>5</b>	-	4	6	7	6	4	3	3	2	10	3	6	6

\*By definition, all likely voters had to say they will definitely or probably vote in the November 2020 election for federal, state local, and other offices



16. Would describe the area where your neighborhood is located as urban, suburban, or rural?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Urban	<b>28</b>	28	31	25	35	30	25	18	33	26	26	100	0	0
Suburban	<b>52</b>	53	54	51	48	51	52	61	50	53	54	0	100	0
Rural	<b>20</b>	19	15	23	16	19	23	21	18	21	20	0	0	100

17. REGION (CODED BASED ON STATE)

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
NORTHEAST	<b>18</b>	19	18	18	17	19	18	18	19	18	18	17	17	21
MIDWEST	<b>24</b>	23	26	23	23	25	24	24	21	27	25	21	23	31
SOUTH	<b>38</b>	37	36	40	41	36	38	36	37	36	40	35	40	36
WEST	<b>20</b>	20	20	20	19	20	20	22	23	20	17	27	19	12

18. For statistical purposes only, which of the following describes your race?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
White / Caucasian	<b>75</b>	77	77	73	54	78	82	91	63	84	77	66	76	84
Black / African American / Caribbean American	<b>13</b>	12	12	14	26	7	9	9	25	5	9	19	11	10
Hispanic, Latino	<b>7</b>	6	6	8	14	8	5	0	7	8	7	7	9	4
Asian, Asian-American	<b>4</b>	3	5	4	5	7	3	1	5	3	5	6	5	1
Native American, American Indian	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	<b>1</b>	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1

19. Would you consider yourself to be of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino descent?

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
Yes	<b>4</b>	4	4	4	11	5	0	0	7	3	3	7	3	2
No	<b>96</b>	96	96	96	89	95	100	100	93	97	97	93	97	98

20. RACE (CODED BASED ON RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS)

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	<b>72</b>	74	74	71	48	75	82	91	59	82	75	61	73	83
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC	<b>12</b>	11	11	13	24	6	9	9	22	5	9	18	10	9
HISPANIC	<b>11</b>	10	10	12	23	11	5	0	13	10	10	14	12	6
OTHER, NON-HISPANIC	<b>5</b>	4	5	5	6	7	4	1	6	3	6	7	5	2

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

U.S. Consumers (%)	LV	Gender		Age				Party			Habitat			
		M	F	<35	35-49	50-64	65+	D	R	I	Urb	Sub	Rur	
No high school diploma	<b>2</b>	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	3	1	2	2
High school graduate	<b>18</b>	15	15	20	21	17	17	16	19	19	15	15	14	32
Some college or 2-year college graduate	<b>29</b>	29	26	31	33	19	30	38	29	29	29	28	28	31
4-year college graduate	<b>35</b>	36	38	32	32	38	37	29	34	34	36	37	38	22
Post-graduate degree	<b>17</b>	18	20	14	13	23	15	17	16	17	17	19	17	13