

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**February 18-21, 2016 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,002**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 How much if anything, have you heard about the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and the vacancy on the court? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Feb 18-21

2016

45	A lot
26	A little
26	Nothing at all
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*How much, if anything, have you heard about...*

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>Don't know</u> <b>(VOL.)</b>
April 23-26, 2010: <i>Discussion of potential Supreme Court nominees to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens</i>	19	43	38	0
April 9-12, 2010: <i>Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announcing he will retire this summer</i>	28	40	32	*

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2 How important is the choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		-----Bush-----					
Feb 18-21		Apr 21-26	Nov	Mid-	July	June	Late
<u>2016</u>		<u>2010</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>2005</u>	Sept	<u>2005</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>
57	Very important	40	47	48	47	47	38
24	Somewhat important	32	28	34	30	29	36
8	Not too important	14	13	9	14	14	15
9	Not at all important	11	11	7	8	8	8
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	1	2	1	2	3

<sup>1</sup> In April 2010 and earlier, the question read: "How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally?"

<sup>2</sup> In mid-September 2005 the question was asked about the two Supreme Court openings: "How important are the president's choices of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 In thinking about how the Senate should deal with the Supreme Court vacancy, which of the following statements comes closer to your view: Do you think the Senate should **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**?

**ASK IF SHOULD NOT HOLD HEARINGS (PEW.3=2) [N=372]:**

PEW.4 Do you think you could change your mind, depending on who President Obama nominates, or would this not change your view?

Feb 18-21

2016

56	Hold hearings and vote on whomever President Obama nominates
38	NOT hold hearings until the next president selects a nominee
10	Yes, could change mind depending on Obama's nominee
26	No, Obama's nominee would not change view
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 Thinking about Justice Scalia, can you tell me if he was generally considered a **[READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**?

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

		-----Roberts-----			Rehnquist
Feb 18-21		Sept 30-Oct 11	Dec	Feb	May
<u>2016</u>		<u>2011</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>1989</u>
9	Liberal	14	11	6	11
11	Moderate	19	11	9	9
55	Conservative ( <i>Correct</i> )	47	53	37	30
25	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	19	25	48	50

**NO QUESTIONS 6-9****PEW.10-PEW.11, SMART1-SMART2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Feb 18-21, 2016	26	29	36	5	1	3	14	17

<sup>3</sup>

Past questions about Justices Roberts and Rehnquist asked in the present tense.