Bright Line Watch Public Survey - Standard Performance Battery September 2019

This study is being conducted by John Carey, Gretchen Helmke, Brendan Nyhan, and Susan Stokes, who are professors at Dartmouth College (Carey and Nyhan), the University of Rochester (Helmke), and the University of Chicago (Stokes). We ask for your attention for a few minutes and we thank you for your attention and your responses. Your participation is voluntary and you may decline the survey or withdraw 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 the Social & Behavioral Sciences IRB at the University of Chicago with any questions or concerns (by phone at 773-834-7835 or by email at sbs-irb@uchicago.edu). Do you consent to participate in the survey?

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○ Yes	
○ No [TERMINATE AND THANK ANYONE WHO DOES NOT CONSENT.]	
ming]	
End of Block	

How old are you?
O Under 18
O 18 - 24
O 25 - 34
O 35 - 44
O 45 - 54
O 55 - 64
O 65 - 74
O 75 - 84
○ 85 or older
[timing]
Page Break
Now we would like to ask you about your views on politics. On the next screen you will see questions about the executive (president), legislature (Congress), and judiciary (courts), as well as about the news media and the political actions of individual citizens. The questions will ask you how well certain principles or values to democracy are being upheld in practice in the United States.
Page Break

How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today? [Randomly display 10]

	The U.S. does not meet this standard	The U.S. partly meets this standard	The U.S. mostly meets this standard	The U.S. fully meets this standard	Not sure
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
Government officials do not use public office for private gain	0	0	0	0	0
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents	0	0	0	0	0
All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights	0	0	0	0	0
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations	0	0	0	0	0
Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically- motivated violence or intimidation	0	0	0	0	0

Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression	0	0			0
Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism	0	0	0	0	0
Elections are free from foreign influence	0	0	0	0	0
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies	0	0	0	0	0
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote	0	0	0	0	0
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes	0	0	0	0	0
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation	0	0		0	0

Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits	0	0	0	0	0
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power	0	0	0	0	0
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power	0	0	0	0	0
The elected branches respect judicial independence	0	0	0	0	0
Voter participation in elections is generally high	0	0	0	0	0
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public	0	0	0		0
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions	0	0	0	0	0

0	0	0	0	0
0	0			0
0	0	0		0
0	0	0	0	0
0				0

Page Break —					
	United S	tates today			
[slider bar as sho		0	10 20 30	40 50 60 70	80 90 100
you rate the polition	to 100, where 0 ical system of the			most democratic	, how would
[timing]		End of B	lock		
Government statistics and data are produced by experts who are not influenced by political considerations		0			0
Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference		0	0	0	0
Government protects individuals' right to engage in peaceful protest	0	0	0	0	0

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?

[multiple choice, horizontal, with "Not at all important" and "Absolutely important" placed on top of the 1 and 10, respectively] 1 Not at all important O 2 O 3 O 5 \bigcirc 6 0 8 \bigcirc 9 ○ 10 Absolutely important Page Break — Start of Block: Dem/Anti-Dem **Timing** First Click (1) Last Click (2) Page Submit (3)

Click Count (4)

Below we are going to describe a number of political scenarios. Please indicate how democratic or undemocratic you consider each scenario to be.

Please click the arrow to continue to the next screen.

Page Break —

t [There are 8 blocks here, intended to be 4 sets of pairs

Norms & Behavior Reverse Norms & Behavior

Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law Reverse Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law

Rights, Protections & Freedom Reverse Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law

Elections & Voting
Reverse Elections & Voting

Please randomly show 1 of each pair from every set. In other words, each respondent will see 4 blocks, one from each category.

]

Start of Block: DAD Reverse Norms & Behavior

How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
A prime minister/president acknowledges the right of political opponents to criticize his or her leadership (1)	0	0	0	0	0
A prime minister/president endorses the legitimacy of an election in which they have been defeated (2)	0	0	0	0	0
A prime minister/president respects established boundaries between civilian and military authority (3)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: DAD Reverse Norms & Behavior

Start of Block: DAD Norms & Behavior



Q181 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
A prime minister/president says political opponents who criticize his or her leadership should be investigated and imprisoned (4)	0	0	0	0	
A prime minister/president attacks the legitimacy of an election in which they have been defeated (5)	0	0	0	0	0
A prime minister/president compels active-duty military officers to promote his or her political agenda (6)	0		0	0	0

End of Block: DAD Norms & Behavior

Start of Block: DAD Reverse Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law



Q186 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
Prosecutors decide whether to charge companies or individuals without interference from the president/prime minister (1)	0	0	0	0	0
A government cooperates with independent investigation into its own staff or ministers/Cabinet members (2)	0	0	0	0	0
The chief executive respects institutional restrictions on his or her power (3)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: DAD Reverse Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law

Start of Block: DAD Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law



Q180 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
The president/prime minister intervenes in prosecutors' decisions about whether to charge companies or individuals (4)	0	0	0	0	0
A government blocks an independent investigation into its own staff or ministers/Cabinet members (5)	0	0	0	0	0
The chief executive uses emergency powers to circumvent institutional restrictions on his or her power (6)	0		0		0

End of Block: DAD Institutions, Accountability, Rule of law

Start of Block: DAD Reverse Rights, Protections & Freedom

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Q185 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
A government agency renews the broadcast licenses of media outlets even though they are critical of the president's/prime minister's performance (1)	0	0	0	0	
A prime minister/president engages respectfully with journalists who are critical of his or her performance (2)	0		0	0	0
A government allows peaceful protests by its political opponents (3)	0	\circ	0	0	0

End of Block: DAD Reverse Rights, Protections & Freedom

Start of Block: DAD Rights, Protections & Freedom



Q179 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
A government agency refuses to renew the broadcast licenses of media outlets that criticize the president's/prime minister's performance (4)	0	0	0	0	0
A prime minister/president threatens to imprison journalists who are critical of his or her performance (5)	0	0	0	0	0
A government blocks peaceful protests by its political opponents (6)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: DAD Rights, Protections & Freedom

Start of Block: DAD Reverse Elections & Voting



Q184 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
Voter registration and ballot access rules allow all groups equal access regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status (1)	0	0	0	0	0
The votes of every citizen carry equal weight in elections for Congress/Parliament regardless of the total population of their state/province (2)	0		0	0	0
Every citizen is allowed to vote regardless of where they were born (3)	0	\circ	\circ	0	0

End of Block: DAD Reverse Elections & Voting

Start of Block: DAD Elections & Voting



Q178 How democratic or undemocratic are these scenarios?

	Very undemocratic (1)	Moderately undemocratic (2)	Moderately democratic (4)	Very democratic (5)	Not sure (7)
Voter registration and ballot access rules place a greater burden on some racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups (4)	0	0	0	0	0
The votes of citizens in states/provinces with small populations carry greater weight in elections for Congress/Parliament than the votes of citizens in states/provinces with large populations (5)	0			0	
Only native-born citizens are allowed to vote (6)	0	\circ	\circ	0	0

End of Block: DAD Elections & Voting

Start of Block: Constitutional Hardball Introduction

Q193 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.

[Randomly show 4 out of 5 blocks]

End of Block: Constitutional Hardball Introduction

Start of Block: CHB Congress & Divided Government



Q173 Are the following actions appropriate or inappropriate?

	Entirely inappropriate (1)	Mostly inappropriate (2)	Mostly appropriate (3)	Entirely appropriate (8)	Not sure (9)
A majority party in either chamber of Congress refusing to raise the limit on the amount of money the U.S. government can legally borrow (1)	0				
The majority party in the Senate abolishing the filibuster rule so it can pass legislation without minority party support (2)	0				
The minority party in the Senate routinely using the filibuster rule to block legislation supported only by the majority party (3)	0				

End of Block: CHB Congress & Divided Government

Start of Block: CHB Executive powers



Q161 Are the following actions appropriate or inappropriate?

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

End of Block: CHB Executive powers

Start of Block: CHB Courts



Q175 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
The majority party in the Senate abolishing the filibuster rule so they can confirm judges without minority party support (2)	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 (3)	0				

End of Block: CHB Courts

Start of Block: CHB Impeachment



Q174 Please carefully read the information below, then indicate whether the actions that follow are appropriate or inappropriate:

Under the Constitution, a majority of the House of Representatives may impeach the President. If the President is impeached, a two-thirds vote in the Senate is required to remove him or her from office.

	Entirely inappropriate (1)	Mostly inappropriate (2)	Mostly appropriate (3)	Entirely appropriate (4)	Not sure (5)
A majority of the House of Representatives seeking to impeach a president because they believe he or she is unfit for office rather than specific evidence of high crimes and misdemeanors (1)	0				
A majority of the House of Representatives impeaching a president they believe has committed a high crime or misdemeanor even if the Senate does NOT support removal (2)	0				
A majority of the House of Representatives impeaching a president they believe has committed a high crime or misdemeanor when the Senate supports removal (3)					

End of Block: CHB Impeachment

Start of Block: CHB Elections, Voting Rights & Representation



Q176 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				
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				
A state political party proposing measures that make it more difficult to vote, especially for members of the other party (4)	0			0	

End of Block: CHB Elections, Voting Rights & Representation

what state do you currently reside?	
O Alabama	
○ Alaska	
O Arizona	
O Arkansas	
O California	
○ Colorado	
O Connecticut	
O Delaware	
O District of Columbia	
○ Florida	
O Georgia	
O Hawaii	
Oldaho	
O Illinois	
O Indiana	
O lowa	
○ Kansas	
○ Kentucky	
O Louisiana	

O Maine
O Maryland
O Massachusetts
O Michigan
O Minnesota
O Mississippi
O Missouri
O Montana
○ Nebraska
O Nevada
O New Hampshire
O New Jersey
O New Mexico
O New York
O North Carolina
O North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
O Pennsylvania

O Rhode Island	
O South Carolina	
O South Dakota	
○ Tennessee	
○ Texas	
O Utah	
O Vermont	
O Virginia	
O Washington	
O West Virginia	
O Wisconsin	
O Wyoming	
O Puerto Rico	
O I do not reside in the United States	
What is your gender?	
O Male	
○ Female	
Other	

When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or neither liberal nor conservative?
O Very conservative
O Somewhat conservative
O Slightly conservative
O Moderate; middle of the road
O Slightly liberal
O Somewhat liberal
O Very liberal
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else? Republican Democrat Independent
○ Something else
[timing]
Page Break

If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, Democrat Is Selected
Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?
O Strong Democrat
O Not very strong Democrat
Display This Question:
If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, Republican Is Selected
Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?
O Strong Republican
O Not very strong Republican
Display This Question:
If Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent Is Selected
Or Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, Something else Is Selected
Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?
Closer to the Republican Party
O Closer to the Democratic Party
O Neither

Display This Question:

O Did r	oot graduate from high school
O High	school diploma or the equivalent (GED)
O Some college	
O Asso	ciate's degree
O Bach	elor's degree
O Mast	er's degree
O Profe	essional or doctorate degree
	k one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself
	k one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself
	k one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself White
	k one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself White Black or African American
	k one or more categories below to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself White Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native

are you of Spanish or Hispanic origin or descent?
○ Yes
○ No
Vith which race or ethnicity do you most identify?
White
Black or African American
American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Multi-racial
Hispanic/Latino/Chicano/a
Other Other
Generally, how interested are you in politics?
Extremely interested
O Very interested
O Somewhat interested
O Not very interested
O Not at all interested
iming]

End of Block

For how many years is a United States Senator elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?
O Two years
O Four years
○ Six years
○ Eight years
O None of these
O Don't know
How many times can an individual be elected President of the United States under current laws? Once Twice Four times Unlimited number of terms
O Don't know

How many U.S. Senators are there from each state?
One
○ Two
O Four
O Depends on which state
O Don't know
Who is currently the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom? [randomize order of answer options except "don't know"]
except "don't know"]
except "don't know"] O Richard Branson
except "don't know"] Richard Branson Nick Clegg
except "don't know"] Richard Branson Nick Clegg Theresa May
except "don't know"] Richard Branson Nick Clegg Theresa May Boris Johnson

For how many years is a member of the United States House of Representatives elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. House member?		
O Two years		
O Four years		
○ Six years		
O Eight years		
O For life		
O Don't know		
[timing]		
End of Block		
It is essential for the validity of this study that we know whether participants looked up any information online during the study. Did you make an effort to look up information during the study? Please be honest; you will still be paid and you will not be penalized in any way if you did.		
○ Yes, I looked up information		
O No, I did not look up information		

insincere responses to questions. How often do you do this?
○ Never
○ Rarely
O Some of the time
O Most of the time
○ Always
[timing]
Page Break

We sometimes find people don't always take surveys seriously, instead providing humorous or

aspects of the survey that were confusing.
[textbox]
[timing]
Page Break
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
[timing]
End of Block