

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE FLAG

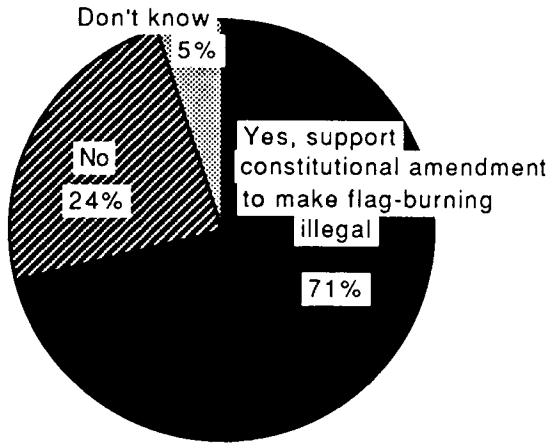
Editor's Note:

On June 21, the House of Representatives voted 254-177 in favor of a constitutional amendment permitting laws which prohibit the desecration of the US flag. This was 34 votes short of the two-thirds majority required (in each house) under Article V of the Constitution. Thus, the amendment is dead, at least for 1990.

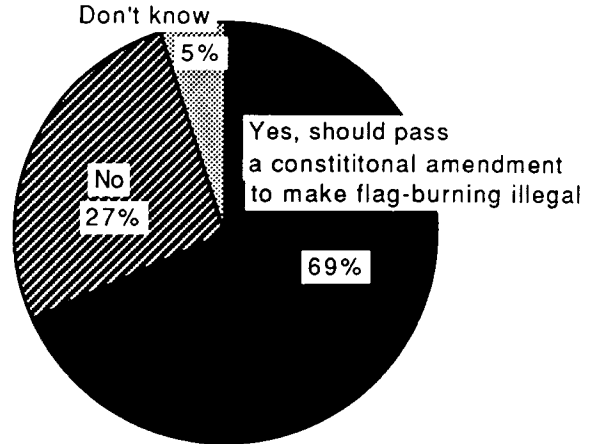
What does the US public think about a flag-protection amendment? How strong is public sentiment? How likely is a vote cast in the House June 21 to influence votes cast in the country next November? The data on these two pages summarize what surveys tell us on these questions.

	<u>% Disagree with Court's Decision</u>	<u>% Favor Constitutional Amendment</u>	<u>% Saying Vote on Flag Amendment is Very Important</u>
All Respondents	58	69	40
By Sex:			
Male	59	67	39
Female	57	70	41
By Education:			
College Graduate	53	56	27
Some College	72	71	34
High School Grad	53	75	46
Less than HS Grad	61	66	50
By Party ID:			
Republican	64	76	41
Democrat	56	63	40
Independent	55	68	37
By Position On Court Decision:			
Agree with decision	—	50	25
Disagree with decision	—	82	51

QUESTIONS: Page 24 -- The Supreme Court ruled this week that burning the American flag, though highly offensive, is protected under the free speech guarantee of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Do you agree or disagree?; Do you think we should pass a Constitutional Amendment to make flag-burning illegal, or not?; How important is a candidate's position on the flag burning issue when you decide how to vote in an election for Governor, members of Congress, or state legislature? (Gallup/Newsweek, June 13-14, 1990) Page 25 -- Would you support a new Constitutional Amendment that would make flag-burning illegal? (Gallup/Newsweek, June 23, 1989); Do you think we should pass a Constitutional Amendment to make flag-burning illegal or not (Gallup/Newsweek, June 13-14, 1990); Should burning or destroying the American flag as a form of political protest be legal or should it be against the law? [If "against the law," ask:] If the only way to make flag destruction illegal was to change the Constitution, would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment making it illegal to destroy the flag for political reasons? (CBS News/New York Times, May 22-24, 1990); How important is a candidate's position on the flag burning issue when you decide how to vote in an election for Governor, member of Congress, or state legislature? (Gallup/Newsweek, June 13-14, 1990).



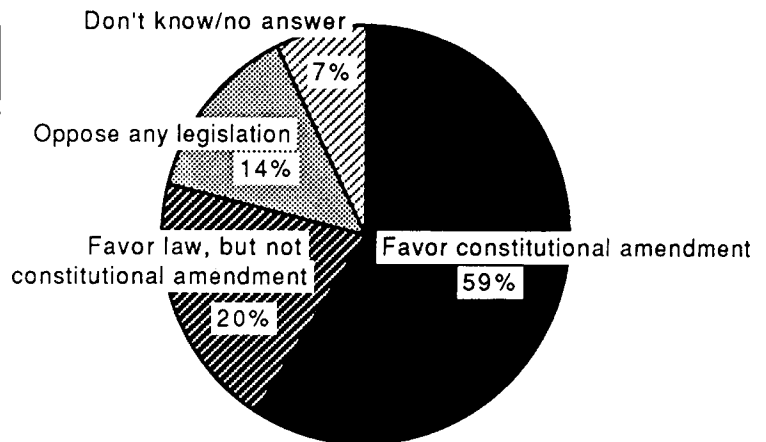
Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, June 23, 1989



Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, June 13-14, 1990

"The Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

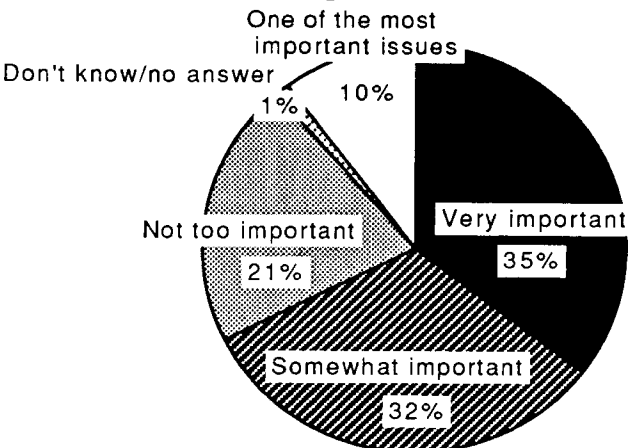
--Proposed amendment



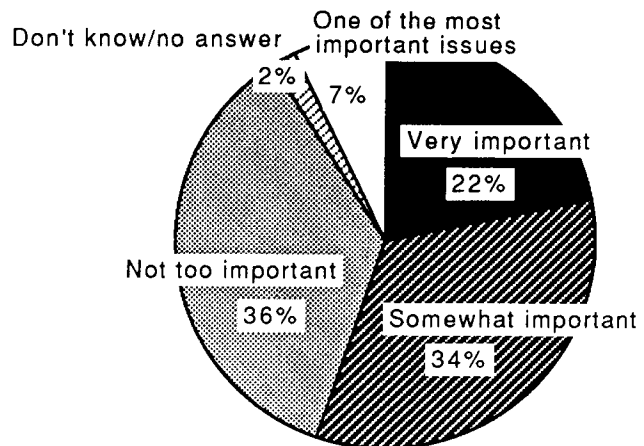
Survey by CBS News/New York Times, May 22-24, 1990

HOW IMPORTANT?

Those favoring amendment:



Those opposing amendment:



Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, June 13-14, 1990