

The Supreme Court and Money in Politics: Survey Topline Findings

Voters want President Trump to nominate a justice who will fight big money in politics.

A majority of voters—including 54 percent of Republicans and 60 percent of Conservatives—say it’s “very important” to them that Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court will limit the influence of big money in politics.

Q. How important is it to you that President Trump nominates a Supreme Court justice who is open to limiting the influence of big money in politics?

	All voters	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very important	63%	73%	54%	51%
Somewhat important	30%	25%	36%	37%
Not very important	5%	2%	8%	8%
Not at all important	2%	1%	2%	3%

Three in four say Congress should reject any nominee who is not open to restrictions on money in politics.

More than three fourths of voters agree that Congress should reject any Supreme Court nominee who will help the wealthy continue to wield too much power in our elections, including 70 percent of Republicans, 66 percent of conservatives and 69 percent of independents.

Q. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your opinion?

	All voters	Democrat	Republican	Independent
If President Trump nominates a justice to the Supreme Court who believes that wealthy special interests should get a bigger say than the rest of us, he is breaking his campaign promise to “drain the swamp.” Congress should prevent him from empowering billionaires over everyday Americans by rejecting any nominee who will help the wealthy and privileged wield too much power in our elections.	77%	85%	70%	69%
If President Trump nominates a justice to the Supreme Court who opposes limits on campaign funding, it’s no different than what any other politician has done. There are more important issues for Congress to worry about than President Trump’s court appointments.	23%	15%	30%	31%

Nearly all voters already believe that money in politics is a problem.

Ninety-four percent of voters said that the power of big money in politics right now is a problem. Two thirds of voters overall said that it is a “very big problem,” including 56 percent of Republicans, 64 percent of independents, 60 percent of conservatives and 62 percent of moderates.

Q. In your opinion, how much of a problem is the power of big money in politics right now?

	All voters	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A very big problem	66%	73%	56%	64%
Somewhat of a problem	28%	22%	36%	30%
Not really a problem	4%	3%	6%	5%
Not at all a problem	2%	1%	3%	1%

Similarly, 83 percent of voters agree that big money in politics empowers “wealthy special interests over everyday Americans.”

Q. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Big money in politics empowers wealthy special interests over everyday Americans.

	All voters	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	54%	62%	45%	50%
Somewhat agree	29%	25%	37%	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%	11%	12%	19%
Somewhat disagree	3%	2%	3%	3%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	2%	0

And voters agree that the Supreme Court plays an important role in setting rules around money in politics.

Ninety percent of all voters say that the Supreme Court plays an important role, including 56 percent of Republicans and independents who say the Supreme Court plays a “very important” role.

Q. When it comes to setting the rules around money in politics, how important of a role has the Supreme Court played, in your opinion?

	All voters	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very important	61%	66%	56%	56%
Somewhat important	29%	26%	29%	35%
Not very important	8%	7%	11%	9%
Not at all important	1%	1%	3%	1%

Survey conducted online among 1,239 registered voters from January 11-13, 2017.