



Political Insiders Poll



What will be the political impact of recent Supreme Court decisions?

■ Democrats (70 votes)

Motivate the Democratic base	61 percent
Motivate the Republican base	3 percent
Won't have significant impact	36 percent

■ Motivate the Democratic base

"The hard turn to the right by the Supreme Court reminds Democratic voters that elections matter, so you had better get energized for '08."

"Not sure the base needed to be motivated much more, but these recent decisions really stress the importance of the Supreme Court appointments, particularly when you look at some of [the justices'] ages. We have tried to point this out in several campaigns, but not successfully. Now these decisions make it real."

"Democrats have been warning about the consequences of a stacked Court for years. Now they have proof."

"In 2004 the president won re-election because he galvanized the GOP base of Religious Right voters. The same thing will happen for Democrats in 2008 as the Democratic presidential candidate rides to victory on the wave of black, young, female, and Latino turnout."

"The Supreme Court decision will excite the Democratic base, though it remains to be seen how long [that] will last."

"Both Gore and Kerry failed to make Supreme Court appointments a central issue in their campaigns. The Democratic nominee in 2008 will not make the same mistake."

"The judicial activists on the Bush Supreme Court have now undermined *Brown v. Board of Education*. Can reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and *Lawrence v. Texas*, which recognize the constitutional rights of American women and gays and lesbians, be far behind?"

■ Motivate the Republican base

"The GOP has started a state-by-state attack on the Left."

■ Won't have significant impact

"Although the public should pay more attention to the significance of Supreme Court decisions, unless people are directly affected, they will not be any more motivated."

"The base is so energized by Iraq and other issues it's hard to imagine that these decisions can increase the intensity any more."

"The Court decisions will motivate donors, but not the base."

"The Supreme Court has had little to do with election outcomes since [President Franklin] Roosevelt tried to pack the Court."

"It *should* motivate the Democrats; it just never does."

■ Republicans (73 votes)

Motivate the Democratic base	18 percent
Motivate the Republican base	16 percent
Won't have significant impact	49 percent
Motivate both bases (volunteered)	16 percent

■ Motivate the Democratic base

"Republicans will be relaxed, fat, and happy. But Democrats will be agitated, determined to keep conservatives from getting the next crucial high court vote."

"Perhaps Bush's only positive legacy, but will serve as a rallying cry for Democrats. Then again, it's not like they need any motivation to show up."

■ Motivate the Republican base

"With Iraq, the Democrat base couldn't be any more motivated. And with immigration and Iraq now dividing Republicans, the Supreme Court stands as something that is a unifying factor for us."

"The only real domestic achievement of the Bush presidency's second term is the Roberts-Alito Court. Its impact will be far-reaching and long-lasting. And presidential candidates can and will use this piece of the Bush legacy as a motivator for their base vote. The Left will clearly do the same, but this is the one jewel in the tattered crown that conservatives can point to."

■ Won't have significant impact

"Both parties will be motivated. While recent decisions have tilted right, I don't think either the Right or the Left takes comfort in the status quo, aka Justice [Anthony] Kennedy's America."

"Motivate the Democratic base? Seems like Iraq has done that. Motivate the Republican base? Seems like immigration has done that. So, relatively, it will have little impact even though it could have been big in isolation."

"As the public would say, 'What Supreme Court decisions?'"

"As long as the Court doesn't overturn *Roe v. Wade* or eliminate the [Environmental Protection Agency], it won't matter much in the election either way."

"While the decisions were applauded by the business community, they were not the explosive social issues that motivate either party's extremes."

■ Motivate both bases

"The next [Supreme Court] appointment either locks in the conservative majority, denying Kennedy his swing position, or keeps the Court still up for grabs. Huge for both sides."

"The bases need to be reminded regularly that elections have consequences. And nothing does that better politically than the future of the Supreme Court."



In general, what's better for your party politically: President Bush's cooperating with congressional Democrats, or confronting them?

■ Democrats (70 votes)

Cooperating	30 percent
Confronting	64 percent
Neither; doesn't matter (volunteered)	6 percent

■ Cooperating

"Although Bush is radioactive and we can increase our numbers by running against him, at some point we have to get something done."

"If the Democrats don't have to compromise their principles to gain the cooperation of the president on key agenda items, it helps the Democrats: Voters want to see government work, not bicker."

"The Democratic Congress had better realize that they are part of the 'wrong-track' team now."

■ Confronting

"Democrats should hope and pray that Bush stays antagonistic toward them. Republicans are great at creating enemies. That's not how Democrats operate, but this one is being handed to them—and they should welcome it."

"As long as Democrats are pushing things that the majority of Americans want, it is a plus [to have] Bush on the other side."

"Why change a good thing that's working well for Democrats?"

"The more he fights, the more visible the gulf between the Democrats and conservative Republicans."

"Congressional Democrats may not have enough votes to pass anything over the president's veto, but they do have enough strength to stand for something. A strong agenda demonstrates leadership and gives Democrats the opportunity to show voters what the party can do if it controls Congress and the White House."

"Why would Democrats want to jump in bed with a guy who is making Richard Nixon's poll numbers look good?"

■ Doesn't matter

"Recent events and the superheated primary campaigns have rendered him irrelevant."

■ Republicans (73 votes)

Cooperating	26 percent
Confronting	66 percent
Neither; depends (volunteered)	8 percent

■ Cooperating

"You need to show some accomplishments if you're the party with the White House. Confrontation is not achievement. It's status quo."

"Cooperating without compromising on major principles. We need something to get accomplished. If dissatisfaction is felt about Washington in general, the party that controls the White House will pay."

■ Confronting

"Confrontation means that the Republican Party might actually stand for something again—and thus solidify our base."

"Democrats won't cooperate with Bush, except when they're confident the issue works for them and against Republicans. Immigration is an example and a lesson. This is a man who badly needs to improve his own morale, and that of his party. Start fighting, damn it!"

"Now that the honeymoon for this Congress has worn off, standing up to [Harry] Reid and [Nancy] Pelosi can work for Bush if he chooses the right issue and stance. With this administration, unfortunately, that's a big 'if.'"

"Bush is demonstrating he has no regard for those who elected him. It is killing us with the rank and file, and feeding the perception that the GOP is out of touch."

"Right now, confrontation works best for congressional Republicans. The Bush presidency is effectively finished, so confronting the Democrats is the only way to draw a distinction from them."

■ Neither

"Neither. How about just deciding what is good public policy, and trying to achieve it? Whether or not that constitutes cooperation or confrontation would then be solely based on its relationship to an earnest attempt to do the right thing."

—JAMES A. BARNES AND PETER BELL

National Journal Insiders

■ The 200 participants in *National Journal's* Political Insiders Poll were selected because of their campaign experience, insider knowledge, and ties to key voting blocs. The votes of 143 insiders—70 Democrats and 73 Republicans—were counted this week.

■ **Democratic Political Insiders** Karen Ackerman, Jill Alper, David Axelrod, Brad Bannon, Dave Beattie, Andy Bechhoefer, Cornell Belcher, Mitchell W. Berger, Mike Berman, Donna Brazile, Mark Brewer, Ed Bruley, George Bruno, Deb Callahan, Bonnie Campbell, Bill Carrick, Martin J. Chavez, Tony Coelho, Jim Craig, Jerry Crawford, Jeff Danielson, Jim Demers, Tad Devine, Monica Dixon, Michael Donilon, Tom Donilon, Anita Dunn, Steve Elmendorf, Carter Eskew, Eric Eve, Vic Fazio, Scott Ferson, Tina Flournoy, Don Foley, Don Fowler, Gina Glantz, Joe Grandmaison, Anna Greenberg, Stan Greenberg, Pat Griffin, Michael Gronstal, Marcia Hale, Paul Harstad, Laura Hartigan, Mike Henry, Harold Ickes, Marcus Jadotte, John Jameson, Steve Jarding, Jonathon Jones, Jim Jordan, Gale Kaufman, Shar Knutson, Kam Kuwata, Celinda Lake, David Lang, Sylvia Larsen, Jeff Link, Bill Lynch, Steve Marchand, Jim Margolis, Paul Maslin, Terry McAuliffe, Caroline McCarley, Gerald McEntee, Tom McMahon, David Medina, Mark Mellman, John Merrigan, Steve Murphy, Janet Napolitano, David Nassar, Marcia Nichols, John Norris, Tom Ochs, Tom O'Donnell, Scott Parven, Jeffrey Peck, Debora Pignatelli, John Podesta, Tony Podesta, Bruce Reed, Mame Reiley, Steve Ricchetti, Susan Rice, Will Robinson, Steve Rosenthal, John Ryan, Wendy Sherman, Terry Shumaker, Bob Slagle, Erik Smith, Doug Sosnik, Darryl Sragow, Karl Struble, Katrina Swett, Sarah Swisher, Eric Tabor, Jeffrey Trammell, Ed Turlington, Mike Veon, Rick Wiener, Bridgette Williams, and JoDee Winterhof.

■ **GOP Political Insiders** Dan Allen, Stan Anderson, Gary Andres, Saulius (Saul) Anuzis, Rich Ashooh, Whit Ayres, Brett Bader, Mitch Bainwol, Gary Bauer, David Beckwith, Wayne Berman, Charlie Black, Kirk Blalock, Carmine Boal, Jeff Boeyink, Jeff Buley, Luke Byars, Nick Calio, Danny Carroll, Jim Cicconi, Jake Corman, Greg Crist, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Rick Davis, Mike Dennehy, Ken Duberstein, Steve Duprey, Debi Durham, Frank Fahrenkopf, John Feehery, Don Fierce, Carl Forti, Alex Gage, Sam Geduldig, David Girard-diCarlo, Bill Greener, Lanny Griffith, Janet Mullins Grissom, Doug Gross, Steve Hart, Ralph Hellmann, Chris Henick, Clark Judge, David Keating, David Kensinger, Bruce Keough, Bob Kjellander, Ed Kutler, Chris Lacivita, Jim Lake, Chuck Larson, Steve Lombardo, Joel Maiola, Gary Maloney, Mary Matalin, Dan Mattoon, Bill McInturff, Mark McKinnon, Kyle McSillarow, Ken Mehlman, Jim Merrill, Mike Murphy, Phil Musser, Terry Nelson, Neil Newhouse, David Norcross, Ziad Ojakli, Jack Oliver, Van B. Poole, Tom Rath, Scott Reed, David Rehr, Steve Roberts, David Roederer, Ed Rogers, Dan Schnur, Russ Schriefer, Rich Schwarm, Brent Seaborn, Rick Shelby, Andrew Shore, Don Sipple, Javier Soto, Fred Steeper, Bob Stevenson, Eric Tanenblatt, Heath Thompson, Jay Timmons, Warren Tompkins, Ted Van Der Meid, Dirk van Dongen, Jan van Lohuizen, Dick Wadhams, John Weaver, Dave Winston, and Ginny Wolfe.