

Online Appendix

Demographic Characteristics for Both Studies and the 2010 Census

Distribution of Education in Study Samples

Level of Education	2010 Census	YouGov Sample	Mechanical Turk Sample
No High School Degree	14.9%	4.41%	0%
High School Graduate	29.0%	36.1%	15.7%
Some College	20.6%	26.2%	32.3%
2-Year Degree	7.5%	9.9%	(Not an Option)
4-Year Degree	17.6%	18.3%	(Not an Option)
College Degree	(Not an Option)	(Not an Option)	36.3%
Graduate Degree	10.3%	9.6%	15.7%

Each number represents the percentage of the population in that category. The YouGov sample departs from the distribution of the 2010 Census for those with lower amounts of education. Those with no high school degree are underrepresented in the sample while high school graduates and those with some college are overrepresented.

Distribution of Race in Study Samples

Race	2010 Census	YouGov Sample	Mechanical Turk Sample
White	72.4%	76.4%	78.4%
Black	12.6%	11.0%	7.8%
Hispanic	(16%)	7.4%	6.9%
Asian	4.8%	1.4%	5.9%
Native American	0.9%	0.9%	0%
Mixed	(2.9%)	1.5%	(not an option)
Other	6.2%	1.33%	1.0%

Each number represents the percentage of the population in that category. It is difficult to directly compare the racial breakdown of the YouGov sample to the 2010 Census because race was assessed using two different measuring systems. The 2010 census used a system that allows people to pick multiple races and also separates Hispanic ethnicity from the race question, allowing people to separate themselves into white Hispanics, black Hispanics or a Hispanic of some other race. The percentages for Hispanic and Mixed in the 2010 Census column are put inside of parentheses because the percentages in those categories include people who appear in the other categories as well. For example, in 2010 Census data, Hispanics who identify as white

are included in both the 16% shown in the Hispanic cell and the 72.4% shown in the White cell. Once that is taken into account, the representation of the three major demographic groups are similar to the 2010 Census. The percentage of Hispanics is lower in the YouGov sample because some people who would have identified as Hispanic using the two-step process from the 2010 Census chose to identify as White, Black, or Mixed race when forced to choose between Hispanic or one of the other race categories. The YouGov sample however does seem to undersample smaller racial groups like Asian and those put into the Other category. However, some of these differences, especially what falls into the other category, could result from question wording or the two different methods used to assess racial identity, rather than differences in the underlying sample.

Distribution of Gender in Study Samples

Gender	2010 Census	YouGov Sample	Mechanical Turk Sample
Female	51%	51%	51%
Male	49%	49%	49%

Each number represents the percentage of the population in that category.

Distribution of Income in YouGov Sample

Income	2010 Census	YouGov Sample
Less than \$10,000	4.5%	4.9%
\$10,000 to \$50,000	34.4%	44.9%
\$50,000 to \$100,000	34.6%	26.2%
\$100,000 to \$150,000	15.4%	8.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.6%	2.51%
\$200,000 or more	5.4%	0.5%
Prefer not to say		11.7%

Each number represents the percentage of the population in that category. The Mechanical Turk sample is not included in this table because the study did not include an income question. The results for the YouGov sample shows an overrepresentation for those with incomes between \$10,000 to \$50,000 and an underrepresentation for those with higher levels of income. However, the somewhat unrepresentative distribution for the YouGov Sample could also result from the large number of people in the YouGov sample who refused to provide their income information. If people who have higher incomes are systematically less likely to volunteer their income, it could result in the distribution in the YouGov sample, even if the actual sample is representative.

Text for Study 1 Survey Items

For the legitimacy and rule of law scales the subjects were asked whether they strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement.

Legitimacy Perceptions

- 1 - If the U.S. Supreme Court started making a lot of decisions that most people disagree with it might be better to do away with the Supreme Court altogether.
- 2 - The right of the U.S. Supreme Court to decide certain types of controversial issues should be reduced.
- 3 - The U.S. Supreme Court should have the right to say what the Constitution means, even when the majority of people disagree with those decisions.
- 4 - People should be willing to do everything they can to make sure that any proposal to abolish the U.S. Supreme Court is defeated.

Rule of Law

- 1 – It is not necessary to obey a law you consider unjust.
- 2 – Sometimes it might be better to ignore the law and solve problems immediately.

Specific Support Items

How well do you think the U.S. Supreme Court does its main job in government?

- Great job
- Pretty good job
- Not very good job
- Poor job

In general would you say the U.S. Supreme Court is too liberal, too conservative or just about right in its decisions?

- Much too liberal
- Somewhat too liberal
- Just about right
- Somewhat too conservative
- Much too conservative

Court Awareness

1 – Would you say you are very aware, somewhat aware, not very aware, or haven't heard of the U.S. Supreme Court?

- Very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Not very aware
- Have never heard of it

2 – How often do you hear or read news about the U.S. Supreme Court?

- Very often
- Often
- Somewhat often
- Not very often
- Almost never
- Never

General Political Knowledge

If both the President and Vice-President of the United States resigned, who is next in the line of succession? In other words, who would become President under these circumstances?

- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Secretary of State

Do you happen to know how many times a person can be elected President of the United States under current law?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- There is no limit under current law.

For how many years is a United States Senator elected – that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

Initial Issue Position

The U.S. Supreme Court decided a case recently determining whether or not it is constitutional for a juvenile who is at least 16-years-old and convicted of murder to be eligible for a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole. In the case, a 16-year old male killed a person during

a home robbery. The juvenile was charged as an adult, convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to a penalty of life in prison without the chance of parole.

The juvenile appealed the sentence to the U.S. Supreme Court saying that it violated the ban on cruel and unusual punishment in the 8th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The juvenile relied upon previous Supreme Court decisions saying it is unconstitutional to impose the death penalty on juveniles. Those in favor of the juvenile life sentence argued that the death penalty is a much more extreme penalty than a life sentence, and that some juveniles deserve a life sentence.

What is your opinion on this issue? Which of the two options below better fits your view?

It should be possible for a juvenile convicted of murder who is at least 16-years-old to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole.

Any juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life.

Initial Issue Position Strength

How strongly do you feel that (it should be possible for a juvenile convicted of murder who is at least 16-years-old to be sentenced to life in prison without the change of parole / any juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life)?

- Very strongly
- Strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Not strongly at all

Initial Issue Position Importance

How important would you say the issue of the juvenile life sentence without the chance of parole is to you personally?

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important at all

Text of Court Decision if subject pro-juvenile life sentence

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision saying the government CAN NOT impose a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole on 16-year-old juveniles convicted of murder. The justices said this type of penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and thus violates the Constitution.

Text of Court Decision if subject anti-juvenile life sentence

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision saying the government CAN impose a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole on 16-year-old juveniles convicted of murder. The justices said this type of penalty does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment and thus does not violate the Constitution.

Acceptance Questions

1 – Do you accept this decision and consider it the final word on the matter or do you think there ought to be an effort to challenge it and get it changed?

I accept the decision and consider it the final word on the matter.

I want to challenge the decision and get it changed.

Follow-up Strength Item – How strongly do you feel the decision should be (accepted/challenged)?

Very strongly

Strongly

Somewhat strongly

Not strongly at all

2 – Would you support or oppose efforts to remove the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court who voted for the decisions (allowing/prohibiting) the life sentence without the chance of parole for 16-year-olds?

Strongly support removing them

Support removing them

Somewhat support removing them

Neither support nor oppose removing them

Somewhat oppose removing them

Oppose removing them

Strongly oppose removing them

3 – Would you sign a petition in support of a group that was attempting to overturn this decision?

Definitely

Possibly

Probably not

Definitely not

Post-Decision Issue Position

We would like to revisit your position on the issue of the juvenile life sentence. Which of the two options below better fits your current view on this issue?

It should be possible for a juvenile convicted of murder who is at least 16-years-old to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole.

Any juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life.

Post-Decision Issue Position Strength

How strongly do you feel that (it should be possible for a juvenile convicted of murder who is at least 16-years-old to be sentenced to life in prison without the change of parole / any juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life)?

- Very strongly
- Strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Not strongly at all

Ideology

Many people think of politics in terms of liberal or conservative. Where would you place yourself on the scale below that ranges from very liberal at one end to very conservative at the other with moderate being in the middle?

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Somewhat Liberal
- Moderate
- Somewhat Conservative
- Conservative
- Very Conservative

Education

What is your education level?

- Grade School or Less (0-8 Grades)
- High School
- Some College
- College
- Advanced Degree

Race

With what race/ethnicity do you most strongly identify?

- White, non-Hispanic
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African American
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Native American
- Other

Gender

What is your gender?

Male

Female

Citizenship

Are you a citizen of the United States?

Yes

No

Exact Wording for the Survey Items for Study 2

Pre-Institutional Action Issue Position on Juvenile Life Sentence

The (insert institution name) decided a case recently determining whether or not it is constitutional for a juvenile who is at least 16-years-old and convicted of murder to be eligible for a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole. In the case, a 16-year old male killed a person during a home robbery. The juvenile was charged as an adult, convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to a penalty of life in prison without the chance of parole.

The juvenile appealed the sentence to the (insert institution name) saying that it violated the ban on cruel and unusual punishment in the 8th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The juvenile relied upon previous court decisions saying it is unconstitutional to impose the death penalty on juveniles. Those in favor of the juvenile life sentence argued that the death penalty is a much more extreme penalty than a life sentence, and that some juveniles deserve a life sentence.

What is your opinion on this issue? Which of the two options below better fits your view?

(1) It should be possible for a 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole.

(2) Any 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life.

Opinion Strength

(If pre-decision issue position = 1)

How strongly do you feel that that it should be possible for a 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole?

(If pre-decision issue position = 2)

How strongly do you feel that any 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life?

- Very strongly
- Strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Not strongly at all

Issue Importance

How important would you say the issue of the juvenile life sentence without the chance of parole is to you personally?

Very important
Important
Somewhat important
Not important at all

For the legitimacy and rule of law scales the subjects were asked whether they strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement.

Legitimacy Items

If the (insert institution name) started making a lot of decisions that most people disagree with it might be better to do away with the (insert institution name) altogether.

The right of the (insert institution name) to decide certain types of controversial issues should be reduced.

The (insert institution name) should have the right to say what the Constitution means, even when the majority of people disagree with those decisions.

People should be willing to do everything they can to make sure that any proposal to abolish the (insert institution name) is defeated.

Rule of Law

It is not necessary to obey a law you consider unjust.

Sometimes it might be better to ignore the law and solve problems immediately

Specific Support Items

In general would you say the decisions of the (insert institution name) are too liberal, too conservative or about right?

Much too liberal
Somewhat too liberal
Just about right
Somewhat too conservative
Much too conservative

How well do you think the (insert institution name) does its main job in government?

Great job
Pretty good job

Not very good job
Poor job

Court Awareness

Would you say you are very aware, somewhat aware, not very aware or have never heard of (insert institution name)?

Very aware
Somewhat aware
Not very aware
Have never heard of it

How often do you read or hear news about the (insert institution name)?

Very often
Often
Somewhat often
Not very often
Almost never
Never

Institutional Action on the Juvenile Life Sentence

We are now moving back to the issue of imposing a life sentence without the chance of parole on 16-year-old juveniles convicted of murder. Below is a description of the action taken by (insert institution name) on this issue.

(if pre-decision issue position = 1 display the text below)

The (insert institution name) issued a decision saying the government CAN NOT impose a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole on 16-year-old juveniles convicted of murder. The judges said this type of penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and thus violates the Constitution.

(If pre decision issue position = 2 display the text below)

The (insert institution name) issued a decision saying the government CAN impose a sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole on 16-year-old juveniles convicted of murder. The judges said this type of penalty does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment and thus does not violate the Constitution.

Post-Institutional Action Issue Position

We would like to revisit your position on the issue of the juvenile life sentence. Which of the two options below better fits your current view on this issue? (The order of the choices was randomized)

(1) It should be possible for a 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole.

(2) Any 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life.

Opinion Strength

(If post-decision issue position= 1)

How strongly do you feel that that it should be possible for a 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder to be sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole?

(If post- decision issue position = 2)

How strongly do you feel that any 16-year-old juvenile convicted of murder should have the chance to receive parole and get out of prison later in life?

- Very strongly
- Strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Not strongly at al

Acceptance Items

Accept1 - Do you accept this decision and consider it the final word on the matter or do you think there ought to be an effort to challenge it and get it changed?

- I accept the decision and consider it the final word on this matter.
- I want to challenge the decision and get it changed.

(if accept1 = 1)

How strongly do you feel the decision should be accepted?

(If accept1 = 2)

How strongly do you feel the decision should be challenged?

- Very strongly
- Strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Not strongly at all

Accept2 - (if initial issue position =1)

Would you support or oppose efforts to remove the judges of the (insert institution name) who voted for the decision prohibiting the life sentence without the chance of parole for 16-year-olds?
(if initial issue position = 2)

Would you support or oppose efforts to remove the justices of the (insert institution name) who voted for the decision allowing the life sentence without the chance of parole for 16-year-olds?

- Strongly support removing them
- Support removing them
- Somewhat support removing them
- Neither support nor oppose removing them
- Somewhat oppose removing them
- Oppose removing them
- Strongly oppose removing them

Accept 3 - Would you sign a petition in support of a group that was attempting to overturn this decision?

- Definitely
- Possibly
- Probably not
- Definitely not

Education

The education variable is part of the standard demographic profile provided by YouGov for all its surveys.

- Post-Grad
- 4-Year
- 2-Year
- Some College
- High-School Graduate
- No High School

Ideology

The ideology variable is part of the standard demographic profile provided by YouGov for all its surveys. The answer options for ideology are below.

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Moderate
- Conservative
- Very Conservative

Race

The race variable is part of the standard demographic profile provided by YouGov for all its surveys. The answer options for race are below.

White
Black
Hispanic
Asian
Native American
Mixed
Other
Middle Eastern

Gender

The gender variable is part of the standard demographic profile provided by YouGov for all its surveys. The answer options for gender are below.

Male
Female

Appendix Table 1 – Issue Position Change as Ordinal Variable

VARIABLES	Study 1	Study 2
	Issue Position Change	Issue Position Change
Specific Support	1.44* (.71)	.47* (.19)
Legitimacy Perceptions	.00 (.75)	-.05 (.24)
Rule of Law	-.90 (.55)	.21 (.19)
Political Knowledge	.10 (.49)	
Issue Importance	-1.14* (.45)	-.49* (.16)
Court Awareness	.92 (.73)	-.15 (.22)
Conservative Decision	-.30 (.27)	-.24* (.09)
Strength of Prior Opinion	.77 (.49)	.91* (.16)
Education	-.58 (.54)	.18 (.15)
Ideological Disagreement	-.30 (.47)	-.44* (.15)
Female	.36 (.25)	-.01 (.09)
Black	.61 (.47)	-.30* (.14)
Hispanic	.18 (.48)	-.29 (.17)
Other Non-White Race	.55 (.48)	.05 (.17)
Partisan Election		.27* (.13)
Non-Partisan Election		.06 (.11)
Retention Election		-.01 (.12)
Cut 1	-.90 (.84)	-.90* (.27)
Cut 2	1.24 (.85)	.97* (.27)

Cut 3	1.95*	1.70*
	(.85)	(.28)
Observations	102	743

Standard errors in parentheses

* p<.05

The dependent variable is the issue position change variable recoded into a four-level ordinal variable. Order probit models are used for both the models in column 1 and 2. The model for Study 2 includes random effects representing each state.

Appendix Table 2 – Interactions with Judicial Selection System

VARIABLES	(1) Issue Position Change	(2) Acceptance
Legitimacy Perceptions	.01 (.20)	.36* (.06)
Specific Support	.47* (.20)	.17* (.04)
Partisan Election	.02 (.16)	-.02 (.05)
Non-Partisan Election	.22 (.20)	.09 (.06)
Retention Elections	-.11 (.18)	.04 (.07)
Specific Support X Partisan	.02 (.25)	
Specific Support X Non-Partisan	-.41 (.30)	
Specific Support X Appointment	.18 (.28)	
Legitimacy X Partisan		-.02 (.07)
Legitimacy X Non-Partisan		-.14 (.09)
Legitimacy X Retention Election		-.04 (.09)
Dec. Ideological Disagreement	-.29* (.12)	-.08* (.03)
Rule of Law	.38 (.24)	.09 (.05)
Court Awareness	-.29 (.27)	.01 (.05)
Education	.22 (.17)	-.01 (.04)
Issue Importance	-.21 (.16)	-.13* (.04)
Strength of Prior Opinion	.37* (.13)	-.31* (.04)
Black	-.16 (.19)	-.01 (.03)
Hispanic	-.21 (.21)	-.02 (.05)
Other Non-White Race	-.02	-.02

	(.12)	(.04)
Female	.01	.01
	(.08)	(.02)
Conservative Decision	-.31*	-.14*
	(.11)	(.02)
Constant	.07	.42*
	(.27)	(.06)
Observations	743	747
Number of groups	49	49

Robust standard errors in parentheses

* p<.05