

W29 expert

Survey Flow

EmbeddedData

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PWIDValue will be set from Panel or URL.
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forecast_ignore_court_order_stage2_outcome_original_values =
forecast_ignore_court_order_stage2_outcome_original_total =

```
forecast_ignore_court_order_stage2_outcome_submitted_values =
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forecast_habeas_stage1b_count_submitted_values =
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forecast_habeas_stage2_outcome_submitted_values =
forecast_habeas_stage2_outcome_normalization_method =
```

Block: Section 1: Introduction & Consent (1 Question)

Branch: New Branch

If

If Thank you for participating in the Bright Line Watch survey of political scientists. The purpose... I do not agree to continue Is Selected

EndSurvey: Advanced

Standard: Section 2a: Rating of US now (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 2b: Rating of US under different scenarios (3 Questions)

Standard: Section 2c: System descriptions compared to US (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 2c.1: System descriptions compared to the US (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 2d: System descriptions - future (2 Questions)

BlockRandomizer: 1 - Evenly Present Elements

EmbeddedData

perf_district_wording_variant = no_state

perf_district_wording = The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party

EmbeddedData

perf_district_wording_variant = no_state

perf_district_wording = The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party

BlockRandomizer: 1 - Evenly Present Elements

Standard: Section 4: Performance (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 4: Performance - forced district-boundaries boost branch (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 4: Performance - ordinary duplicate boost branch (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 4a: Supreme Court rulings impact intro (2 Questions)

BlockRandomizer: 2 - Evenly Present Elements

Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Slaughter (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Cook (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Barbara (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Watson v. Republican National Committee (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Louisiana v. Callais (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 4c: Supreme Court rulings benefit detail (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 4d: Supreme Court rulings threat detail (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 5: Constitutional Hardball intro (2 Questions)

BlockRandomizer: 1 -

Standard: Section 5a Executive Powers (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 5b - Courts (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 5c - Elections, Voting Rights & Representation (2 Questions)

Standard: Codex three-stage forecast intro (2 Questions)

BlockRandomizer: 1 -

Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - indict_opponent - Indict opponent (4 Questions)
Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - concede - Concede (4 Questions)
Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - nominee_block - Nominee block (4 Questions)
Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - espionage_act - Espionage Act (4 Questions)
Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - ignore_court_order - Direct to ignore court order (4 Questions)
Standard: Codex three-stage forecast item - habeas - Habeas (4 Questions)

Standard: Section 7: Redistricting (6 Questions)

BlockRandomizer: 1 - Evenly Present Elements

EmbeddedData
election_confidence_scope = nationwide
election_confidence_scope_text = nationwide
EmbeddedData
election_confidence_scope = state
election_confidence_scope_text = in the state where you live

Standard: Section 8: 2026 Election Confidence (2 Questions)
Standard: Section 11: Occupation (2 Questions)

Branch: New Branch

If

If Which of the following best describes your occupation? Other Is Not Selected

Standard: Section 12: Field of study (3 Questions)

Standard: Section 13: Academic Institution (3 Questions)

Standard: Section 10a: Age (2 Questions)

Standard: Section 14: Thanks (3 Questions)

EndSurvey: Advanced

Page
Break

Start of Block: Section 1: Introduction & Consent

Q1.1 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. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you are free to skip any questions or withdraw from the study at any time. No information that identifies you will be collected or retained by the researchers, and all of the information we collect will be stored securely. However, any online interaction carries some risk of being accessed. Please contact Brendan Nyhan by email at nyhan@dartmouth.edu with any questions or concerns. 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. Do you consent to participate in the survey?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q1.1 = 2

End of Block: Section 1: Introduction & Consent

Start of Block: Section 2a: Rating of US now

ratingusa_timer Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

rusa_now

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	100
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

United States today (1)



Page
Break

End of Block: Section 2a: Rating of US now

Start of Block: Section 2b: Rating of US under different scenarios

future_rating_1 Now, we would like to ask you about what American democracy might look like in the next few years. Assuming that **a Democratic candidate wins the 2028 presidential election**, what rating would you expect to give the political system of the United States in **2032**? You rated the US now as $\$ \{ rusa_now / \text{ChoiceNumericEntryValue} / 1 \}$.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0

(1)	
-----	--

future_rating_2 Now, we would like to ask you about what American democracy might look like in the next few years. Assuming that **a Republican candidate endorsed by Trump wins the 2028 presidential election**, what rating would you expect to give the political system of the United States in **2032**? You rated the US now as $\$ \{ rusa_now / \text{ChoiceNumericEntryValue} / 1 \}$.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0

(1)	
-----	--

future_rating_3 Now, we would like to ask you about what American democracy might look like in the next few years. Assuming that **a Republican candidate not endorsed by Trump wins the 2028 presidential election**, what rating would you expect to give the political system of the United States in **2032**? You rated the US now as $\$ \{ rusa_now / \text{ChoiceNumericEntryValue} / 1 \}$.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0

(1)	
-----	--

End of Block: Section 2b: Rating of US under different scenarios

Start of Block: Section 2c: System descriptions compared to US

Q1203 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

Q988 In your view, which description below most accurately describes the US political system **today**?

- ☐ A system with free and fair elections and strong checks on those in power (1)
- ☐ A system with free and fair elections but only moderate checks on those in power (2)
- ☐ A system with unfair, tilted elections and weak checks on those in power (3)
- ☐ A system in which those in power can't be voted out and face no real checks (4)

End of Block: Section 2c: System descriptions compared to US

Start of Block: Section 2c.1: System descriptions compared to the US

Q1042 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

Display this question:

If Q988 = 1

Or Q988 = 2

Or Q988 = 3

Or Q988 = 4

Q1043 Please describe why you indicated that “\${Q988/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices}” best describes the US **today**.

End of Block: Section 2c.1: System descriptions compared to the US

Start of Block: Section 2d: System descriptions - future

Q1005 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)



Q1004 Please provide the probability that each description below will most accurately describe the US political system in **2032**. The answers you provide should be in percentage terms and must sum to 100%.

- _____ A system with free and fair elections and strong checks on those in power (1)
- _____ A system with free and fair elections but only moderate checks on those in power (2)
- _____ A system with unfair, tilted elections and weak checks on those in power (3)
- _____ A system in which those in power can't be voted out and face no real checks (4)

End of Block: Section 2d: System descriptions - future

Start of Block: Section 4: Performance

Q479 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)



PERF 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)
Elections are free from foreign influence (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (2)	0	0	0	0	0
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (3)	0	0	0	0	0
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (5)	0	0	0	0	0
\${e://Field/perf_district_wording} (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Politicians who lose free and fair elections publicly concede	0	0	0	0	0

defeat (7)					
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (8)	0	0	0	0	0
Lower courts are able to effectively limit executive power (9)	0	0	0	0	0
The Supreme Court is able to effectively limit executive power (10)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: Section 4: Performance

Start of Block: Section 4: Performance - forced district-boundaries boost branch



PERF_FORCED_DISTRICT 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)
Elections are free from foreign influence (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (2)	0	0	0	0	0
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (3)	0	0	0	0	0
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (5)	0	0	0	0	0
\${e://Field/perf_district wording} (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Politicians who lose free and fair elections	0	0	0	0	0

publicly
concede
defeat (7)

The
legislature is
able to
effectively
limit
executive
power (8)

Lower courts
are able to
effectively
limit
executive
power (9)

The Supreme
Court is able
to effectively
limit
executive
power (10)

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

timer_16 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4: Performance - forced district-boundaries boost branch

Start of Block: Section 4: Performance - ordinary duplicate boost branch



PERF_WEIGHTED_NORMAL_DUP 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)
Elections are free from foreign influence (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies (2)	0	0	0	0	0
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote (3)	0	0	0	0	0
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation (5)	0	0	0	0	0
\${e://Field/perf_district_wording} (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Politicians who lose free and fair elections	0	0	0	0	0

publicly concede defeat (7)					
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power (8)	0	0	0	0	0
Lower courts are able to effectively limit executive power (9)	0	0	0	0	0
The Supreme Court is able to effectively limit executive power (10)	0	0	0	0	0

timer_17 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4: Performance - ordinary duplicate boost branch

Start of Block: Section 4a: Supreme Court rulings impact intro

scotus_impact_intro We are interested in your assessment of the likely effects of several recent Supreme Court rulings. For each ruling below, please indicate whether you think it is a benefit to American democracy, will not affect American democracy, or is a threat to American democracy.

timer_06 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4a: Supreme Court rulings impact intro

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Slaughter

scotus_tb_slaughter Trump v. Slaughter: The Court permits at-will removal of FTC commissioners, invalidating the FTC's for-cause removal protection and overruling Humphrey's Executor.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_07 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Slaughter

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Cook

scotus_tb_cook Trump v. Cook: The Court blocks President Trump's removal of Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook during litigation and preserves for-cause removal protection for Fed governors.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_08 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Cook

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Barbara

scotus_tb_barbara Trump v. Barbara: The Court holds that President Trump cannot deny birthright citizenship to U.S.-born children of unauthorized or temporary-status parents by executive order.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_09 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Trump v. Barbara

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Watson v. Republican National Committee

scotus_tb_watson_rnc Watson v. Republican National Committee: The Court holds that federal Election Day laws do not bar states from counting mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received afterward.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_10 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Watson v. Republican National Committee

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC

scotus_tb_nrsc_fec National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC: The Court strikes down FECA limits on coordinated expenditures by political parties with federal candidates.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_11 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC

Start of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Louisiana v. Callais

scotus_tb_callais Louisiana v. Callais: The Court strikes down Louisiana's map creating a second majority-Black congressional district and narrows when Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act can justify race-conscious redistricting.

- ☐ Benefit to American democracy (1)
 - ☐ Will not affect American democracy (2)
 - ☐ Threat to American democracy (3)
-

timer_12 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4b: SCOTUS T/B - Louisiana v. Callais

Start of Block: Section 4c: Supreme Court rulings benefit detail

Display this question:

```
If scotus_tb_slaughter = 1
Or scotus_tb_cook = 1
Or scotus_tb_barbara = 1
Or scotus_tb_watson_rnc = 1
Or scotus_tb_nrsc_fec = 1
Or scotus_tb_callais = 1
```

scotus_benefit_detail You indicated that the following Supreme Court rulings are benefits to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a benefit to democracy.

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_slaughter = 1

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_cook = 1

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_barbara = 1

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_watson_rnc = 1

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_nrsc_fec = 1

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_callais = 1

	Little benefit to American democracy (1)	Moderate benefit to American democracy (2)	Serious benefit to American democracy (3)	Extraordinary benefit to American democracy (4)
Display this choice: If scotus_tb_slaughter = 1 Trump v. Slaughter: The Court permits at-will removal of FTC commissioners, invalidating the FTC's for-cause removal protection and overruling Humphrey's Executor. (1)	0	0	0	0
Display this choice: If scotus_tb_cook =	0	0	0	0

1

Trump v. Cook:
The Court blocks
President
Trump's removal
of Federal
Reserve
Governor Lisa
Cook during
litigation and
preserves for-
cause removal
protection for
Fed governors.
(2)

*Display this
choice:*

*If
scotus_tb_barbara
= 1*

Trump v.
Barbara: The
Court holds that
President Trump
cannot deny
birthright
citizenship to
U.S.-born
children of
unauthorized or
temporary-status
parents by
executive order.
(3)

*Display this
choice:*

*If
scotus_tb_watson
_rnc = 1*

Watson v.
Republican
National
Committee: The
Court holds that
federal Election
Day laws do not

0

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0

bar states from counting mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received afterward. (4)

Display this choice:
If
`scotus_tb_nrsc_fe`
`c = 1`

National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC: The Court strikes down FECA limits on coordinated expenditures by political parties with federal candidates. (5)

0

0

0

0

Display this choice:
If
`scotus_tb_callais`
`= 1`

Louisiana v. Callais: The Court strikes down Louisiana's map creating a second majority-Black congressional district and narrows when Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act can justify race-conscious redistricting. (6)

0

0

0

0

timer_13 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4c: Supreme Court rulings benefit detail

Start of Block: Section 4d: Supreme Court rulings threat detail

Display this question:

If scotus_tb_slaughter = 3

Or scotus_tb_cook = 3

Or scotus_tb_barbara = 3

Or scotus_tb_watson_rnc = 3

Or scotus_tb_nrsc_fec = 3

Or scotus_tb_callais = 3

scotus_threat_detail You indicated that the following Supreme Court rulings are threats to American democracy. We would now like you to rate the degree to which they are a threat to democracy.

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_slaughter = 3

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_cook = 3

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_barbara = 3

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_watson_rnc = 3

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_nrsc_fec = 3

Display this choice:

If scotus_tb_callais = 3

	Little threat to American democracy (1)	Moderate threat to American democracy (2)	Serious threat to American democracy (3)	Extraordinary threat to American democracy (4)
Display this choice: If scotus_tb_slaughter = 3 Trump v. Slaughter: The Court permits at-will removal of FTC commissioners, invalidating the FTC's for-cause removal protection and overruling Humphrey's Executor. (1)	0	0	0	0
Display this choice: If scotus_tb_cook =	0	0	0	0

3

Trump v. Cook:
The Court blocks
President
Trump's removal
of Federal
Reserve
Governor Lisa
Cook during
litigation and
preserves for-
cause removal
protection for
Fed governors.
(2)

*Display this
choice:*

*If
scotus_tb_barbara
= 3*

Trump v.
Barbara: The
Court holds that
President Trump
cannot deny
birthright
citizenship to
U.S.-born
children of
unauthorized or
temporary-status
parents by
executive order.
(3)

*Display this
choice:*

*If
scotus_tb_watson
_rnc = 3*

Watson v.
Republican
National
Committee: The
Court holds that
federal Election
Day laws do not

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

bar states from counting mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received afterward. (4)

Display this choice:
If
`scotus_tb_nrsc_fe`
`c = 3`

National Republican Senatorial Committee v. FEC: The Court strikes down FECA limits on coordinated expenditures by political parties with federal candidates. (5)

0

0

0

0

Display this choice:
If
`scotus_tb_callais`
`= 3`

Louisiana v. Callais: The Court strikes down Louisiana's map creating a second majority-Black congressional district and narrows when Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act can justify race-conscious redistricting. (6)

0

0

0

0

timer_23 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 4d: Supreme Court rulings threat detail

Start of Block: Section 5: Constitutional Hardball intro

Q1132 Below we are going to describe a number of political scenarios. Please indicate how appropriate or inappropriate you consider each scenario to be. Please click the arrow to continue to the next screen.

timer_02 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 5: Constitutional Hardball intro

Start of Block: Section 5a Executive Powers

Q860 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

|

Q1045 Are the following actions appropriate or inappropriate?

	Entirely inappropriate (1)	Mostly inappropriate (2)	Mostly appropriate (3)	Entirely appropriate (4)	Not sure (5)
A President pardoning himself or herself (1)	0	0	0	0	0
A President establishing important new government policy by executive order without passage of a law in Congress (2)	0	0	0	0	0
A President directing the Department of Justice to open investigations into political opponents (3)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: Section 5a Executive Powers

Start of Block: Section 5b - Courts

Q1353 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

|

Q1354 Are the following actions appropriate or inappropriate?

	Entirely inappropriate (1)	Mostly inappropriate (2)	Mostly appropriate (3)	Entirely appropriate (4)	Not sure (5)
The majority party in the Senate refusing to consider any nomination by a President to fill an open seat on the Supreme Court (1)	0	0	0	0	0
A party that controls Congress and the presidency creating and filling new seats on the Supreme Court to change the partisan balance of power (2)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: Section 5b - Courts

Start of Block: Section 5c - Elections, Voting Rights & Representation

Q1355 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

Q1356 Are the following actions appropriate or inappropriate?

	Entirely inappropriate (1)	Mostly inappropriate (2)	Mostly appropriate (3)	Entirely appropriate (4)	Not sure (5)
A party that controls both chambers of Congress granting statehood to Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico (1)	0	0	0	0	0
State governments signing a pact to guarantee that the popular vote winner is elected president (2)	0	0	0	0	0
A state political party drawing Congressional districts that ensure it will receive a share of seats much larger than its share of votes (3)	0	0	0	0	0
A state political party proposing measures that make it more difficult to vote, especially for members of the other party (4)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: Section 5c - Elections, Voting Rights & Representation

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast intro

forecast_intro Next, we would like to ask you to forecast several possible events related to U.S. democracy. For each topic, you will first estimate the probability that the event occurs, then estimate how many such events will occur, and finally assess the likelihood of different outcomes for the first qualifying case if the event occurs. Each question will have a "Resolution criteria" box under it providing definitions and details that are useful for answering the question. The first one on each screen will be open by default and the second and third can be opened by clicking on the button that says "Resolution criteria."

forecast_intro_timer Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

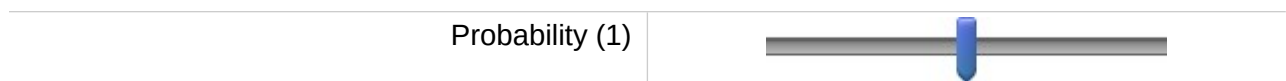
End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast intro

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - indict_opponent - Indict opponent



forecast_indict_opponent_stage1_prob What is the probability that the Department of Justice will publicly announce a new investigation or prosecution of a high-profile individual from the opposing party to the U.S. president in 2027-2028? Resolution criteria This question will resolve as Yes if, in 2027-2028, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announces a new investigation or prosecution of an individual who, while a member of the opposing party to the sitting president, fulfilled at least one of the following: Served as President or Vice President of the United StatesHeld the position of Speaker of the House or House Minority Leader, Senate Majority or Minority Leader, House or Senate Majority or Minority WhipServed as an impeachment manager during any impeachment proceeding against the sitting president. **Fine Print** The opposing party is the Republican Party if the President is a Democrat and the Democratic Party if the President is a Republican. If the President is neither, this question will be annulled. The DOJ must publicly and officially announce the initiation of an investigation or prosecution against the individual. The resolution does not require a conviction or final outcome—only the announcement of a formal investigation or prosecution. For clarity, the question includes impeachment managers formally appointed for the relevant impeachment proceedings and leadership roles active as of the time of the DOJ's announcement. For example, for Donald Trump, any of the following would qualify: The 2019-2020 impeachment managers: Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Zoe Lofgren, Hakeem Jeffries, Val Demings, Sylvia Garcia, and Jason Crow.The 2020-2021 impeachment managers: Jamie Raskin, Diana DeGette, David Cicilline, Joaquin Castro, Eric Swalwell, Ted Lieu, Stacey Plaskett, Madeleine Dean, and Joe Neguse.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0



forecast_indict_opponent_stage1b_count How many high-profile individuals from the opposing party to the U.S. president do you think the Department of Justice will publicly announce new investigations or prosecutions of in 2027-2028? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria This question resolves as the number of individuals the Department of Justice publicly announces new investigations or prosecutions of in 2027-2028, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each individual once, even if the DOJ announces multiple investigations or prosecutions involving that person.

- _____ 0 individuals (1)
 - _____ 1 individual (2)
 - _____ 2-5 individuals (3)
 - _____ 6 or more individuals (4)
-



forecast_indict_opponent_stage2_outcome Assume the Department of Justice publicly announces new investigations or prosecutions of one or more high-profile individuals from the opposing party to the U.S. president in 2027-2028. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the status of the first qualifying case as of December 31, 2030? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

Assume at least one case meets the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of December 31, 2030 for the first qualifying case, which is determined by selecting the case with the earliest date on which a qualifying investigation or prosecution is publicly announced. Includes only cases publicly known by December 31, 2030.

- _____ No charges filed (1)
 - _____ Charges filed; no trial has begun and the case is still pending (no plea, verdict, or dismissal) (2)
 - _____ Charges filed; case ends before trial without a conviction (charges dismissed or dropped, or defendant pardoned) (3)
 - _____ Trial has begun but no conviction (trial is ongoing; acquittal on all charges; or no verdict — mistrial with no retrial, dismissal, or pardon) (4)
 - _____ Convicted on at least one charge (guilty verdict or guilty plea) (5)
-

Q139 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - indict_opponent - Indict opponent

forecast_concede_stage1_prob What is the probability that two or more losing major-party candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races for the 2026 general election refuse to concede defeat in 2025-2026? Resolution criteria

This question will resolve as Yes if, in 2025-2026, two or more defeated Democratic or Republican candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races do not publicly concede the election to their opponents by 15 days after the race is called by the Associated Press (AP). A race is defined as competitive if there is a candidate nominated by both the Democratic and Republican parties and the consensus forecast on the website 270towin has the race marked as a “Lean,” “Tilt,” or “Toss-Up” in the latest pre-election snapshot of the website on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. **Fine Print** Refusal to publicly concede defeat is defined as either (1) a runner-up failing to announce or disseminate a statement of defeat or (2) making a statement that explicitly refuses to acknowledge the opponent’s victory following the call by the AP (or where AP does not call the race, a credible source). To code ambiguous concession statements, we will refer to the concessions codebook developed by Bright Line Watch. If the 270towin site is not updated or if any race is missing a forecast, the question will resolve by aggregating forecasts from The Cook Political Report, Sabato’s Crystal Ball, and RacetotheWH or whichever of these websites are still updated using the latest pre-election snapshot of the website on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. “Safe” and “Solid” are taken as equivalent ratings and “Leans” and “Tilts” are equivalent ratings across the different forecasting sites. The consensus rating is defined as the median rating for each race. If a race proceeds to a runoff or second round, the concession is judged based on the final contest outcome.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probability (1)



forecast_concede_stage1b_count How many losing major-party candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races for the 2026 general election do you think will refuse to concede defeat in 2025-2026? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

This question resolves as the number of defeated Democratic or Republican candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races who refuse to concede defeat in 2025-2026, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each candidate once.

- _____ 0 candidates (1)
- _____ 1 candidate (2)
- _____ 2-5 candidates (3)
- _____ 6 or more candidates (4)



forecast_concede_stage2_outcome Assume two or more losing major-party candidates for governor or U.S. Senator in competitive races for the 2026 general election refuse to concede defeat in 2025-2026. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the status of the office at stake in the first qualifying refusal to concede defeat as of January 31, 2027? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

Assume at least two refusals meet the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of January 31, 2027 for the first qualifying refusal, which is determined by selecting the refusal with the earliest date on which a losing major-party candidate in a competitive race does not publicly concede the election to their opponent by 15 days after the race is called. For these outcomes, the winner is the winning candidate as determined by the AP or the credible source that called the race. Includes only refusals publicly known by January 31, 2027.

- _____ The winner has been sworn into office (1)
- _____ Someone other than the winner has been sworn into office (2)
- _____ No one has been sworn into office (3)

Q138 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - concede - Concede

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - nominee_block - Nominee block

forecast_nominee_block_stage1_prob What is the probability that an opposing-party authority blocks or removes a major-party nominee for statewide office from the 2026 general-election ballot in 2025-2026? Resolution criteria

This question will resolve as Yes if, in 2025-2026, credible sources report that an authority from a political party opposed to a major-party nominee for statewide office has taken action that results in the nominee being blocked from being listed on the general election ballot or removed from an existing general election ballot. **Fine Print** For the purposes of this question, statewide office positions refer to the following: Governor, Lieutenant Governor (where separately elected), Secretary of State (where elected), U.S. Senator, and state Supreme Court justices (where elected). Opposing-party authority refers to a formal body or entity controlled by the other party. Examples include single-party officials (e.g., Secretary of State), election boards or panels with majorities composed of members from the opposing party or appointed by politicians from the opposing party, or court panels in which the majority of members were appointed by officials of the opposing party, elected as a member of the opposing party (e.g., state supreme court justices in North Carolina since 2018), or were elected with the official endorsement of and/or funding from the opposing party in the state (e.g., state supreme court justices in Wisconsin). Related actions (e.g., threats, unsuccessful litigation) that do not result in a candidate being blocked or removed from the general election ballot will not trigger a Yes resolution. The nominee must have been officially certified or recognized as the presumptive nominee at the time of removal. A "presumptive nominee" refers to a candidate who has clinched the nomination mathematically (e.g., by securing a majority of pledged delegates or winning enough state primaries) or is considered by credible sources to be the party's de facto nominee without serious contest.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probability (1)



forecast_nominee_block_stage1b_count How many major-party nominees for statewide office do you think an opposing-party authority will block or remove from the 2026 general-election ballot in 2025-2026? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

This question resolves as the number of major-party nominees for statewide office who are blocked or removed from the 2026 general-election ballot by an opposing-party authority in 2025-2026, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each nominee once.

- _____ 0 nominees (1)
- _____ 1 nominee (2)
- _____ 2-5 nominees (3)
- _____ 6 or more nominees (4)



forecast_nominee_block_stage2_outcome Assume an opposing-party authority blocks or removes one or more major-party nominees for statewide office from the 2026 general-election ballot in 2025-2026. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the ballot status of the first blocked or removed nominee as of December 31, 2026? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

Assume at least one nominee meets the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of December 31, 2026 for the first qualifying nominee, which is determined by selecting the nominee with the earliest date on which an opposing-party authority takes action that blocks or removes the nominee from the general-election ballot. Includes only nominees publicly known by December 31, 2026.

- _____ The nominee does not appear on any official ballots provided to voters (1)
- _____ The nominee appears on some but not all official ballots provided to voters (2)
- _____ The nominee appears on all official ballots provided to voters, but at least some otherwise-valid votes cast for the nominee were not counted because of the block or removal action (3)
- _____ The nominee appears on all official ballots provided to voters and all valid votes cast for the nominee were counted (4)

Q137 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - nominee_block - Nominee block

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - espionage_act - Espionage Act

forecast_espionage_act_stage1_prob What is the probability that the Department of Justice files criminal charges against one or more journalists under the Espionage Act in 2027-2028?

Resolution criteria

This question will resolve as Yes if, in 2027-2028, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) files criminal charges under the Espionage Act of 1917 against one or more individuals identifiable as journalists at the time of the alleged conduct. **Fine Print** Charges must be filed by the DOJ in federal court (not state or military court) and must include one or more counts under the Espionage Act. This question adopts the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker's functional definition of a journalist. An individual qualifies if they were engaged in an act of journalism—gathering, preparing, or disseminating news or information to the public—regardless of institutional affiliation, press credentials, or employment status. This includes individuals working independently or for formal news outlets. However, it does not include individuals who leak documents or other information from within institutions such as defense or intelligence agencies.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probability (1)



forecast_espionage_act_stage1b_count How many journalists do you think the Department of Justice will file criminal charges against under the Espionage Act in 2027-2028? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

This question resolves as the number of journalists against whom the Department of Justice files qualifying federal criminal charges under the Espionage Act in 2027-2028, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each journalist once.

- _____ 0 journalists (1)
 - _____ 1 journalist (2)
 - _____ 2-5 journalists (3)
 - _____ 6 or more journalists (4)
-

forecast_espionage_act_stage2_outcome Assume the Department of Justice files criminal charges against one or more journalists under the Espionage Act in 2027-2028. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the status of the first qualifying case as of December 31, 2030? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria Assume at least one case meets the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of December 31, 2030 for the first qualifying case, which is determined by selecting the case with the earliest date on which the Department of Justice files qualifying criminal charges under the Espionage Act. If multiple qualifying cases are filed on the same date, ties are broken by lowest docket number. Includes only cases publicly known by December 31, 2030.

- _____ No trial has begun; case still pending (no plea, verdict, or dismissal) (1)
 - _____ Ends before trial, no conviction (charges dismissed or dropped, or defendant pardoned) (2)
 - _____ Trial has begun but no conviction (trial is ongoing; acquittal on all charges; or no verdict — mistrial with no retrial, dismissal, or pardon) (3)
 - _____ Convicted on at least one charge (guilty verdict or guilty plea) (4)
-

Q136 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - espionage_act - Espionage Act

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - ignore_court_order - Direct to ignore court order



forecast_ignore_court_order_stage1_prob What is the probability that the U.S. President or another executive branch official will direct federal law enforcement to not enforce a federal court order in 2027-2028? Resolution criteria

This question will resolve as Yes if credible sources report that, in 2027-2028, the President or another senior official in the executive branch issued a directive instructing the U.S. Marshals Service or another federal law enforcement agency to refuse to enforce a federal court order.

Fine Print A directive is defined as any verbal or written instruction. The directive must be documented in official records (e.g., executive orders, internal memos) or reported by multiple reputable sources based on direct evidence (such as transcripts, contemporaneous notes, or corroborated testimony). "Refuse to enforce" means the directive instructs the agency to intentionally decline or delay to carry out a federal court order that requires a specific, affirmative action by federal law enforcement, such as making an arrest, executing a warrant, or seizing property. If a stay is issued, refusal to enforce during that period would not trigger a Yes resolution.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Probability (1)	
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forecast_ignore_court_order_stage1b_count How many court orders do you think the U.S. President or other executive branch officials will direct federal law enforcement to not enforce in 2027-2028? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

This question resolves as the number of federal court orders for which the U.S. President or other executive branch officials issue a qualifying directive to not enforce the order in 2027-2028, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each court order once.

- _____ 0 federal court orders (1)
- _____ 1 federal court order (2)
- _____ 2-5 federal court orders (3)
- _____ 6 or more federal court orders (4)



forecast_ignore_court_order_stage2_outcome Assume the U.S. President or other executive branch officials direct federal law enforcement to not enforce one or more federal court orders in 2027-2028. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the status of the first federal court order for which there is a qualifying directive to not enforce the order as of noon on January 20, 2029? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria Assume at least one directive meets the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of noon on January 20, 2029 for the first qualifying directive, which is determined by selecting the directive with the earliest date on which the U.S. President or another executive branch official directs federal law enforcement to not enforce a federal court order. If multiple qualifying directives are issued at the same time, ties are broken by the court order with the earliest docket entry. Includes only directives publicly known by noon on January 20, 2029.

_____ Carried out — a court determined the government carried out the required action and that determination stands, or the government reported compliance to the court and no party legally disputed it (1)

_____ No longer required — not carried out, but no court order requires the action (paused, overturned, narrowed, or expired) (2)

_____ Still required — not carried out, and a court order still requires the action — including where compliance is disputed and the court has not ruled (3)

Q135 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - ignore_court_order - Direct to ignore court order

Start of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - habeas - Habeas



forecast_habeas_stage1_prob What is the probability that habeas corpus is suspended for any identifiable group of people within the United States in 2027-2028? Resolution criteria

This question will resolve as Yes if, at any time in 2027-2028, the writ of habeas corpus is formally suspended by the sitting president for any identifiable group of people within the United States or its territories. **Fine Print** An “identifiable group of people” means any class of persons defined by legal, political, geographic, demographic, or status-based criteria. Examples include, but are not limited to, non-citizens, asylum seekers, refugees, protestors, political dissidents, individuals in immigration detention, or residents of specific regions or states. A suspension of habeas corpus refers to any executive action that denies or blocks individuals in the identified group from exercising the right to petition for habeas corpus in U.S. federal courts. The suspension must be deliberate and apply to the group as a whole. Temporary processing delays or isolated case denials do not qualify.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
										0

Probability (1)	
-----------------	--



forecast_habeas_stage1b_count For how many identifiable groups of people do you think habeas corpus will be suspended within the United States in 2027-2028? For each range below, estimate the probability that the number falls in that range. The probabilities must sum to 100%. Resolution criteria

This question resolves as the number of identifiable groups of people for whom habeas corpus is suspended in 2027-2028, following the definitions provided in the first question of this set. Count each group once.

- _____ 0 identifiable groups of people (1)
- _____ 1 identifiable group of people (2)
- _____ 2-5 identifiable groups of people (3)
- _____ 6 or more identifiable groups of people (4)



forecast_habeas_stage2_outcome Assume habeas corpus is suspended for one or more identifiable groups of people within the United States in 2027-2028. How likely is each of the outcomes below for the status of the first qualifying suspension as of noon on January 20, 2029? Please provide your responses as percentages that sum to 100%. Resolution criteria Assume at least one suspension meets the resolution criteria described in the first question of this set. Consider possible outcomes as of noon on January 20, 2029 for the first qualifying suspension, which is determined by selecting the suspension with the earliest date on which executive action suspending habeas corpus for an identifiable group of people within the United States is announced or publicly reported. Suspension in effect means that, for the identified group, federal courts are not accepting, hearing, or granting habeas corpus petitions because of the executive action. Days in effect need not be consecutive. Includes only suspensions publicly known by noon on January 20, 2029.

- _____ Suspension never went into effect (1)
_____ Suspension is or was in effect for at least one day but fewer than 90 cumulative days (2)
_____ Suspension is or was in effect for 90 or more cumulative days (3)
-

Q134 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Codex three-stage forecast item - habeas - Habeas

Start of Block: Section 7: Redistricting



elections_intro Next, we would like to ask about a different issue related to elections in the United States.

congressional_majority_timer Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

house_majority_after_2026 Which party do you think will have a majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives after the elections in November?

☐ Democratic Party (1)

☐ Republican Party (2)

☐ Not sure (3)

senate_majority_after_2026 Which party do you think will have a majority of seats in the U.S. Senate after the elections in November?

☐ Democratic Party (1)

☐ Republican Party (2)

☐ Not sure (3)

Page
Break

Q1206 Timing
First Click (1)
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Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

redraw_approve Do you approve or disapprove of a state redrawing its districts for the U.S. House of Representatives outside the usual 10-year cycle to favor one party in elections?

- ☐ Strongly approve (1)
- ☐ Somewhat approve (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disapprove (3)
- ☐ Strongly disapprove (4)

End of Block: Section 7: Redistricting

Start of Block: Section 8: 2026 Election Confidence

Q1053 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

election_confidence_2026_scope_randomized How confident are you that votes
\${e://Field/election_confidence_scope_text} will be counted as voters intend in the November
2026 election for the U.S. Congress?

- ☐ Very confident (1)
- ☐ Somewhat confident (2)
- ☐ Not very confident (3)
- ☐ Not at all confident (4)

End of Block: Section 8: 2026 Election Confidence

Start of Block: Section 11: Occupation

Q9.1 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

occupation 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)

End of Block: Section 11: Occupation

Start of Block: Section 12: Field of study

field intro Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

field 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)

field_text What is your specific area of study?

End of Block: Section 12: Field of study

Start of Block: Section 13: Academic Institution

Q1313 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

Q1314 What type of academic institution do you work at?

- ☐ Public (1)
- ☐ Private nonprofit (2)
- ☐ Private for-profit (3)
- ☐ None of the above (4)

Q3b In which state is the academic institution where you work located? This information will not be used to identify you.

▼ Alabama (1) ... My institution is not in the United States (58)

End of Block: Section 13: Academic Institution

Start of Block: Section 10a: Age

age How old are you?

▼ Under 18 (1) ... 85 or older (9)

timer_05 Timing

First Click (1)

Last Click (2)

Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

End of Block: Section 10a: Age

Start of Block: Section 14: Thanks

Q11.1 Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
Page Submit (3)
Click Count (4)

comments Do you have any comments on the survey? Please let us know about any problems you had or aspects of the survey that were confusing.

Q710 Thank you for answering these questions. This research is not intended to support or oppose any political candidate or office. The research has no affiliation with any political candidate or campaign and has received no financial support from any political candidate or campaign. Should you have any questions about this study, please contact Brendan Nyhan at nyhan@dartmouth.edu.

End of Block: Section 14: Thanks
