

# [***Disapproval Of Supreme Court Especially Among Democrats Eases In New Poll***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67DB-5SC1-DXVP-52YK-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

January 25, 2023 Wednesday

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**Length:** 739 words

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**Highlight:** Approval of the court is still nearly 20% below where it was in 2020, however.

**Body**

**Topline**

The share of Americans who approve of the Supreme Court is going back up again after plunging when the court overturned Roe v. Wade, a new Marquette Law Schoolpollfinds with Democrats seeing the largest rise but a majority of Americans still disapprove of the court, and its public image remains far below where it was several years ago.

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The U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

The poll, conducted January 9-20 among 1,000 respondents, found 47% of respondents approve of the Supreme Court, while 53% disapprove.

That s up from 44% approval in November and 38% in July, right after the Supreme Court s last term ended, which was a record low for the court s approval since Marquette started tracking in September 2020.

The increase in the court s approval was largely driven by Democrats, going from 15% in July to 35% now, versus 67% approval among Republicans the same as July and Independents approval going from 39% to 42%.

The court s approval rating is still far below where it was in 2020, when 66% approved of the court, and 60% approved of it in July 2021.

Many Americans approve of the court but don t necessarily trust it, as only 31% reported having a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the court, up from 28% in July.

It s unclear what caused the rise in popularity for the court which hasn t issued any major rulings since its last term ended over the summer but it could have to do with people having less awareness of what s going on with it this term, with a plurality saying they d heard nothing or not enough about major pending cases oncollege admissions,LGBTQ rightsandvoting.

**Big Number**

49%. That s the share of respondents who said they believe ***politics***, rather than the law, motivates the court s decisions, down from 52% in July but far up from 37% who believed that in September 2020 and 29% who believed that in July 2021. A 59% majority of respondents believe the court is very or somewhat conservative.

**What To Watch For**

The court has a number of major rulings coming up this term that could further impact public opinion, including cases onstudent loan forgiveness, affirmative action in college admissions,electionsand LGBTQ rights. The Marquette poll found respondents may largely approve of the court if they overturnaffirmative action as they seem poised to do with 68% saying they d favor such a decision. Acourt casethat could result in the Supreme Court allowing businesses to more easily discriminate against LGBTQ people was much less popular, however, with 57% saying they d oppose a decision saying business owners are justified in refusing services.

**What We Don t Know**

Marquette s polling was conducted largely before the Supreme Courtrevealedlast week that it had still not been able to find the person who leaked a draft opinion of its abortion ruling to the press following a months-long investigation, and reportssuggestedjustices were not scrutinized as heavily as part of that probe. It s unclear how or if that news would affect Americans broader opinion of the court.

**Key Background**

The 6-3 conservative Supreme Court s public image has taken a significant hit in recent months as Americans have perceived the court to be driven by ***politics***, as the court has taken up a series of cases involving partisan topics like abortion, gun rights and immigration and ruled largely in Republicans favor. Aseriesofpollshave repeatedly shown the court s approval ratings falling to record lows, and the court s ruling in June overturning Roe v. Wade led to security threats against justices as protests swelled opposing their decision. A number of Supreme Court justices have spoken out against the criticism and argued the court isn t driven by partisan ideologies, including Justice Amy Coney Barrett, whoclaimedher and her colleagues aren t partisan hacks and now-retired JusticeStephen Breyer, who told the**Washington Post**in September 2021 that justices aren t junior-league politicians.

**Further Reading**

New Marquette Law School national survey finds overall approval of U.S. Supreme Court has ticked up from post-Dobbs low six months ago(Marquette Law School)

Most Americans Don t Think Supreme Court Acts In A Serious And Constitutional Manner And Want Reforms, Poll Finds(Forbes)

Public Confidence In Supreme Court Sinks To 25%, Poll Says(Forbes)

Supreme Court Trust, Job Approval at Historical Lows(Gallup)

**Load-Date:** January 26, 2023

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