

OUR COURTS: THE BEDROCK OF DEMOCRACY



DEMOCRACY 101

Less than half of all Americans (just 47%) can name all three branches of government, the legislative, executive, and judicial.

Less than half of Americans knew that the Supreme Court has the final word on whether an act by a president is constitutional.

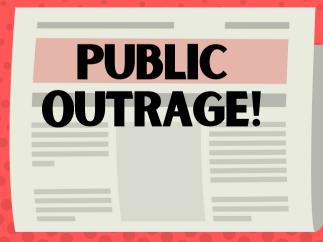
And only 55% knew that a 5-4 ruling by the Supreme Court is law and must be followed.¹

In 1985, fully 56% of Americans had "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in our Supreme Court, according to researchers at Gallup.

However, by 2022, that number had dropped all the way to just 25%.

Today, a large majority of young adults, in particular, hold unfavorable views of the Supreme Court.





In September 2022, the Pew Research Center found 63% of adults ages 18-29 view the Supreme Court unfavorably.³

Lack of public trust can create a "legitimacy crisis" for the high court, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.4

TEXAS TWATCH

Learn more at: texaswatch.org/foundation
Watch series here: texaswatch.org/foundation/our-courts-bedrock-democracy

Americans' Civics Knowledge Drops on First Amendment and Branches of Government, Annenberg Public Policy (September 2022): https://www.annenbergip.bliconfigurenter.org/americans.civics.knowledge.drops.org/iss

^{2.} Confidence in U.S. Supreme Court Sinks to Historic Low, Gallup (June 2022):

https://news.gallup.com/pol/394103/confidence-supreme-court-sinks-historic-low.asox 3. Positive Views of Supreme Court Decline Sharply Following Abortion Ruling, Pew Research Center (September 2022): https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/09/01/positive

views.ofsupreme-court.decline-sharplyfollowing-abortion-ruling/
4.A Legitimacy Crisis of the Supreme Court's Own Making, Brennan Center for Justice
(September 2022): https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/legitime