



World Justice  
Project

# Rule of Law Leadership: A Bar Leader's Toolkit

Workshop Presentation, NCBP 2023 Annual Meeting

Elizabeth Andersen  
World Justice Project

*August 4, 2023*

# Rebuilding Trust:

A Campaign to Strengthen the  
Rule of Law in the United States



World Justice  
Project

- **Data collection and analysis**
- **Education and outreach**
- **Promotion of best practices**
- **Support for local leaders**

# Rebuilding Trust

## The U.S. Rule of Law Toolkit

- **WJP Rule of Law Index:** Definition, data, and evidence
- **Communication tools** to educate and engage broad, multi-stakeholder audiences
- **Resources and models for bar association activities and initiatives** on major rule of law challenges



# What is the Rule of Law?

The rule of law is an **enduring system** of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:



## Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



## Just Law

The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human and procedural rights as well as property and contract rights.



## Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.

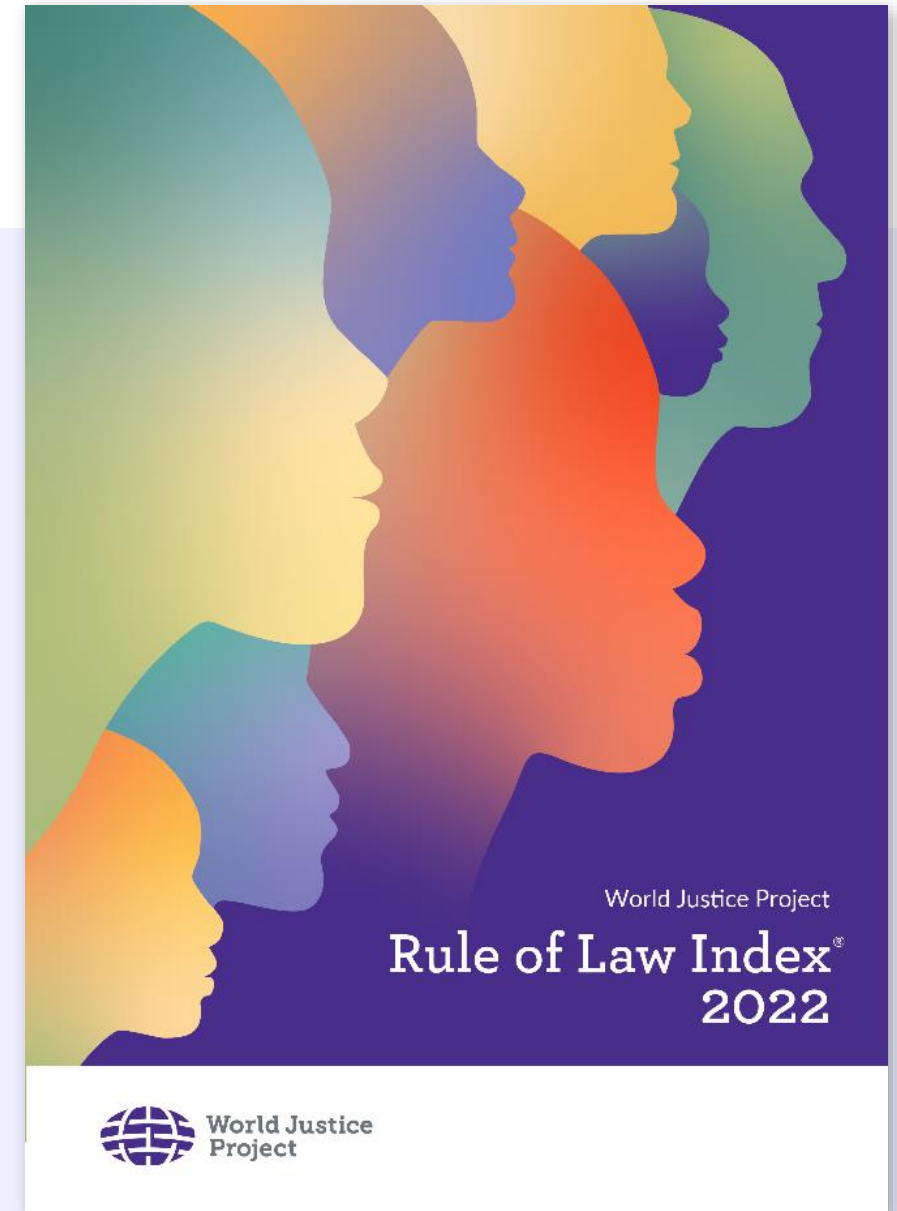


## Accessible and Impartial Justice

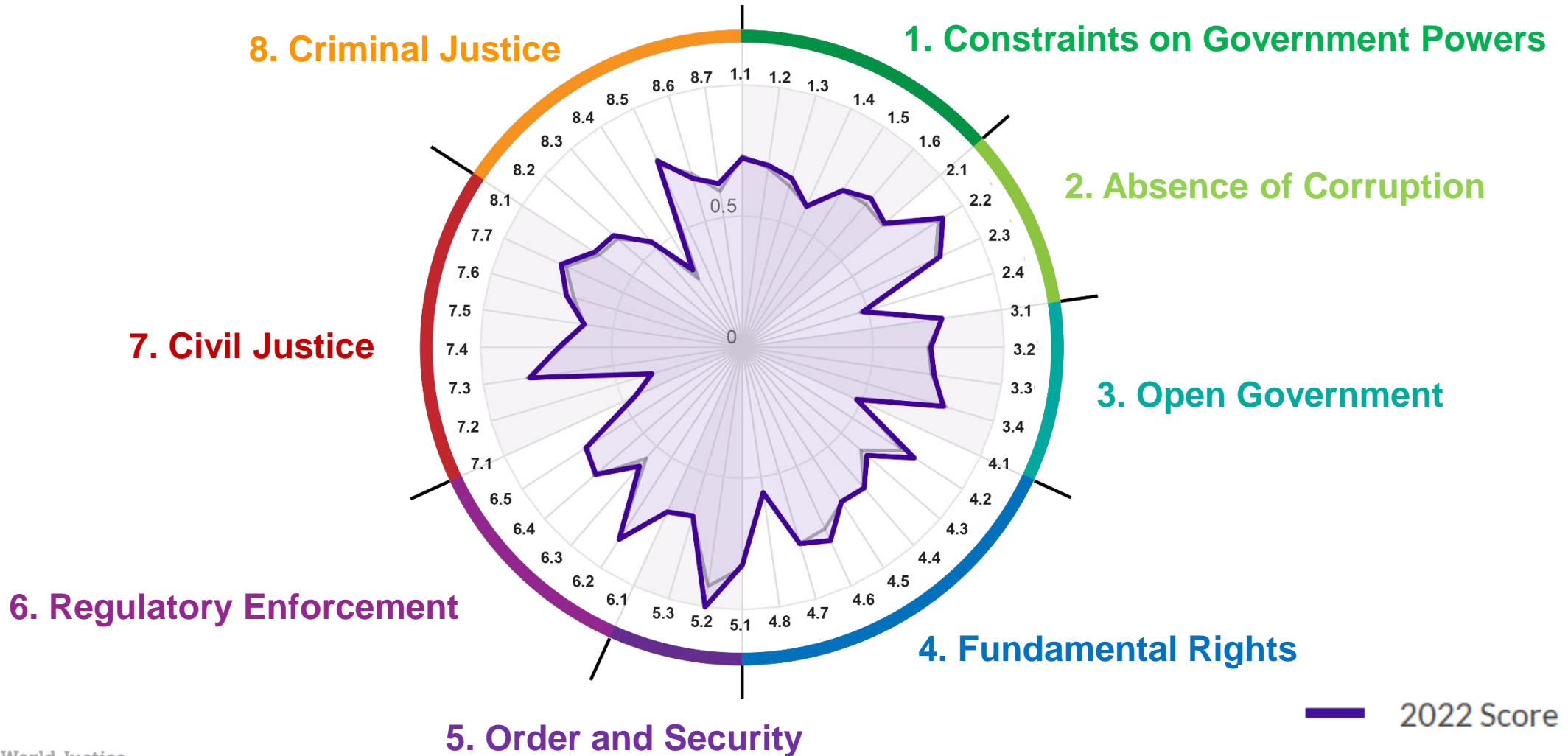
Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

# WJP Rule of Law Index

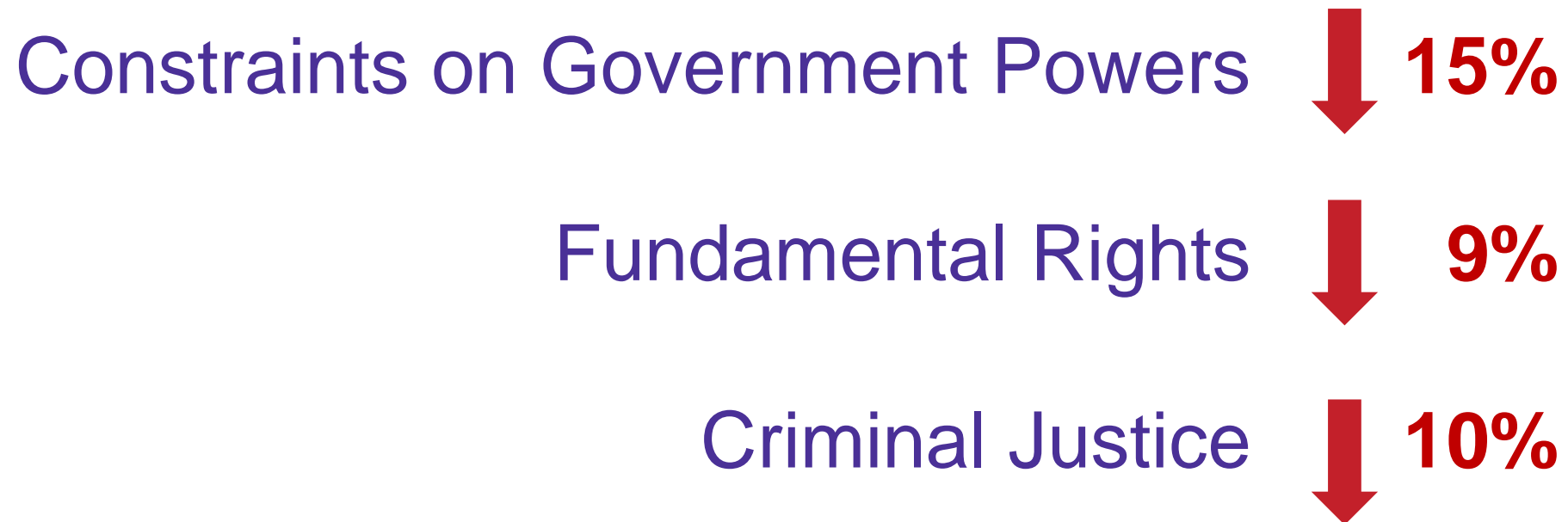
- Measures rule of law in **140 countries** and jurisdictions.
- Draws on surveys of **154,000+ households** and **3,600+ experts**.
- Captures people's experiences and perceptions.
- Evaluates **8 factors, 44 sub-factors**



# Rule of Law in the United States



# Declines in the U.S. Rule of Law Since 2016



# Equality before the Law?

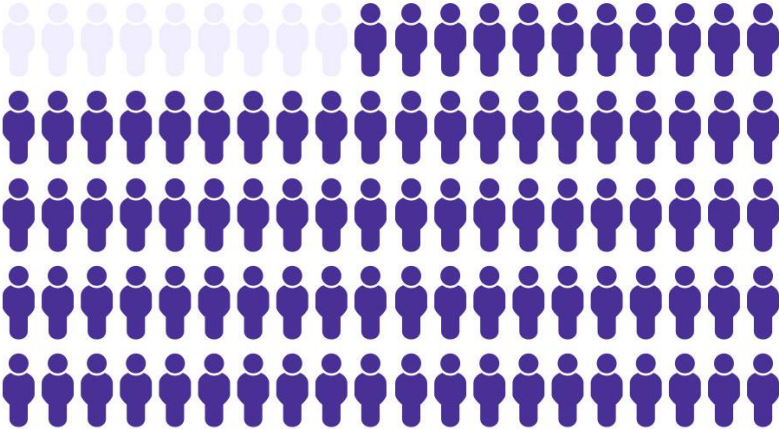
Out of 140 countries, the United States ranks...

- 115<sup>th</sup> on Accessibility and Affordability of Civil Justice
- 103<sup>rd</sup> on Discrimination
- 106<sup>th</sup> on Impartiality of the Criminal Justice System
- 121<sup>st</sup> on Absence of Discrimination in Civil Justice

SOURCE

# How do Americans feel about voting?

"People can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured."



**91%**  
AGREE

**2016**



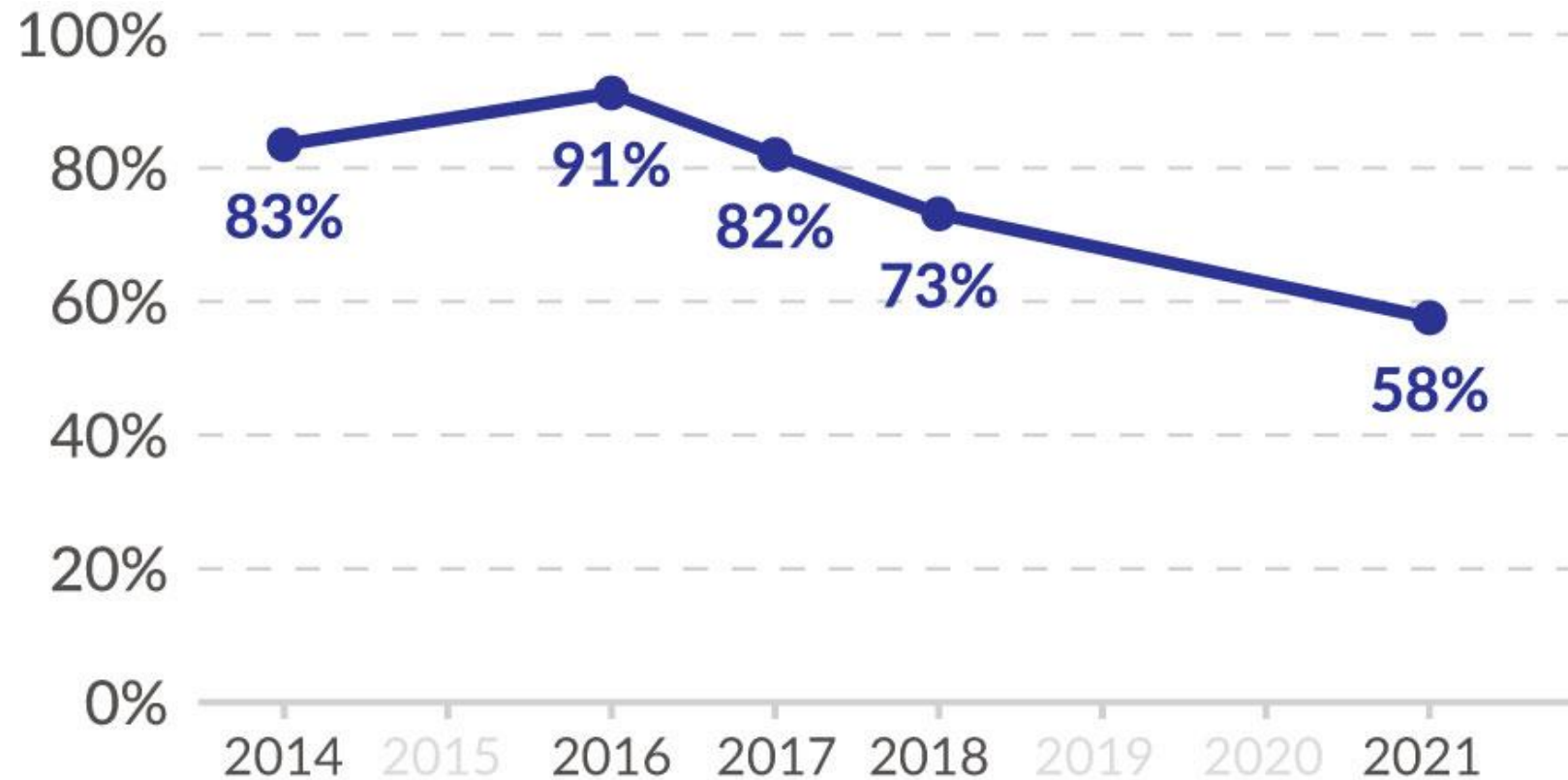
**58%**  
AGREE

**2021**

# How do Americans feel about voting?

“People can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured.”

Agree that  
people can  
vote freely



# How much has Americans' confidence in government accountability shifted in the last decade?

A.  60%

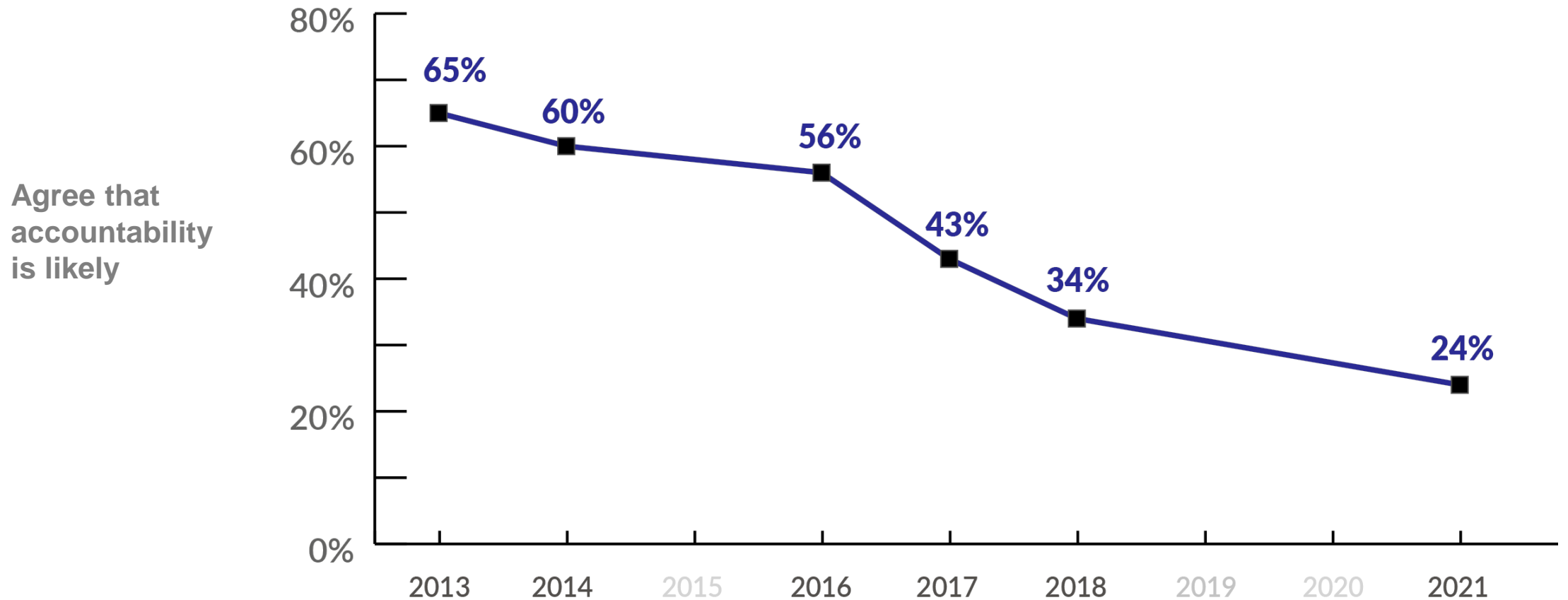
B.  40%

C.  25%

D.  10%

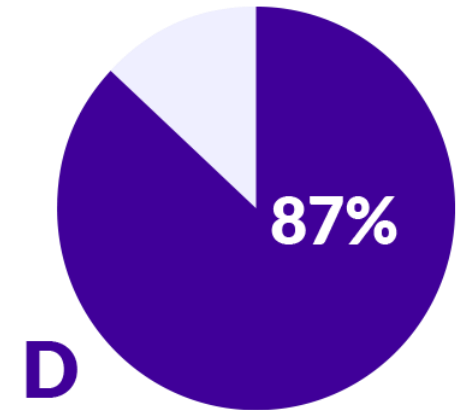
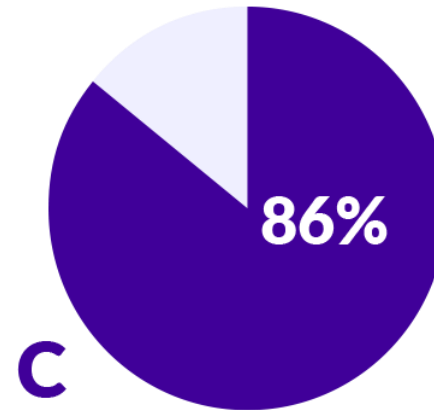
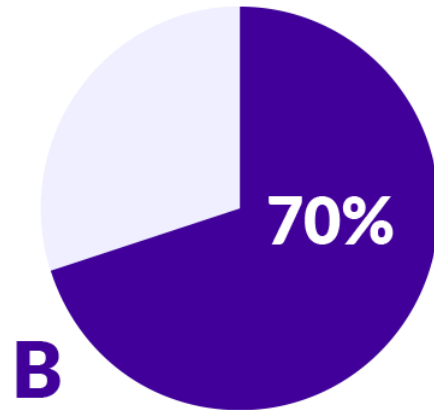
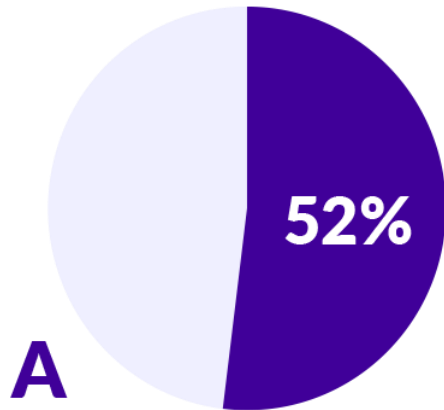
# How do Americans feel about government accountability?

“A high-ranking government official would be held accountable for breaking the law.”



# How do Americans compare on rule of law values?

“The President / Prime Minister must always obey the law and the courts.”



Answer: ( ) France ( ) Japan ( ) US Democrats ( ) US Republicans

# U.S. Rule of Law Toolkit

## Communications Tools

- Model presentations
- Infographics
- Social media tools
- Talking points
- Communications tips
- Videos



# Galvanize Your Bar

## Resources for Rule of Law Initiatives

- Create a task force of bar and judicial leaders to issue recommendations
- Expand legal aid efforts
- Engage public and private sector leaders to address justice gaps
- Collaborate with community groups and civic and cultural institutions to educate their constituencies
- Partner with law schools on education and action



World Justice  
Project

# Thank you

Get the **U.S. Rule of Law Toolkit**  
and Rebuilding Trust updates:



<http://eepurl.com/ivnyuc>  
**Sign up now!**

WorldJusticeProject.org

