



To: Interested Parties
From: Whit Ayres, Dan Judy, and Jon McHenry
Date: July 19, 2018
Re: Highlights of Four State Surveys Regarding the U.S. Supreme Court

North Star Opinion Research conducted surveys of voters in Alabama, Indiana, North Dakota, and West Virginia July 10-16, 2018. Each is a state that President Donald Trump won in 2016, and has an incumbent Democratic senator who voted in favor of Justice Neil Gorsuch's confirmation last year (with the exception of Alabama's Doug Jones, who was not yet in the Senate). We find strong support for Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation among voters in all four of these states.

Highlights of the research are:

1. Majorities of voters in all four states say that the U.S. Senate should confirm Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court.

North Dakota voters say that Judge Kavanaugh should be confirmed by 60 to 22 percent, compared to 55 to 30 percent in West Virginia, 54 to 30 percent in Alabama, and 52 to 34 percent in Indiana. Independents in each state strongly favor confirmation – by 60 to 18 percent in North Dakota, 59 to 23 percent in West Virginia, 54 to 30 percent in Alabama, and 48 to 34 percent in Indiana.

2. Similarly, voters in each of the four states say that President Trump made a good decision when nominating Neil Gorsuch, and has nominated another well-qualified judge in Kavanaugh whom the Senate should confirm. Voters chose between two statements:

Donald Trump made a good decision last year when nominating Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Gorsuch was confirmed by a majority of Senators, and his decisions on the Court have respected the Constitution and been well within the mainstream on important issues. With Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump has nominated another well-qualified judge, and he should be confirmed by the Senate.

We cannot confirm Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, a conservative extremist who will dominate the Supreme Court for a generation and strip Americans of their rights. Republicans refused to confirm a Supreme Court justice in an election year, and we should honor that precedent and protect the ideological balance on the Court by stopping this Trump nomination.

Majorities of voters in all four states agree that Kavanaugh is a good nominee who should be confirmed by a 59 to 26 percent margin in North Dakota, a 54 to 33 percent margin in West Virginia, a 53 to 34 percent margin in Alabama, and a 52 to 35 percent margin in Indiana. Again, independents agree with the majority by margins of 59 to 24 percent in North Dakota, 58 to 27 percent in West Virginia, 52 to 35 percent in Alabama, and 45 to 39 percent in Indiana.

3. Voters in each state give the Supreme Court at least a two-to-one positive job approval rating. The Supreme Court enjoys a 68 to 18 percent job approval rating in North Dakota, a 67 to 25 percent rating in Indiana, a 63 to 29 percent rating in West Virginia, and a 60 to 30 percent rating in Alabama.

Methodology

The samples for these surveys of voters in Alabama, Indiana, West Virginia, consist of 600 respondents in each state selected from a list of registered voters, and 500 eligible voters in North Dakota. Field dates were July 10-16 in Alabama, July 10-15 in Indiana, July 11-16 in North Dakota, and July 12-16 in West Virginia, with no calls conducted on Friday, July 13th. All respondents confirmed that they are registered/eligible to vote in their state. In Alabama and Indiana, 40 percent of respondents were interviewed on a cell phone; with more limited listed sample in North Dakota and West Virginia, 11 and 15 percent of respondents, respectively, were interviewed on a cell phone. Demographic quotas (county, race, gender, and age) were set to ensure the samples match statistics in each state for registration or eligible voters.