

Wave 7 Bright Line Watch Political Science Survey

Start of Block: Block 1

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)

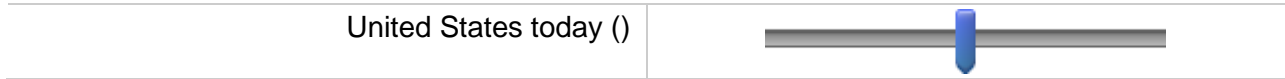


Page Break

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

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: GridIntro

Q15

On the following screens you will see a list of 10 recent events (randomly selected from a list of 27 events - the full list will be available at the end of the survey). We ask that you please rate these events using the following two scales.

Normal or Abnormal, where 1 is business as usual for a presidential administration, like vetoing a bill or appointing a cabinet, and 5 is highly unusual for American democracy, like Iran-Contra or ordering newspapers to halt the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Unimportant or Important, where 1 has limited or no consequences for the federal government, like the first family's pets or the menu for a state dinner, and 5 creates a significant or lasting change, like the establishment of Social Security or the Voting Rights Act.

We also welcome any comments you may have that explain your evaluation.

End of Block: GridIntro

Start of Block: Grid1

G1a

President Trump being implicated as a co-conspirator in his former personal lawyer Michael Cohen's guilty plea

G1b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G1c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G1d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid1

Start of Block: Grid2

G2a

President Trump publicly feuding with Attorney General Jeff Sessions

G2b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G2c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G2d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid2

Start of Block: Grid3

G3a

A federal judge blocking the deportation of families previously separated under the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy

G3b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G3c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G3d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid3

Start of Block: Grid4

G4a

President Trump threatening Canada with auto tariffs

G4b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G4c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
- Mostly unimportant (2)
- Semi-important (3)
- Mostly important (4)
- Important (5)

G4d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid4

Start of Block: Grid5

G5a

President Trump proposing the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement

G5b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G5c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
- Mostly unimportant (2)
- Semi-important (3)
- Mostly important (4)
- Important (5)

G5d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid5

Start of Block: Grid6

G6a

President Trump revoking the security clearance of former CIA director John Brennan

G6b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G6c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G6d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid6

Start of Block: Grid7

G7a

President Trump repeatedly calling the press an “enemy of the people”

G7b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G7c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G7d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid7

Start of Block: Grid8

G8a

President Trump claiming the official death toll from Hurricane Maria was wrong and made up by Democrats to make him look bad

G8b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G8c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G8d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid8

Start of Block: Grid9

G9a

The Senate Judiciary Committee holding a hearing in which Christine Blasey Ford accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault

G9b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G9c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G9d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid9

Start of Block: Grid10

G10a

World leaders laughing at President Trump's remarks during his United Nations speech

G10b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G10c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G10d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid10

Start of Block: Grid11

G11a

Judge Brett Kavanaugh being confirmed to the Supreme Court

G11b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G11c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G11d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid11

Start of Block: Grid12

G12a

President Trump calling the European Union a “foe”

G12b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G12c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G12d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid12

Start of Block: Grid13

Q161

President Trump saying the government of Saudi Arabia was being treated as “guilty until proven innocent” in the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi

Q162 Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

Q163 Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

Q164 Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid13

Start of Block: Grid14

G14a

A White House advisor reportedly removing a letter from President Trump's desk to prevent him from withdrawing from a trade agreement with South Korea

G14b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G14c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G14d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid14

Start of Block: Grid15

G15a

The Trump administration proposing limits on the right to demonstrate near the White House and on the National Mall

G15b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G15c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G15d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid15

Start of Block: Grid16

G16a

President Trump inspecting damage from Hurricane Florence in Florida and Georgia

G16b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G16c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G16d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid16

Start of Block: Grid17

G17a

The Senate confirming Robert Wilkie as Secretary of Veterans' Affairs

G17b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G17c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G17d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid17

Start of Block: Grid18

G18a

President Trump appointing numerous judges to federal appeals courts

G18b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G18c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G18d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid18

Start of Block: Grid19

G19a

Justice Anthony Kennedy retiring from the Supreme Court

G19b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G19c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G19d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid19

Start of Block: Grid20

G20a

President Trump raising more than \$100 million for his 2020 reelection campaign

G20b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G20c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G20d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid20

Start of Block: Grid21

G21a

President Trump speaking at the Flight 93 National Memorial to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the September 11 attacks

G21b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G21c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G21d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid21

Start of Block: Grid22

G22a

President Trump meeting with Chilean President Sebastián Piñera at the White House

G22b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G22c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

G22d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid22

Start of Block: Grid23

G23a

President Trump threatening to support a government shutdown if Congress does not approve funding for border security, including “the Wall”

G23b Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

G23c Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
- Mostly unimportant (2)
- Semi-important (3)
- Mostly important (4)
- Important (5)

G23d Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid23

Start of Block: Grid24

Q149

President Trump holding rallies across the country to campaign for Republican Congressional candidates

Q150 Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

Q151 Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

Q152 Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid24

Start of Block: Grid25

Q153

President Trump meeting with Kanye West at the White House

Q154 Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

Q155 Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

Q156 Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid25

Start of Block: Grid26

Q157

President Trump praising a Montana congressman's physical attack on a reporter

Q158 Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

Q159 Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

Q160 Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid26

Start of Block: Grid27

Q165

Explosive devices being sent to prominent Democrats and critics of President Trump

Q166 Is this normal or abnormal?

- Normal (1)
 - Mostly normal (2)
 - Borderline normal (3)
 - Mostly abnormal (4)
 - Abnormal (5)
-

Q167 Is this unimportant or important?

- Unimportant (1)
 - Mostly unimportant (2)
 - Semi-important (3)
 - Mostly important (4)
 - Important (5)
-

Q168 Please comment on your responses above (optional).

End of Block: Grid27

Start of Block: Block 3

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?

End of Block: Block 3
