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**American Bar Association  
Harris Poll Questions*****Topline***Field Dates: September 15 - 22, 2008  
Sample size: 2,315 adults, 18 and older

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**Methodology**

Harris Interactive® conducted the study online within the United States between September 15 and 22, 2008 among 2,315 adults. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the online population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

**About Harris Interactive**

[Harris Interactive](http://www.harrisinteractive.com) is a global leader in custom market research. With a long and rich history in multimodal research, powered by our science and technology, we assist clients in achieving business results. Harris Interactive serves clients globally through our North American, European and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms. For more information, please visit [www.harrisinteractive.com](http://www.harrisinteractive.com).

**Notes on reading the results**

The percentage of respondents has been included for each item. An asterisk (\*) signifies a value of less than one-half percent. A dash represents a value of zero. Percentages may not always add up to 100% because of computer rounding or the acceptance of multiple answers from respondents answering that question.

**SECTION 950: ELECTING JUDGES****BASE: U.S. RESPONDENTS (Q258/244) AND Q276/18+****Q955** How are state court judges selected in your state?

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Elected                         | 32% |
| Some elected and some appointed | 15% |
| Appointed                       | 11% |
| Not at all sure                 | 42% |

**BASE: JUDGES ARE ELECTED (N=1148)****Q957** What type of election does your state have for judges?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Partisan, that is judges run as Republican Democrat or under some other party label | 41% |
| Non-partisan, that is judges do not run under any party label                       | 35% |
| Not at all sure   | 23% |

**BASE: JUDGES ARE APPOINTED (N=604)****Q960** How are judges appointed in your state?

RANDOM

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| By the governor        | 45% |
| By the legislature     | 10% |
| By the bar association | 1%  |
| By other judges        | 1%  |
| Not at all sure        | 43% |

**BASE: U.S. RESPONDENTS (Q258/244) AND Q276/18+****Q965** Regardless of how they are chosen in your state, how do you think judges should be chosen?

RANDOM

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Non-partisan elections   | 43% |
| Appointed by the governor from candidates suggested by a citizen nominating commission | 19% |
| Partisan elections   | 12% |
| Merit based  | 1%  |
| Appointed by governor  | 1%  |
| Other  | 2%  |
| Not at all sure  | 24% |

**BASE: OTHER WAY TO CHOOSE JUDGES (Q965/4)****Q967** How do you believe judges should be chosen?

[RESPONSES INCORPORATED ABOVE]

**BASE: JUDGES ARE ELECTED (N=1148)****Q970** When you see judges on your ballot, which do you usually do?

RANDOM

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Usually vote in judicial races        | 73% |
| Usually skip voting in judicial races | 16% |
| Not at all sure                       | 11% |

**BASE: JUDGES ARE ELECTED (N=1148)****Q975** When you do vote on judicial candidates, how do you usually decide who to vote for or against? Please select all that apply.

RANDOM – MULTIPLE RESPONSE

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Research their background                         | 48% |
| Look to editorials/endorsements in my local paper | 37% |
| Discuss with friends/family                       | 31% |
| Political party affiliation                       | 29% |
| Look for bar association recommendations          | 24% |
| Check with community groups I respect/belong to   | 23% |
| Gender (i.e. tend to vote for men or women only)  | 4%  |
| Other   | 10% |
| Tend not to vote for judges                       | 10% |

**BASE: U.S. RESPONDENTS (Q258/244) AND Q276/18+**

**Q980** If judges are elected, which statement is closer to your opinion?  
RANDOM

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Since judges are expected to be impartial on so many potential issues facing them, they should not be allowed to accept money from any special interests    | 79% |
| Judges are no different from any other elected official and should be allowed to accept money from any entity as long as the state election laws are upheld | 8%  |
| Not at all sure   | 13% |

**BASE: U.S. RESPONDENTS (Q258/244) AND Q276/18+**

**Q985** Thinking now of federal judges, they are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Some people think that citizen committees should review the backgrounds and qualifications of potential nominees for federal judgeships. Do you think such committees would be a ...

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>TOTAL GOOD IDEA</b> | <b>67%</b> |
| Very good idea         | 35%        |
| Somewhat good idea     | 32%        |
| <b>TOTAL BAD IDEA</b>  | <b>18%</b> |
| Somewhat bad idea      | 10%        |
| Very bad idea          | 9%         |
| Not at all sure        | 15%        |

**BASE: U.S. RESPONDENTS (Q258/244) AND Q276/18+**

**Q990** if these committees to review federal judges were going to be put in place, who should be on them? Please select all that apply.

RANDOM – MULTIPLE RESPONSE

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| People like me                    | 55% |
| People active in community groups | 43% |
| Other judges                      | 32% |
| Lawyers                           | 24% |
| Business owners or executives     | 19% |
| People in elected office          | 19% |
| Other                             | 6%  |
| Not at all sure                   | 20% |