Federalist Society Polling Data: New Jersey

Survey of Voters in New Jersey January 9-10, 2009 (500 Registered Voters) September 17-19, 2010 (507 Likely Voters)

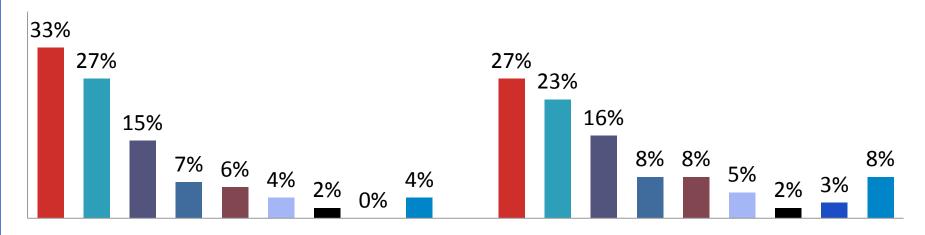
Margin of Error: ± 4.4%







When a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court of New Jersey, The Governor of New Jersey alone is responsible for nominating Justices to fill open seats. After nomination, the Justice goes before the New Jersey State Senate to be confirmed. Which of the following do you think should be most important for a Governor to consider when choosing individuals to serve on the Supreme Court of New Jersey? Should the Governor consider his or her...?

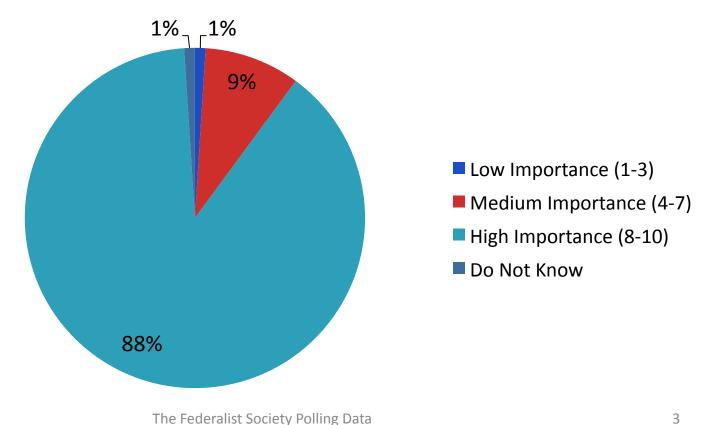


- Record of interpreting the law as it is written in past rulings
- Past experience as a judge
- Legal articles advocating for the interpretation of the law as it is written
- Past political experience, such as holding elected office
- Record of incorportating personal views and experiences in past rulings
- Legal articles advocating for the incorporation of personal views and experience into courtroom rulings
- Political Party affiliation
- Other
- Do Not Know

I am now going to read you a list of items the Governor could consider when deciding whom to nominate to the Supreme Court of New Jersey. For each, please tell me on a scale of one to ten, how important each should be. "One" is "not at all important" and "ten" is "extremely important."

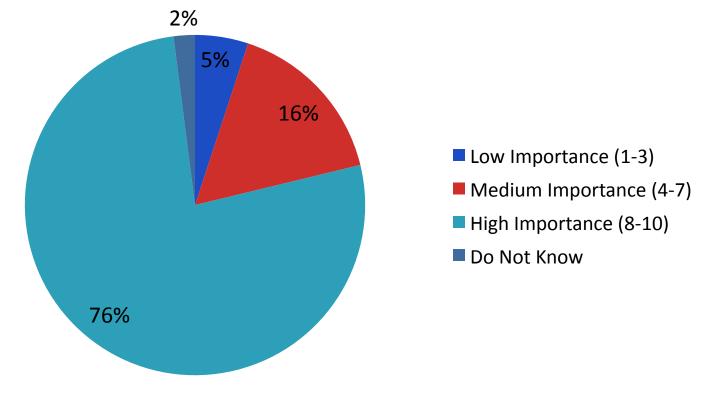


2009, 500 Registered Voters



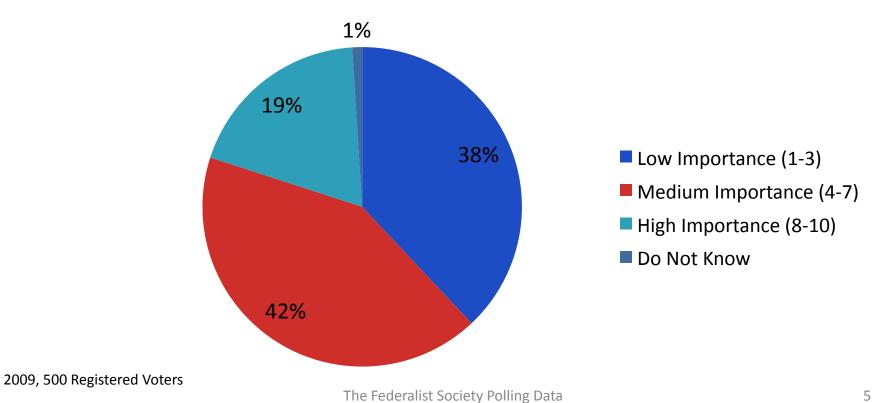
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Finding a judge who will interpret the law as it is written.



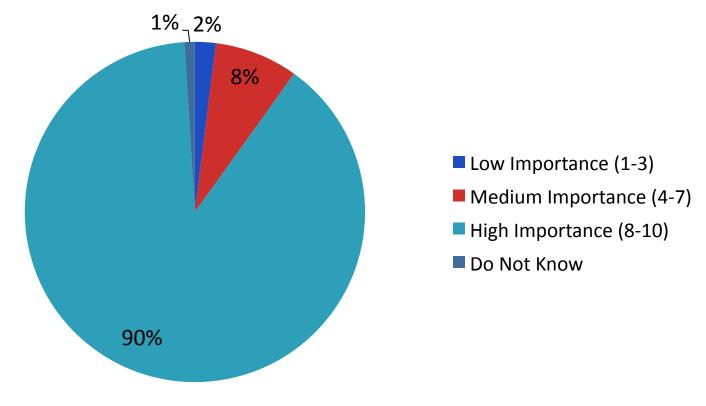
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Finding a judge who will incorporate his or her own personal viewpoints and experiences into rulings and decisions.



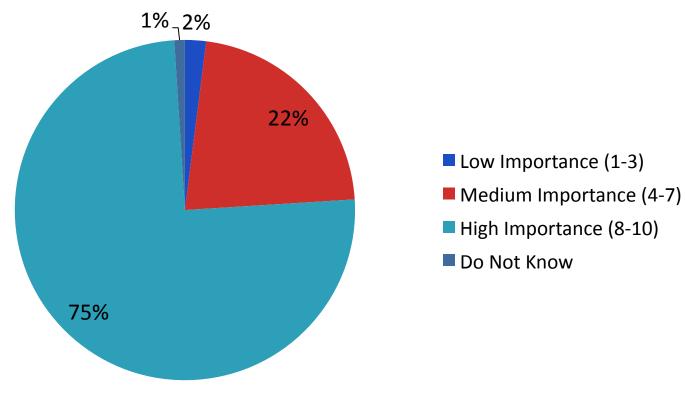
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A record of competence



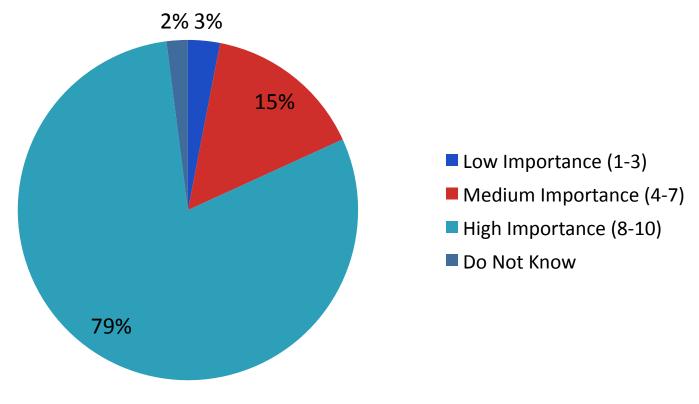
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Experience



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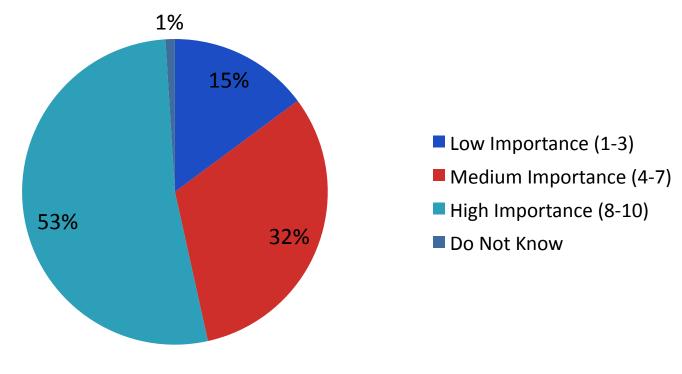
Fidelity to the New Jersey Constitution and Laws



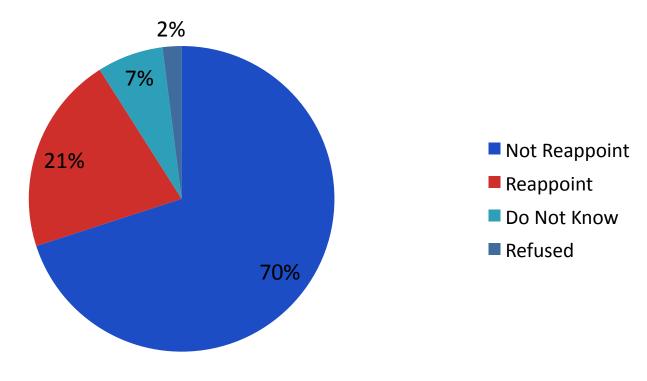
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A judge "who's got the heart, the empathy, to recognize what it's like to be a young teenage mom. The empathy to understand what it's like to be poor, or African-American, or gay, or disabled, or old."



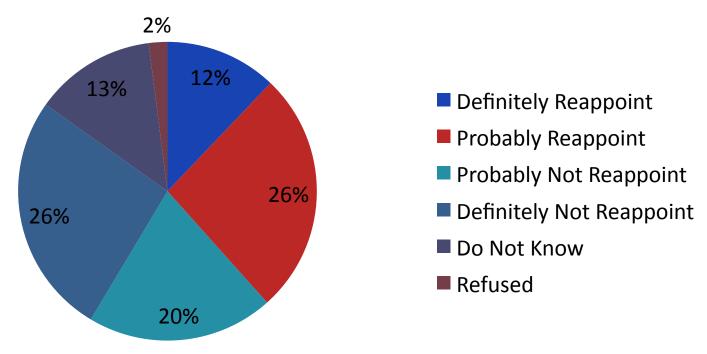
Justices are nominated to the New Jersey Supreme Court by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Once a New Jersey Supreme Court Justice serves an initial term of seven years, the Governor must decide whether or not to nominate that justice for lifetime tenure until mandatory retirement at the age of 70. Should a governor reappoint or not reappoint a Supreme Court Justice for lifetime tenure if the governor thinks that judge is making up laws from the bench rather than interpreting them?



2010, 507 Likely Voters

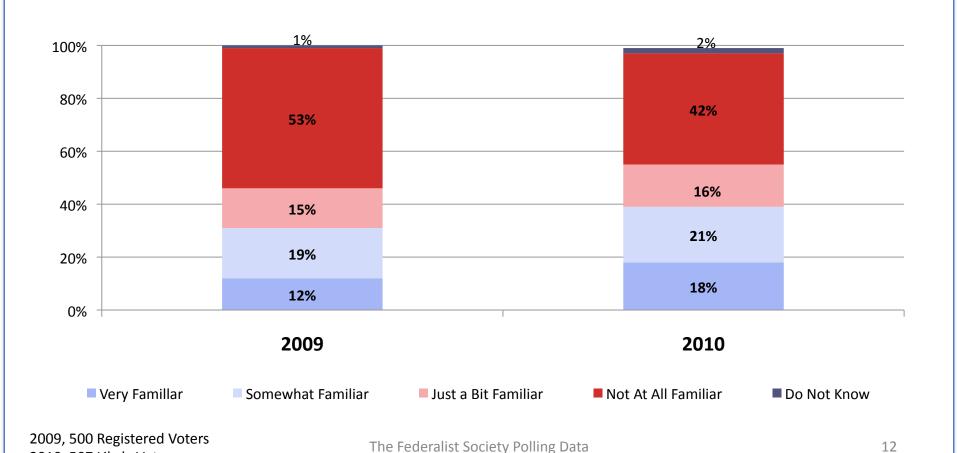
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Should a Governor reappoint or not reappoint a Justice to the Supreme Court of New Jersey if the Governor thinks that Justice has practiced or will practice judicial activism, which was defined earlier as "when a judge feels that his or her role is not simply to review the law as it is written, but is instead to allow for new or evolving meaning of the law over time."



Awareness of Judicial Activism

How familiar are you with the concept of "judicial activism"? Would you say you are...

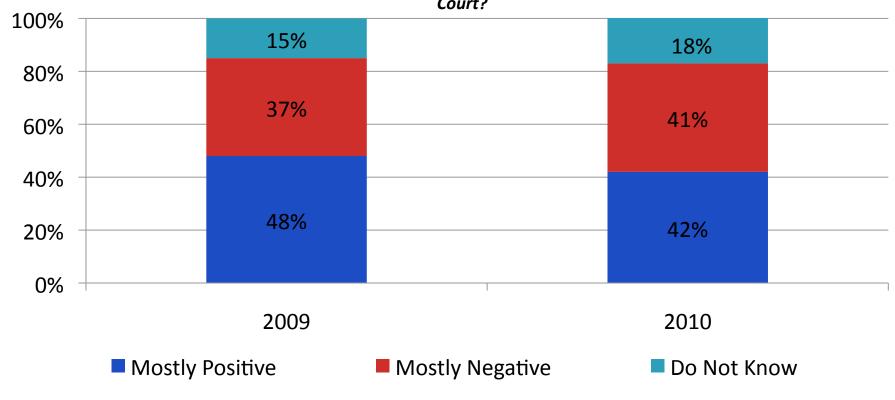


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Attitudes Toward Judicial Activism

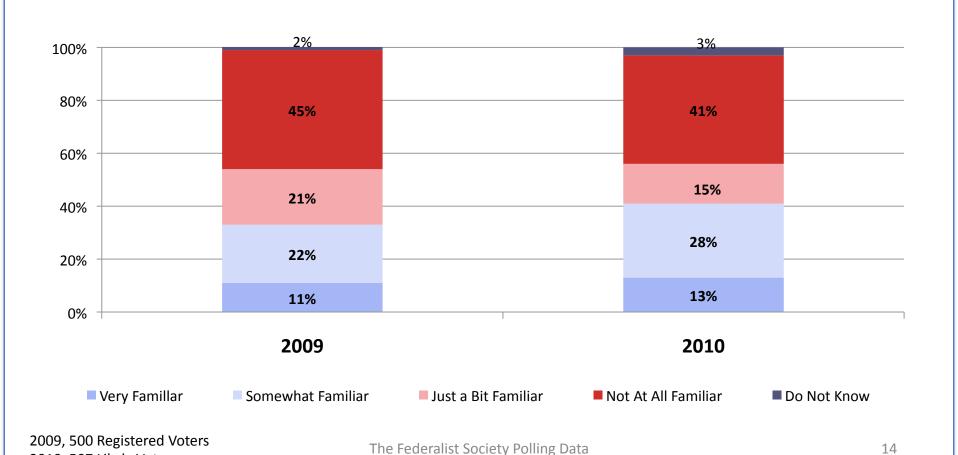
"Judicial activism" is a term used to describe when a judge feels that his or her role is not simply to review the law as it is written, but is instead to allow for new or evolving meaning of the law over time.

Do you think judicial activism is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the New Jersey State Supreme Court?



Awareness of Judicial Restraint

And how familiar are you with the concept of "judicial restraint"? Would you say you are...

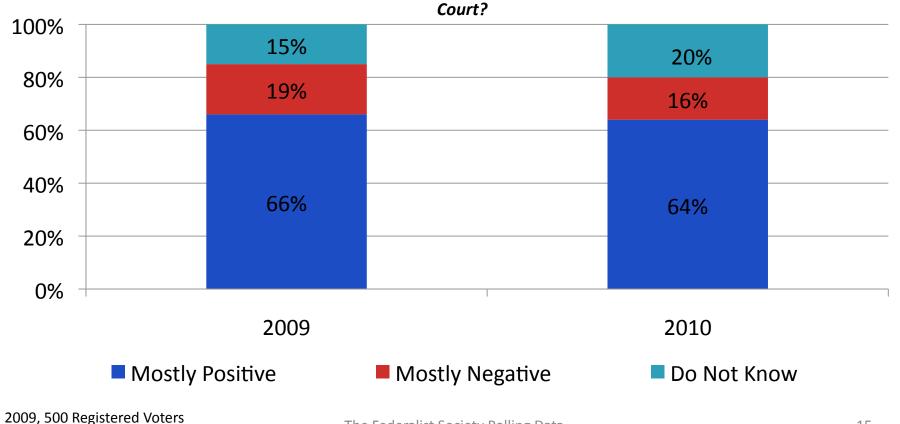


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Attitudes Toward Judicial Restraint

"Judicial restraint" is a term used to describe when a judge views his or her role solely as an evaluator of whether a law or lower court ruling is in line with the state constitution.

Do you think judicial activism is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the New Jersey State Supreme



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Preferred Jurisprudence for New Jersey Supreme Court

Based on the definitions I gave you, would you rather the New Jersey Supreme Court practice judicial activism or judicial restraint?

