Wave 3 Bright Line Watch Political Science Survey

Start of Block: Introduction & Consent

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 (2)

☐ I do not agree to continue (3)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q1 != I agree to continue (2)
Q2
On the next several screens you will see a series of statements related to democratic government.
The questions will ask you to evaluate the importance of certain principles or values to democracy in general, and how well those principles or values are being upheld in practice in the United States.

Twelve statements have been randomly selected from a set of twenty-seven statements (the full list can be seen at http://brightlinewatch.org).

Please click "Next >>" to continue to the next screen.
Q3 How important are these characteristics for democratic government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct (1)</th>
<th>Not relevant This has no impact on democracy (1)</th>
<th>Beneficial This enhances democracy, but is not required for democracy (2)</th>
<th>Important If this is absent, democracy is compromised (3)</th>
<th>Essential A country cannot be considered democratic without this (4)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government officials do not use public office for private gain (2)</td>
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<td>Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government protects individuals’ right to engage in</td>
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</table>
unpopular speech or expression (7)

Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents’ loyalty or patriotism (8)

Elections are free from foreign influence (9)

Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (10)

All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (11)

All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (12)

Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (13)

Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (14)

The legislature is able to effectively limit
executive power
(15)
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power
(16)
The elected branches respect judicial independence
(17)
Voter participation in elections is generally high
(18)
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public (19)
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions
(20)
Citizens can make their opinions heard in open debate about policies that are under consideration
(21)
The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party
(22)
Even when there are disagreements about ideology or policy, political leaders generally share a common understanding of relevant facts.

(23)
Elected officials seek compromise with political opponents.

(24)
Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern.

(25)
Government protects individuals’ right to engage in peaceful protest.

(26)
Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference.
Carry Forward Selected Choices from "How important are these characteristics for democratic government?"
Q4 How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>The U.S. does not meet this standard (1)</th>
<th>The U.S. partly meets this standard (2)</th>
<th>The U.S. mostly meets this standard (3)</th>
<th>The U.S. fully meets this standard (4)</th>
<th>Not sure (5)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct</td>
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<td>(x1)</td>
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<td>Government officials do not use public office for private gain</td>
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<td>(x2)</td>
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<td>Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish</td>
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<td>political opponents (x3)</td>
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<td>Government does not interfere with journalists or news</td>
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<td>organizations (x5)</td>
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<td>Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimidation (x6)</td>
<td>Government protects individuals’ right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (x7)</td>
<td>Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents’ loyalty or patriotism (x8)</td>
<td>Elections are free from foreign influence (x9)</td>
<td>Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (x10)</td>
<td>All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (x11)</td>
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<td>Item</td>
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<td>Pervasive fraud or manipulation (x13)</td>
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<td>Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (x14)</td>
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<td>The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (x15)</td>
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<td>Voter participation in elections is generally high (x18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public (x19)</td>
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Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern.
Government protects individuals’ right to engage in peaceful protest (x26)

Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference (x27)

End of Block: Importance and Performance

Start of Block: Overall evaluation

Q5
On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States as of today?

United States today (1)
How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically? On this scale where 1 means it is “not at all important” and 10 means “absolutely important,” what position would you choose?

- Not at all important 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 (4)
- 5 (5)
- 6 (6)
Absolutely important (10)

End of Block: Overall evaluation

Start of Block: Other questions

Q6 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)
Q7 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
Or What is your primary field of study? = Comparative politics
Or What is your primary field of study? = International relations
Or What is your primary field of study? = Political theory
Or What is your primary field of study? = Another field of political science

Q8 What is your specific area of study?

__________________________________________________________________________

Page Break
Q9 Do you have any comments about this survey?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
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End of Block: Other questions