


Federalist Society Polling Data: Alabama

Survey of 501 Likely Voters in Alabama
September 25-28, 2008
Margin of Error: $\pm 4.4\%$

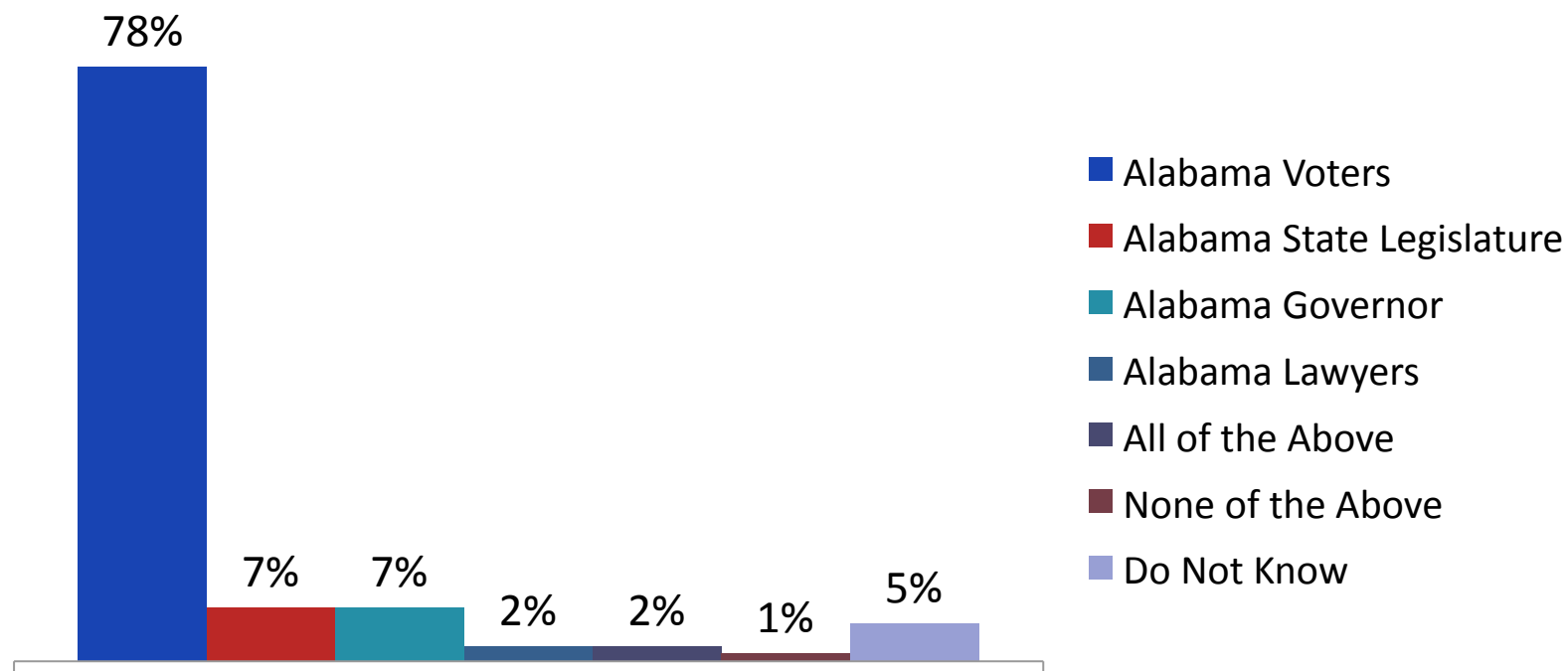
STATECOURTS
guide

 the polling company, inc.
WomanTrend



Alabama Supreme Court Selection

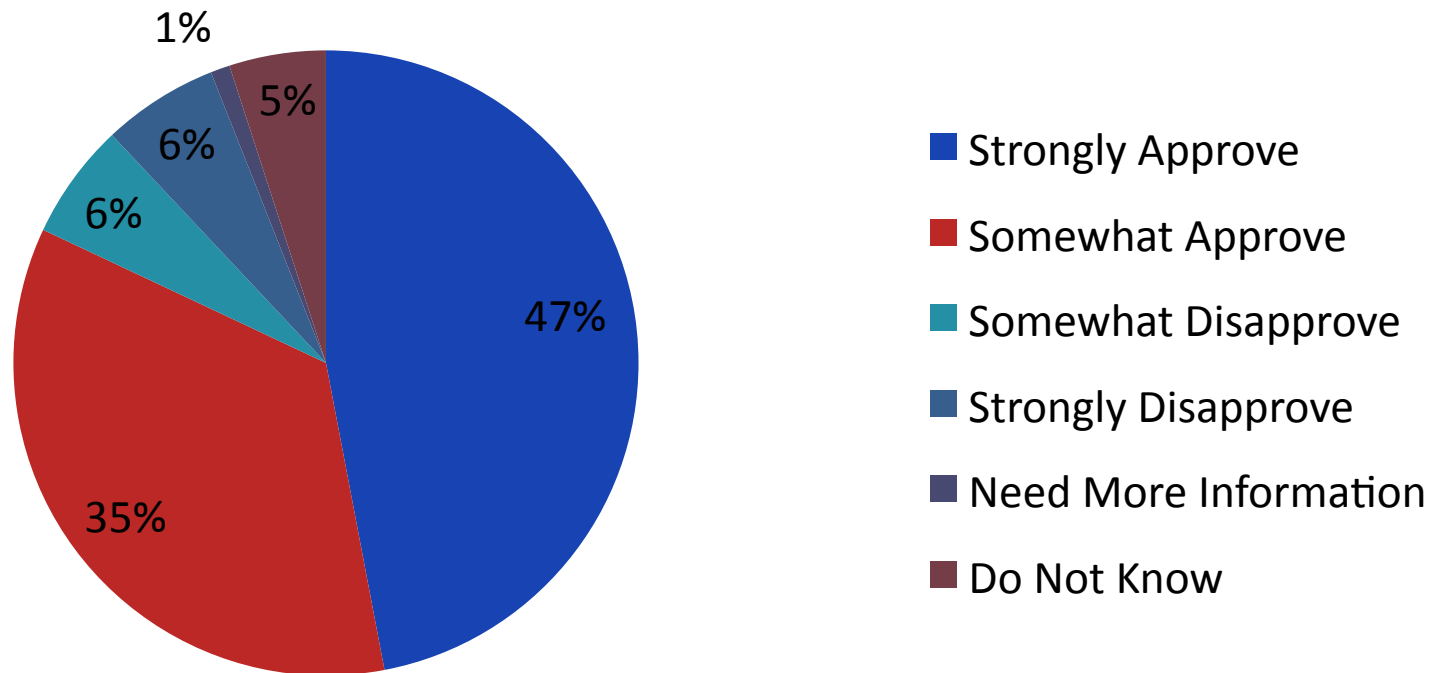
Who do you think should have the greatest input on who is selected to serve as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama?



Alabama Supreme Court Selection

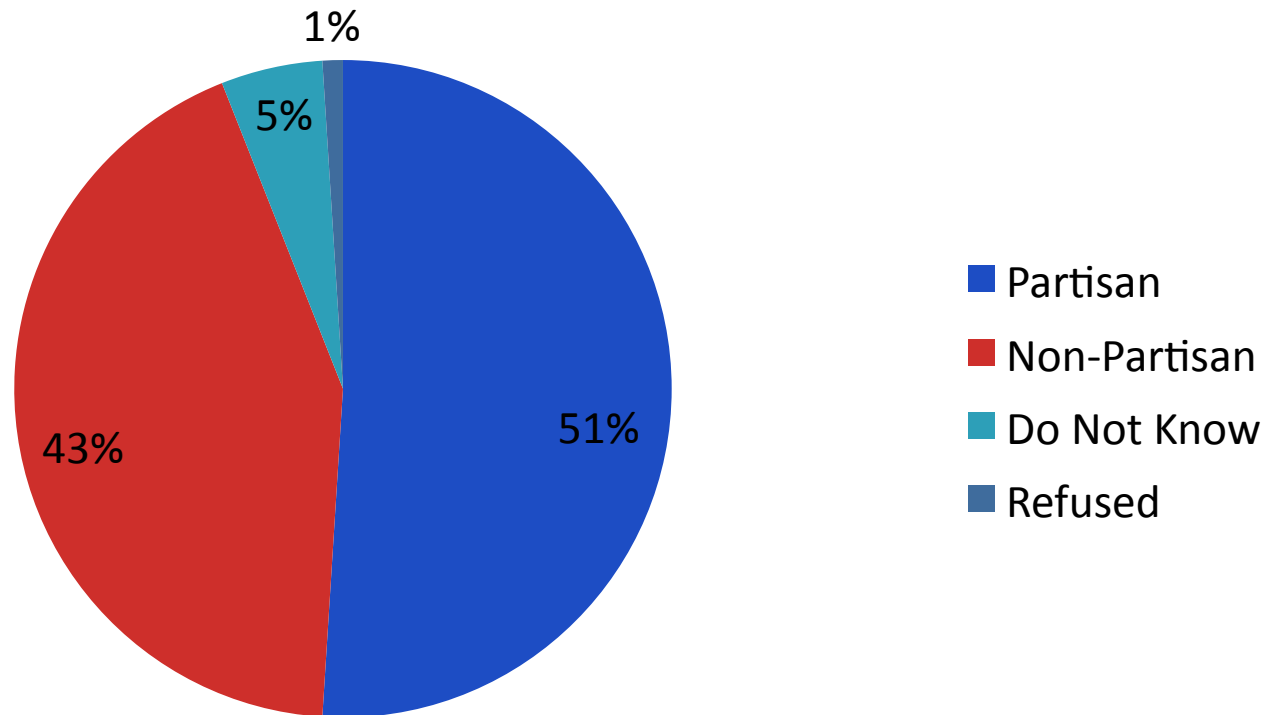
As you may know, there are nine Justices on the Supreme Court of Alabama. They are elected by Alabama voters in partisan elections (meaning the Justices are identified as Republican or Democrat) for six-year terms. Elections are staggered so not every seat is up for election at the same time.

Do you approve or disapprove of this method of judicial selection for the Supreme Court of Alabama?



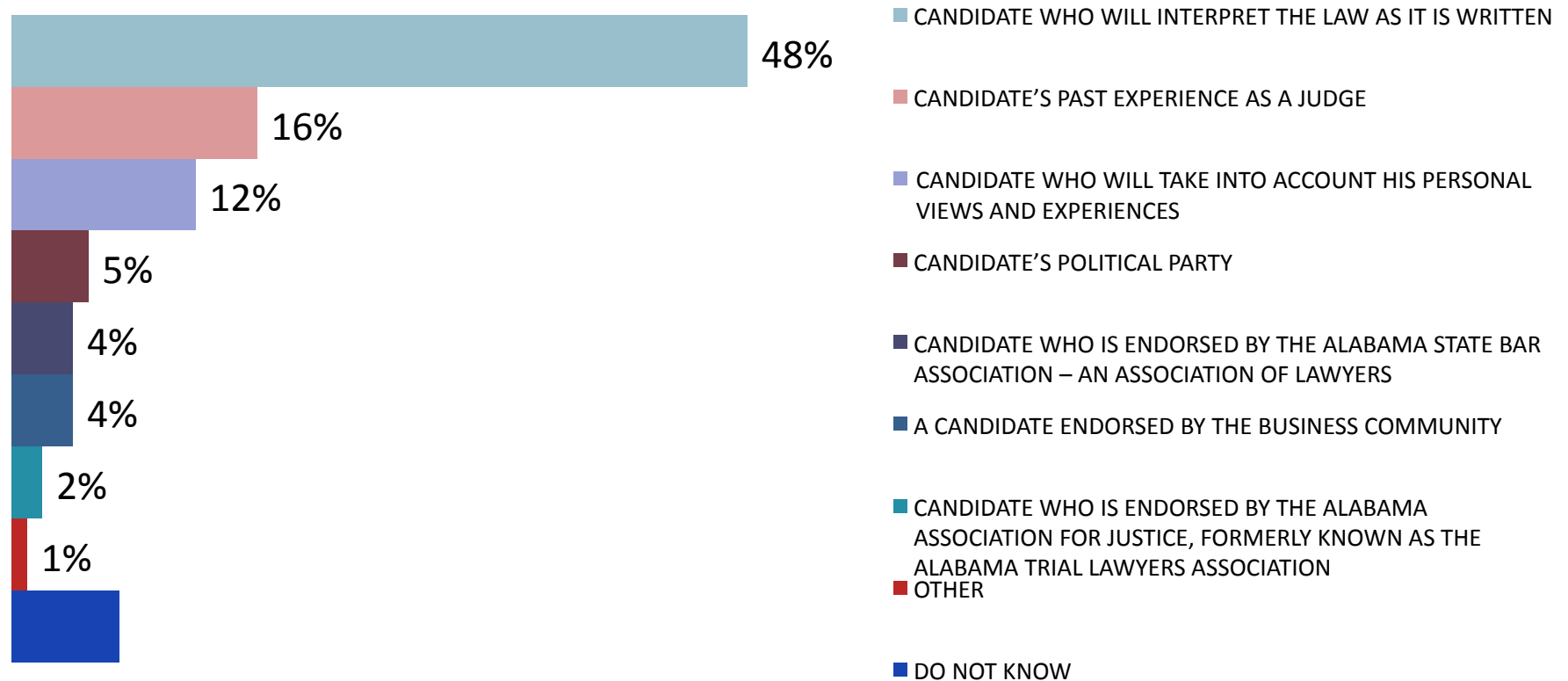
Alabama Supreme Court Selection

As I mentioned previously, judicial elections here in Alabama are partisan, meaning candidates identify themselves as Republican or Democrat. Do you think that judicial elections in Alabama should be partisan or do you believe they should be non-partisan, meaning people running for Supreme Court in Alabama would NOT reveal whether they are Republicans or Democrats?



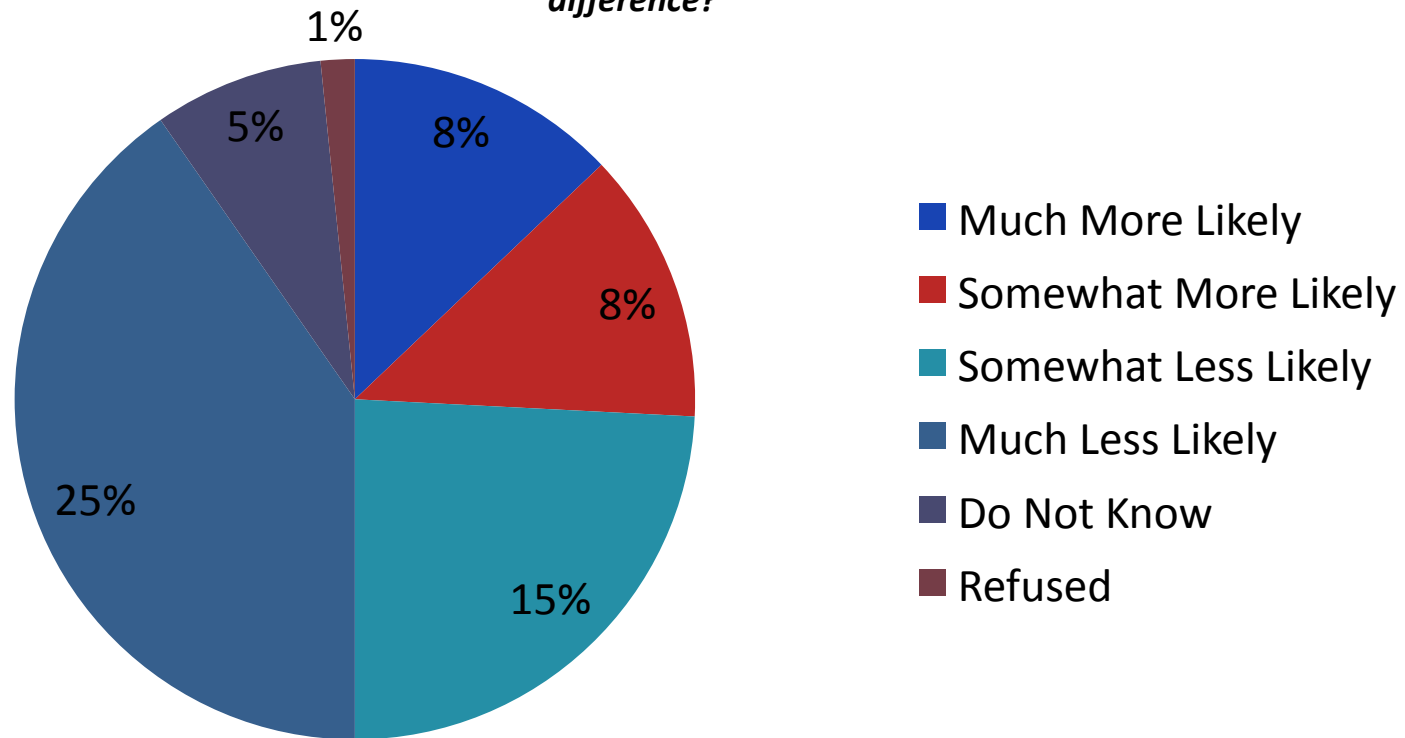
Alabama Supreme Court Selection

Which of the following will be MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for Justice to the Supreme Court of Alabama in November?



Alabama Supreme Court Selection

Suppose a candidate for a non-judicial office in Alabama was in favor of changing how Supreme Court justices in the state are chosen from direct election by voters to the selection process I described in an earlier question where a Judicial Commission comprised of lawyers select a small number of candidates which are then submitted to the Governor who must chose one to appoint to the Court. Would you be more or less likely to vote for that candidate or would it make no difference?

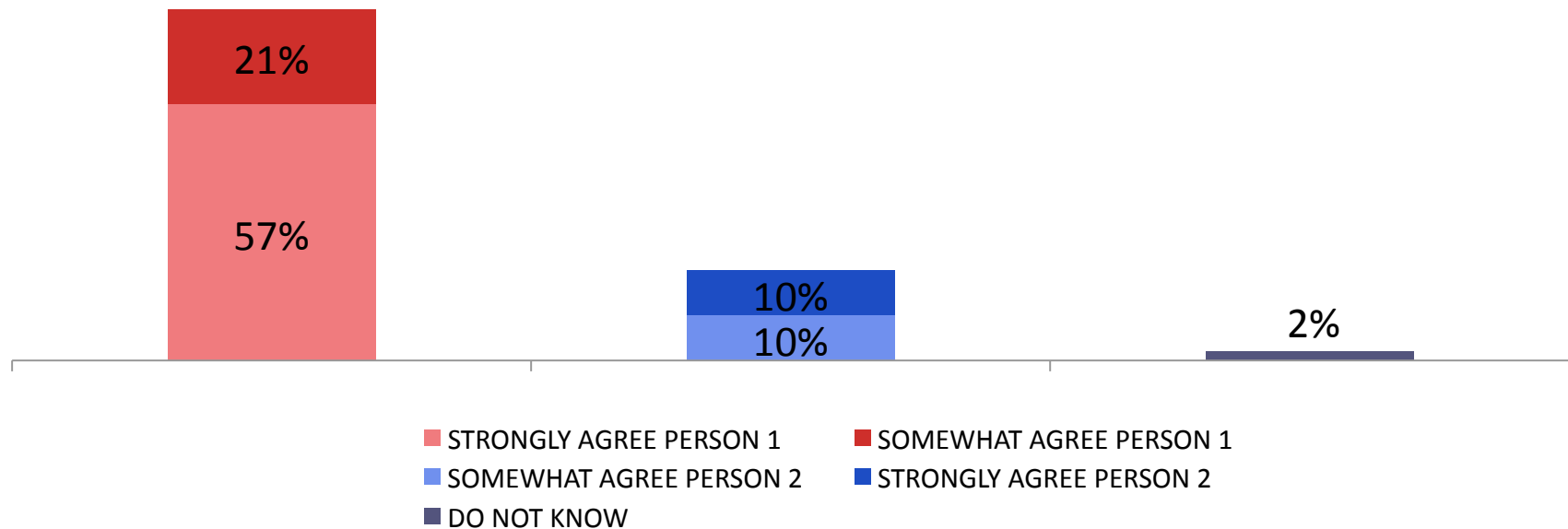


Alabama Supreme Court Selection

I am going to read you the opinions of two people. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view.

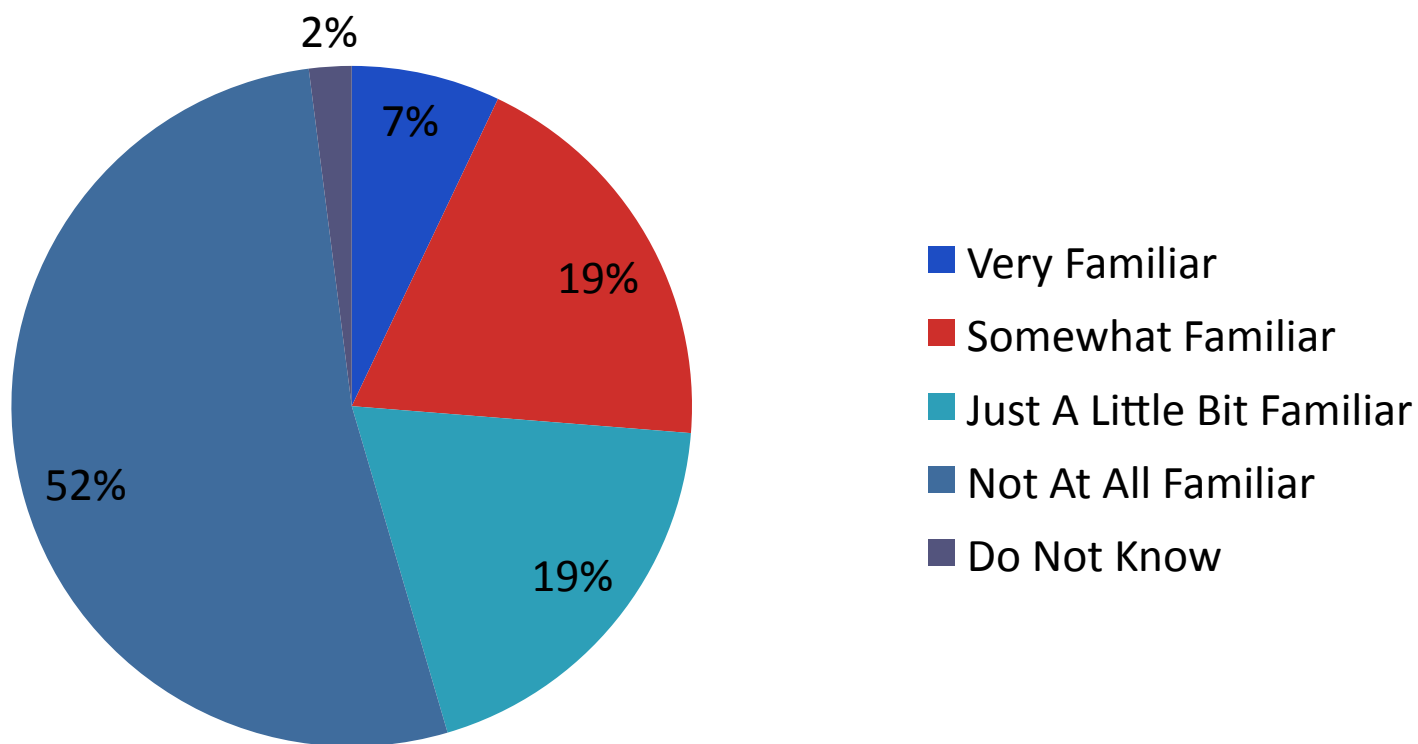
PERSON 1: Judges should interpret and apply the law as it is written and not take into account their own viewpoints and experiences.

PERSON 2: Judges should go beyond interpreting and applying the law and take into account their own viewpoints and experiences.



Awareness of Judicial Activism

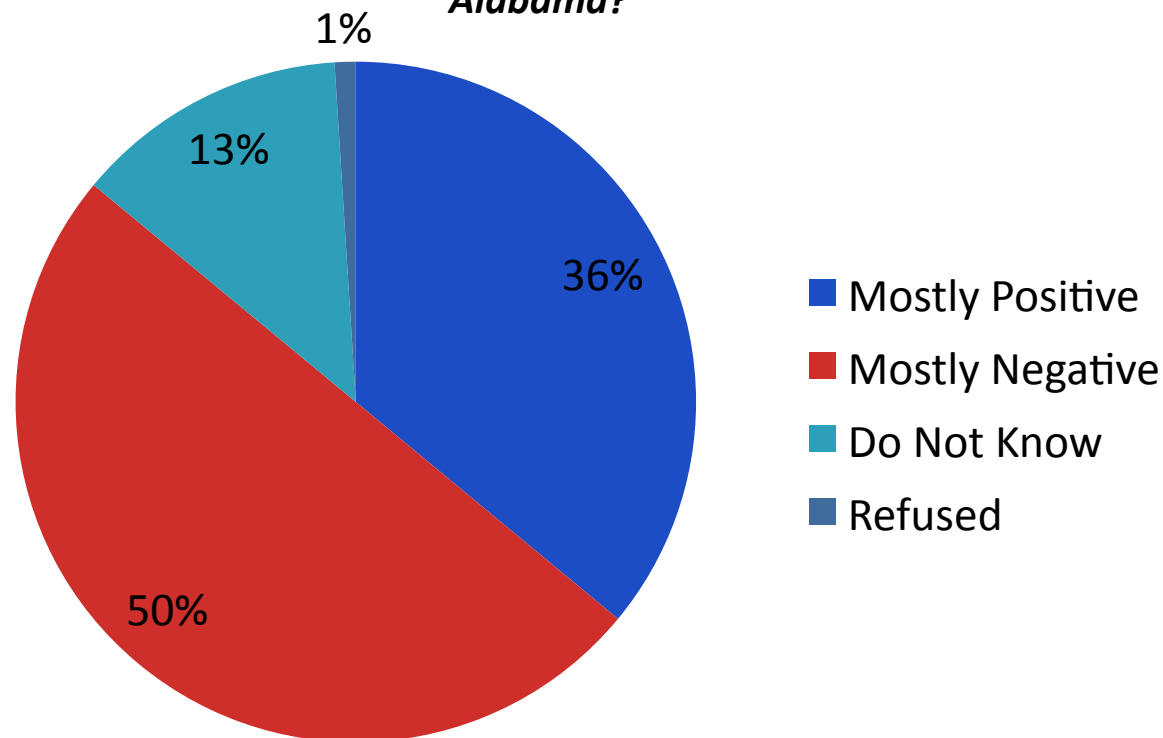
How familiar are you with the concept of “judicial activism”? Would you say you are...



Attitudes Toward Judicial Activism

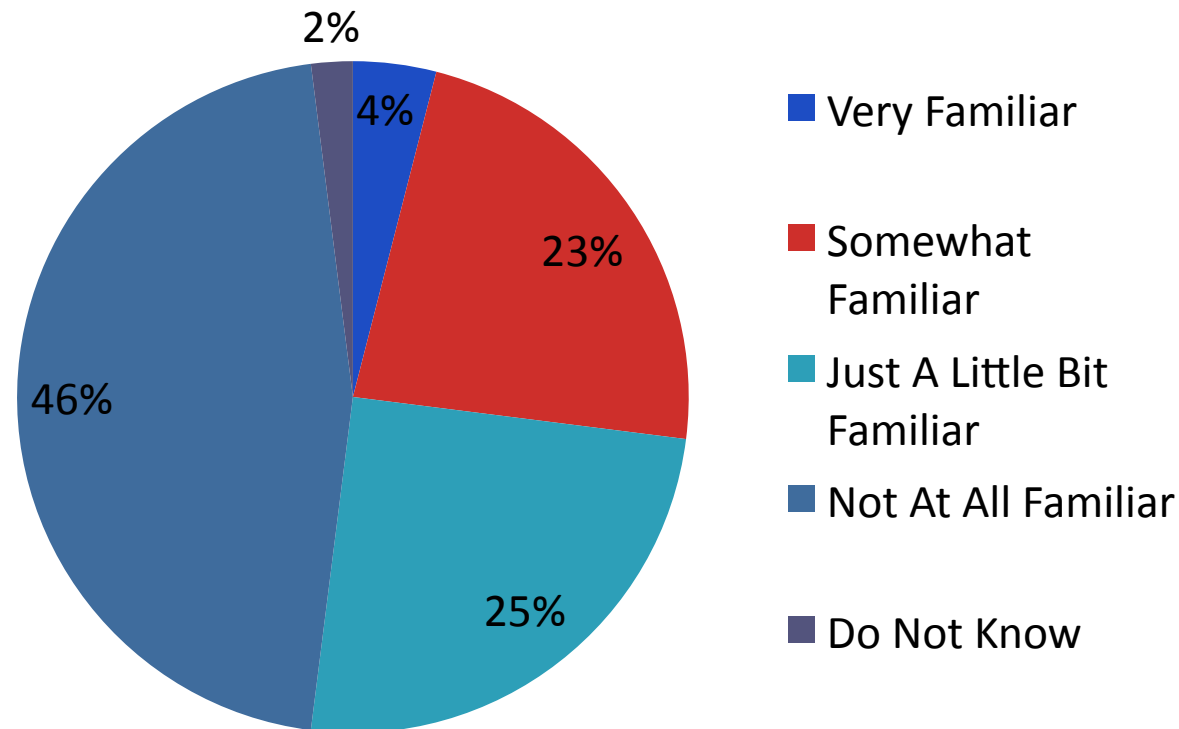
“Judicial activism” is a term used to describe when a judge feels that his or her role is not simply to review the law as it is written, but is instead to allow for new or evolving meaning of the law over time.

Do you think judicial activism is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the Supreme Court of Alabama?



Awareness of Judicial Restraint

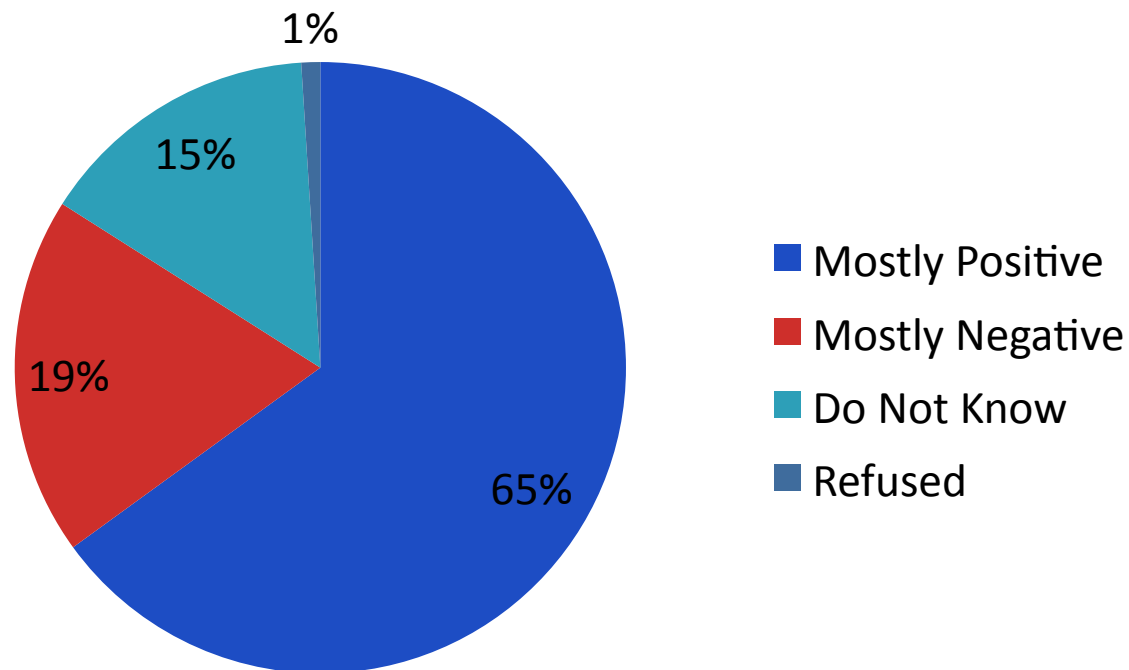
How familiar are you with the concept of “judicial restraint”? Would you say you are...



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 restraint is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the Supreme Court of Alabama?



Preferred Jurisprudence for Alabama Supreme Court

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

