

Question of the Month: Supreme Court  
**Who is your favorite Supreme Court justice?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Samuel Alito	4.32%	23
Stephen Breyer	3.56%	19
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	35.27%	188
Neil Gorsuch	11.44%	61
Elena Kagan	1.69%	9
Anthony Kennedy	8.07%	43
John Roberts	9.57%	51
Sonia Sotomayor	14.45%	77
Clarence Thomas	11.63%	62
		107
<b>Answered</b>		<b>533</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>7</b>

Respondents	Response Date
	I know very little of Kagan's philosophy. I am, however, in awe of her accomplishments at such a relatively young age!
1	Because he silently listens and decides.
2	Would have been Scalia for al time favorite
3	I am more ideologically aligned with Chief Justice Roberts overall
4	I admire her as a woman, a justice, and as a person.
5	He hasn't been there long enough to screw everything up like the rest of them
6	have.
7	honest for sure
8	Her success story is amazing and inspiring. Her opinions are so well thought and well written.
9	Because she is down to earth and comes from the people and is for the people. She also has profound common sense!
10	Because she was a big enough person to be friends with Scalia.
11	Notorious R.B.G. She's outspoken, blunt, and candid. Love it!
12	None
13	Excellent writing style.
14	Look for well reasoned opinions. I don't have a favorite.
15	consistency, integrity and law.
16	She speaks to my heart, among other things.
17	Gorsuch hasn't been there long enough to evaluate even with his appeal court work. He has potential to become my favorite.
18	I loved her book. I saw her speak 2 years ago at Notre Dame. I was very impressed by her candor and willingness to share not only her successes in her career but the failures and how she learned and grew personally and professionally.
19	I disagreed with his judicial bent, but greatly admire him for his leadership and palpable love of the court, its history and its mission.
20	I always feel that his decisions are based on constitutional principle and never political philosophy. Others emulate his approach, but he applies those principles with great skill, is the most consistent, and has done so for so many years.
21	His writings exhibit intelligence, clarity of thought and expression, faithfulness to precedent, and an admirable judicial restraint.
22	She is direct and gives instruction that is so direct ..
23	She was way out in front as an advocate for antidiscrimination laws and decisions. She has incredible work ethics.
24	Justice Kennedy has risen above the partisan appointment to do what "most" legal scholars would deem to be "right."
25	I didn't know who Neil Gorsuch was this time last year. But in the short time since he was nominated and confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice, I've read some of his writings, watched a speech he delivered, and have read Supreme Court decisions, and he is definitely now my favorite. Besides the fact that I generally agree with his legal reasoning and decisions, his style of writing and how he carries himself are perfect. I strive to be more like him now. I've definitely got a bit of a man crush on him.

Chief Justice John Marshall. The question did not ask for current Supreme  
26 Court justice.  
27 She speaks her mind.  
28 worst looks to be Gorsuch...already  
29 A quiet judge who goes about his business without fanfare.  
He was my constitutional law professor in the 80's when he was on the 9th  
circuit. He was always open to questions and never embarrassed any student  
30 for any reason.  
Justice Anthony M. Kennedy did not decide cases "strictly Republican" or  
"strictly Democrat" (strictly liberal or strictly conservative). Compared to the  
other justices, Justice Kennedy was not predictable like the others. In my  
opinion, he decided on the "merits", instead of on the liberal or conservative  
31 side.  
He was willing to and did meet with Tribal Judges. □  
32 Elbridge Coochise, Justice retired  
Justice Anthony Kennedy was my constitutional law professor! If I could pick  
two, I would include Justice Sonia Sotomayor. □  
Submitted by Judge Margaret Masunaga, Kona, Hawaii.  
33 mkmasunaga@aol.com  
She has an Exceptional Legal Mind and Great Understanding and Acceptance  
34 of the evolution of the Constitution.  
Why Gorsuch? Read his opinions. Also, he brings geographic and religious  
diversity; he makes the Court more representative of America -- he's the only  
Protestant on the Court in a nation where a plurality, maybe even a majority,  
35 of the population is Protestant.

She demonstrated to our Country that there in fact does exist a "separation of  
powers", when she publicly responded/commented on President Trump's  
statements concern the U.S. Supreme Court, and Applet Courts. All the  
36 Justices are outstanding, but she recently stood about the rest. Thx you.  
37 Taught at my law school.  
Justice Sotomayor is thorough in her opinions which are consistently informed,  
intelligent, and focused. I think she is competent without being brash, and  
38 above all fair.  
Justice Sotomayor is the only one of the nine who has ever been a trial judge.  
39 That gives her great insight that the others do not have.

40 Appears to be conscious of the role of the law in guidance of the country.  
41 Heard her speak, she is fabulous, warm and incisive.  
42 Consistency.  
Rarely asks questions...the way it should be. This body of 9 could do twice or  
three times as much if they just listened, later discussed and decided they  
43 would do a real service to all.  
44 Chief Justice John Jay - September 26, 1789  
The sole actual trial judge in the group, not from the SCOTUS law clerk/Circuit  
45 Court cloister.  
Justice Ginsburg has such a stellar history as an eloquent advocate, and she  
continued in the same vein as a Supreme Court Justice. I admire her wisdom  
46 and judicial comportment.

She is a supporter of minority women. She understands the struggle. When I  
was sworn in to US SupCt Bar - she smiled broadly at me - although I am  
47 African American I could tell she understood what this meant!  
She epitomizes uncompromising perseverance and dedication to the rule of  
48 law.  
49 How could she not be everybody's favorite? RBG kicks ass!  
50 It's a toss-up between Kennedy and Ginsburg.  
51 I lover her balls.  
52 Steven I Platt. E- Mail: stevenplatt37@hotmail.com  
53 All time Scalia.  
54 He provides the balance for the court.  
I am commenting anonymously. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
is my choice. She possesses all the qualities I believe a good judge should  
have: a keen intellect, a strong sense of fairness, compassion, and  
55 commitment to seeing justice prevail.

56 Well reasoned and willing to follow the law and not try and make new law!  
57 She is wise and kind.  
58 Loki pkg j  
True to the Constitution as written, unlike some who think it should be  
59 interpreted to reflect their personal views.  
60 Prepared, witty, and a textualist  
61 Excellent!  
62 Maverick. Independent thinker, Unpredictable  
63 Seems to be common sensical and on point so far.  
Justice Alito is the all around great justice. Perhaps too conservative for  
64 some, but a great jurist.  
He quietly judges and I believe looks at each case independently for its merits.  
65 I guess I like that he's not predictable.  
66 An amazing woman and love her spunk  
Justice Sotomayor is really the only one on the court who had to face  
significant deprivation as a child growing up in a challenging environment.  
Her feet have actually touched the ground! The rights of women and  
minorities are losing ground every day. She is the only one who really cares  
67 about the rest of us.  
Justice Ginsburg has been a role model for attorneys and judges throughout  
her distinguished career. Her commitment and passion for "equal justice for  
all" has been demonstrated countless times through her advocacy as an  
attorney and as a thoughtful jurist. When I think of judicial officers who truly  
understand the importance of courts as a separate but equal branch of  
government and judicial independence, Justice Ginsburg immediately comes  
to mind. □  
□  
Janet E. Garrow, Assistant Presiding Judge □  
King County District Court, Bellevue, WA 98004 □  
68 janet.garrow@kingcounty.gov  
She has been an inspiring role model for women in law. She balances her  
passion for the law and a rigorous intellect with a zest for life off the bench  
69 lived to the fullest.  
70 Hanging in there!!  
71 Unafraid to speak out and speak up and still going strong at 80+  
72 A good writer (and fellow alumnus).  
73 Humble. Rapier-like wit.  
To date seems to follow in footsteps of Justice Scalia, an excellent justice to  
74 follow.  
All substance, no fluff. Read his concurring opinion in Apprendi, referenced in  
75 Alleyne, to see why.  
Justice Scalia would have been my first choice, but either Justices Thomas,  
76 Alito or Gorsuch would also fit the bill of constitutionalists.  
Smart, thoughtful, experienced; good values. But to tell you the truth, I miss  
Brennan, Douglas and Marshall. I also sort of miss the principled  
77 conservatives like Harlan.  
I think Chief Justice Roberts has done a good job trying to maintain a balance  
in the Court during highly politicized times. I may not always agree with him,  
but he has attempted to conduct himself and the operation of the Court in a  
78 non-partisan manner.  
She knows what it is like to be "other" and brings fresh perspectives to the  
79 court; she listens and thoughtfully considers the cases.  
80 Not in one camp or the other  
  
I have heard her speak. She is spell binding. I have read her book and she is  
81 a great role model for young girls and women. Judge Kevin S. Burke  
82 Conservative but not entrenched in any specific ideology.  
83 There are other justices?  
  
84 There is no one as brilliant, insightful or far seeing as the Notorious R.B.G.  
I have enjoyed her books and especially loved the friendship between RBG  
and Scalia. It was a true demonstration of how those with very different views  
can not only co-exist, but celebrate the other. Judge Michelle Roper,  
85 Oklahoma

The Notorious RBG should have been the first woman on the SCOTUS, but better late than never. Justice Scalia was the best writer (in the popular sense) on the SCOTUS. I would not argue Ginsburg stands as far ahead of the rest as Scalia did, but I hope I have half the chops she has at her age.

86 She actually believes in the 14th Amendme□

87 nt and the rest of the Constitution

88 Smart, experienced, consensus builder.

Justice Ginsburg cares deeply about the issues that come before her and she is, at the same time, objective and respectful of the other justices' perspectives.

89 She represents diversity and respect from the highest bench in the land. She never ceases to amaze me

90 He is the only one who consistently decides without obvious partisan bias.

91 Notorious RBG. Love many of them - but how can I vote any other way?

92 I thought you meant 'ever', in which case I vote for Oliver W. Holmes.

I love Justice Thomas' life story, his courtesy to attorneys arguing cases before the court by not constantly interrupting them with questions, and his conservative approach to cases.

93 none of the above. I don't have a favorite. I think all of them (at times) are out of touch with the lives most Americans live.

94 She is a wise Latina!

95 Keep on keepin' on, notorious RBG

96 Notorious RBG all the way!

97 Seems to be someone who tries to avoid the extreme positions and attempts to gather consensus on the court.

Because he is the most likely to leave politics out of his decision making. He is often the swing vote for the court on the most controversial issues because he doesn't always back one view or the other as many of the other justices do (on both sides). Justice Kennedy appears to me to be the most open minded of the nine justices.

100 A strong inspirational woman.

She's smart, which some of the others aren't so much. She understands that civilization comes from humans, not artificial entities such as corporations.

She has proven unwilling to trash the constitution in favor of artificial entities (Citizens' Untied). She does not elevate politics over precedent. She does not pretend that she knows everything. She does not claim to channel

101 anyone.

102 She is an inspiration to so many- a strong woman who can hold her own.

103 should we be asking this question?

He lets his written opinions do his speaking...the others seem to love to hear themselves speak.

104 the Notorious RBG!--A Warrior!

105 I like his leadership