

Online Appendix
for
Public (Mis)Perceptions of Supreme Court Ideology

Survey Question Wordings

Measures of Support

Approval of Court. “How much do you approve of the performance of the Supreme Court?” (response options: “strongly approve,” “somewhat approve,” “somewhat disapprove,” “strongly disapprove”)

Trust in the Court. “Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Supreme Court can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the country as a whole” (response options: “strongly agree,” “somewhat agree,” “somewhat disagree,” “strongly disagree”)

Case Descriptions

Sex Offenders. “Some people believe that the federal government should have the authority to place sex offenders in mental institutions involuntarily after their original prison sentences have ended. Other people believe that the federal government must release these people after their original prison sentences have ended. [Some people believe that the federal government must release offenders after their original prison sentences have ended. Other people believe that the federal government should have the authority to involuntarily place these people in mental institutions after their original prison sentences have ended.] What do you personally believe?” (response options: “The federal government must release sex offenders after their prison sentences have ended,” “The federal government should be able to involuntarily put sex offenders in mental institutions after their prison sentences have ended”). For all questions, after asking about their own positions, respondents were asked: “What do you think the Supreme Court would decide if they were asked to rule on this issue?” with the same response options. Response options (and their position in the question stem) were randomly rotated.

Gun Control. “Some people believe that state and local governments should have the ability to ban the possession of handguns. Other people believe that the right of individual citizens to possess handguns is protected under the Second Amendment. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “state and local government should be able to ban the possession of handguns,” “the right of individual citizens to possess handguns is protected under the Second Amendment”).

Religious Symbols. “Some people believe that religious symbols and statues such as crosses should be allowed to be placed on government-owned land. Other people believe that placing religious symbols on government-owned land represents a violation of the separation of church and state. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “religious symbols should be allowed to be placed on public land,” “placing religious symbols on public land violates the separation of church and state”).

Affirmative Action. “Some people believe that a city should be allowed to try to increase racial diversity by denying the promotion of white firefighters who passed a promotion test because no black firefighters passed the test. Other people believe that the city should be required to abide by the results of the promotion test and promote the white firefighters even if no black

firefighters are promoted. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “the city should be allowed to deny the promotion of the white firefighters,” “the city must abide by the results of the test and promote the white firefighters”).

Voter ID. “Some people believe that states can require voters to provide photo identification at the polling place. Other people believe that requiring people to show photo identification violates voting rights. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “states can require voters to show photo identification,” “requiring voters to show photo identification violates voting rights”).

Campaign Finance. “Some people believe that prohibiting corporations from contributing to political campaigns a violation of the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. Other people believe that this is a legitimate restriction that promotes more democratic elections. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “prohibiting corporations from contributing to political campaigns is a violation of the right to free speech,” “prohibiting corporations from contributing to political campaigns is a legitimate restriction that promotes more democratic elections”).

Lethal Injection. “Some people believe that lethal injection should be allowed to be used to execute convicted criminals on death row. Other people believe that using lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “lethal injection should be allowed,” “lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment”).

Race and Schools. “Some people believe that school districts should be allowed to assign students to schools based on race in order to promote diversity and reduce segregation. Other people believe that race should not play a factor at all in assigning students to schools. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “school districts should be allowed to use race to promote diversity,” “race should not be used to assign students to school”).

Partial Birth Abortion. “Some people believe that the federal government should be allowed to ban partial birth abortions. Other people believe that banning this procedure violates women’s rights. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “the federal government should be allowed to ban partial birth abortions,” “banning partial birth abortions violates women’s rights”).

Guantanamo Bay. “Some people believe that the federal government should be allowed to conduct military trials of suspected terrorists in Guantanamo Bay. Other people believe that these individuals have the right to be tried in the American court system. What do you personally believe?” (response options: “the federal government should be allowed to conduct military trials of suspected terrorists,” “suspected terrorists have the right to be tried in the American court system”).

Figure A1: Relationship Between Estimated Respondent Ideal Points and Self-Placed

Ideology

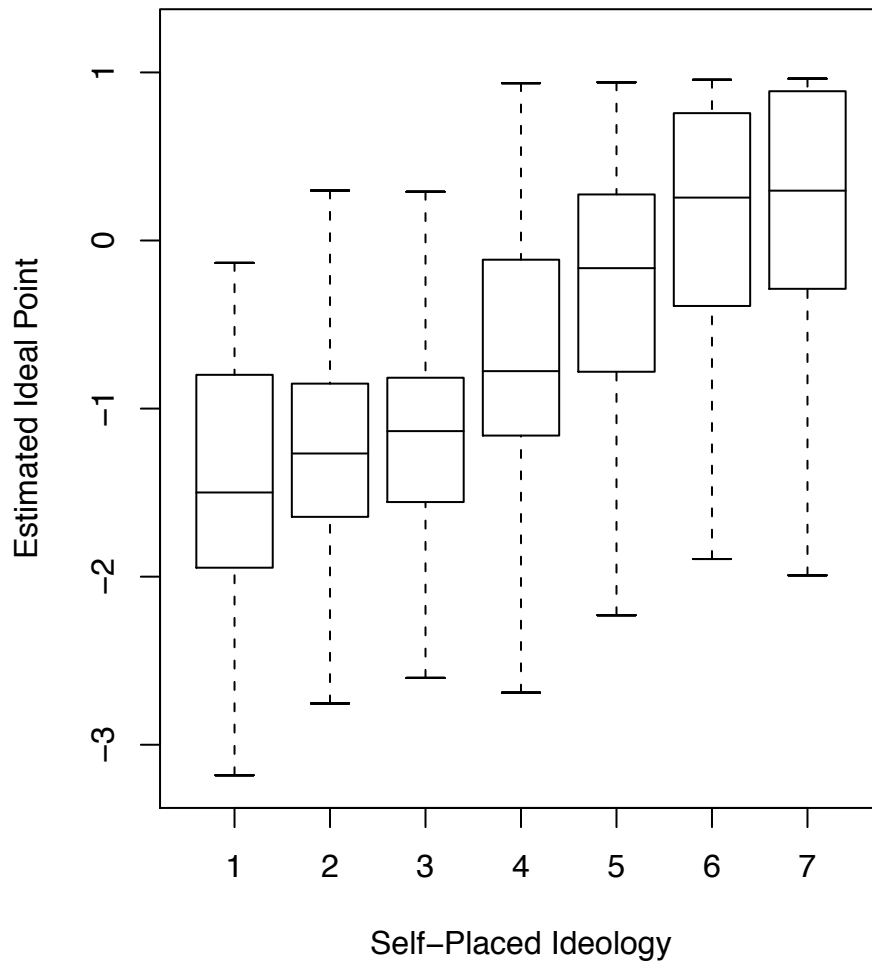
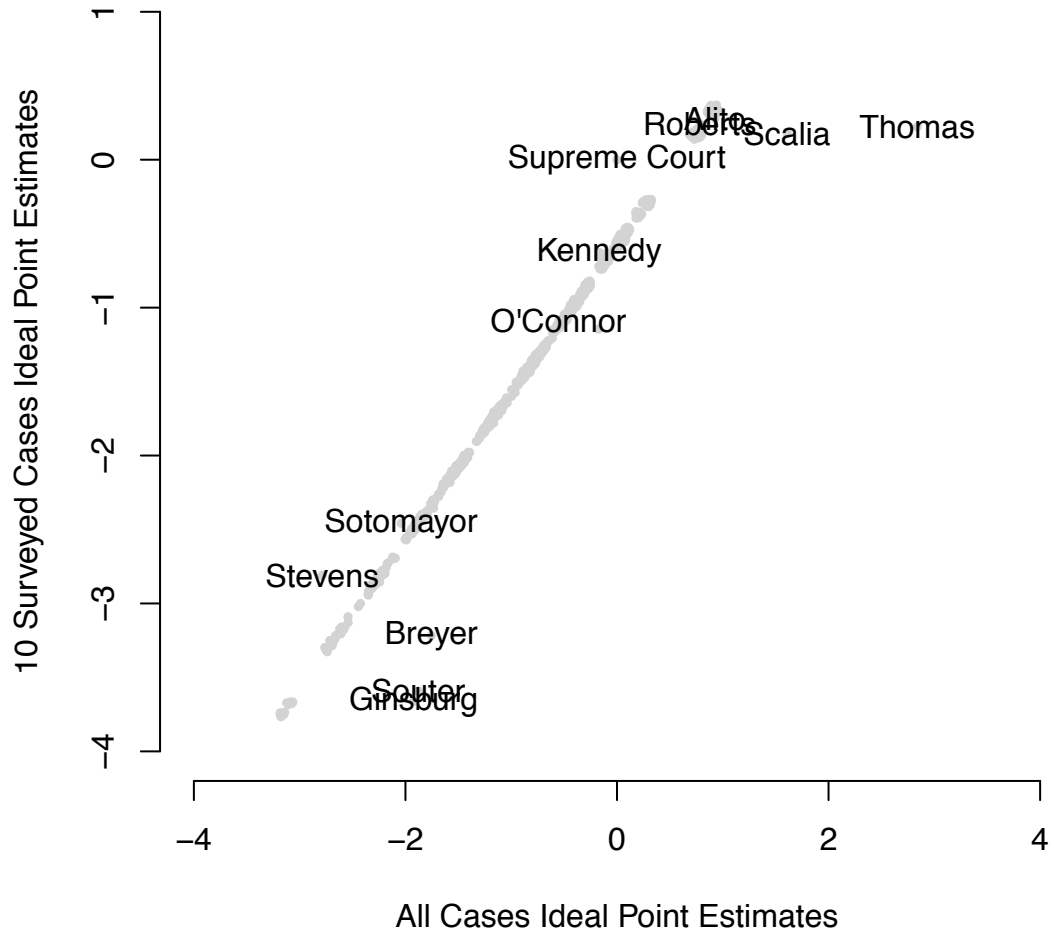
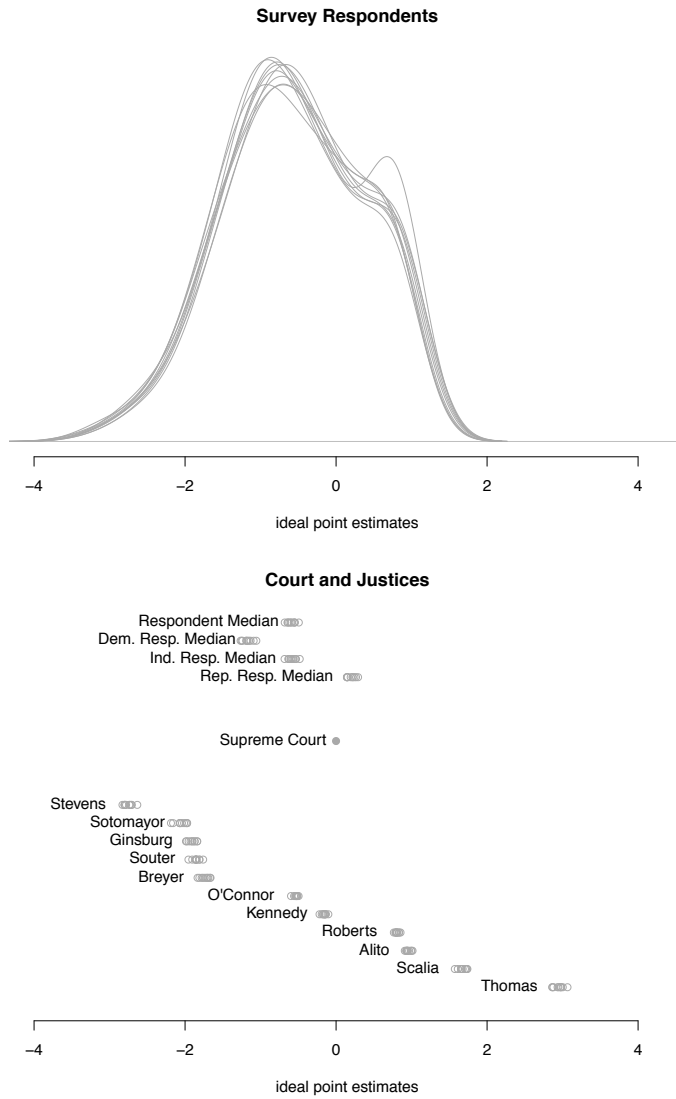


Figure A2: Correspondence Between Ideal Point Scalings Based on All Cases and Ten Surveyed Cases



**Figure A3: Respondent, Court, and Justice Ideal Point Estimates
(Omitting Each Individual Decision)**



Online Appendix Table 1: Supreme Court Case Survey Questions

<u>Case Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Survey Respondent Positions</u>		
			<u>Agreement</u>	<u>Correct Perception</u>	<u>Perceived Agreement</u>
<i>Citizens United v. FEC</i>	Campaign Finance	5-4	43.3%	69.1%	61.6%
<i>U.S. v. Comstock</i>	Sex Offenders	7-2	55.4	30.5	64.3
<i>McDonald v. Chicago</i>	Gun Control	5-4	72.2	80.3	74.2
<i>Salazar v. Buono</i>	Religious Symbols	5-4	61.4	38.9	61.2
<i>Ricci v. DeStefano</i>	Affirmative Action	5-4	90.9	78.2	80.3
<i>Crawford v. Marion County</i>	Voter ID	6-3	84.1	74.6	78.5
<i>Baze v. Rees</i>	Lethal Injection	7-2	81.5	82.2	78.0
<i>Parents Involved v. Seattle</i>	Race and Schools	5-4	83.6	63.7	69.7
<i>Gonzales v. Carhart</i>	Partial Birth Abortion	5-4	55.5	54.4	68.7
<i>Hamdan v. Rumsfeld</i>	Guantanamo Bay	5-3	29.9	36.1	69.7
	Average Percentages		62.4	59.8	70.6