

Bright Line Watch US Democracy Survey – February 2017 Instrument

Q1 Thank you for participating in the Bright Line Watch survey of political scientists. The purpose of this survey is to measure expert opinions about the state of American democracy. Your responses will be anonymous. No identifying information will be collected with your survey responses. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you are free to skip any questions or withdraw from the study at any time. If you have any questions or comments about this survey, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list for future surveys, please email survey@brightlinewatch.org.

- I agree to continue (1)
- I do not agree to continue (2)

Condition: I agree to continue Is Not Selected. Skip To: End of Block.

Q2 How important are these characteristics for democratic government?

	Not relevant. This has no impact on democracy. (1)	Beneficial. This enhances democracy, but is not required for democracy. (2)	Important.If this is absent, democracy is compromised. (3)	Essential.A country cannot be considered democratic without this. (4)
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government officials do not use public office for private gain (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government leaders recognize the validity of bureaucratic or scientific consensus about matters of public policy (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the elected branches, majorities act with restraint and reciprocity (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elections are free from foreign influence (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All citizens have equal opportunity to vote (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The elected branches respect judicial independence (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Carry Forward Selected Choices from "How important are these characteristics for democratic government?"

Q3 How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today?

	The U.S. does not meet this standard. (1)	The U.S. partly meets this standard. (2)	The U.S. mostly meets this standard. (3)	The U.S. fully meets this standard. (4)	Not sure. (5)
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct (x1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government officials do not use public office for private gain (x2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents (x3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government leaders recognize the validity of bureaucratic or scientific consensus about matters of public policy (x4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (x5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations (x6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation (x7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (x8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism (x9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the elected branches, majorities act with restraint and reciprocity (x10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elections are free from foreign influence (x11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (x12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

All citizens have equal opportunity to vote (x13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (x14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (x15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (x16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (x17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power (x18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The elected branches respect judicial independence (x19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4 On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is least democratic and 10 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States as of today?

- Least democratic1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 (4)
- 5 (5)
- 6 (6)
- 7 (7)
- 8 (8)
- 9 (9)
- Most democratic10 (10)

Q5 Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occupation?

- Graduate student (1)
- Post-doctoral fellow (2)
- Adjunct faculty (3)
- Full-time faculty (4)
- Emeritus faculty (5)
- Other (6)

Display This Question:

If Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... Graduate Student Is Selected

Or Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... Post-Doctoral Fellow Is Selected

Or Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... Adjunct Faculty Is Selected

Or Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... Full-time Faculty Is Selected

Or Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... Emeritus Faculty Is Selected

Q6 What is your primary field of study?

- American politics (1)
- Comparative politics (2)
- International relations (3)
- Political theory (4)
- Another field of political science (5)
- Something other than political science (6)

Display This Question:

If What is your primary field of study? American Politics Is Selected

Or What is your primary field of study? Comparative Politics Is Selected

Or What is your primary field of study? International Relations Is Selected

Or What is your primary field of study? Political Theory Is Selected

Or What is your primary field of study? Another field of Political Science Is Selected

Q7 What is your specific area of study?

Q8 Do you have any comments about this survey?