

Wave 5 (April 2018) Bright Line Watch Political Science Survey (Experts)

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)

Skip To: End of Survey If Thank you for participating in the Bright Line Watch survey of political scientists. The purpose... != I agree to continue

Page Break

Q21

On the next screen you will see a series of statements related to democratic government. For each, you will be asked to indicate how well the statement describes the United States today.

Fourteen statements have been randomly selected from a set of twenty-seven statements (the full list will be available at the end of the survey).

Please click "Next >>" to continue to the next screen.

Page Break



Q2 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 (1) | <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 (2) | <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 (3) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights (5) | <input type="radio"/> | <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"/> | <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"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression (8)

Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism (9)

Elections are free from foreign influence (11)

Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (12)

All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (13)

All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (14)

Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (15)

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits (16) | <input type="radio"/> | <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"/> | <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"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The elected branches respect judicial independence (19) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Voter participation in elections is generally high (20) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public (21) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions (22) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Citizens can make their opinions heard in open | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

debate about policies that are under consideration (23)

The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party (24)

Even when there are disagreements about ideology or policy, political leaders generally share a common understanding of relevant facts (25)

Elected officials seek compromise with political opponents (26)

Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern (27)

Government protects individuals' right to

engage in
peaceful
protest (28)

Law
enforcement
investigations
of public
officials or
their
associates are
free from
political
influence or
interference
(29)

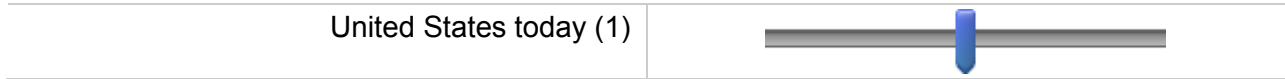


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Q3

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?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



Page Break



Q4 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)

Page Break

Display This Question:

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

Or Finally, we have just a few questions about you. Which of the following best describes your occup... = Post-doctoral fellow

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

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

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

Q5 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)

Page Break

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

Q6 What is your specific area of study?

Page Break

Q7 Do you have any comments about this survey?
