








## ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

Justices							
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Strong Democrat	Mild Democrat	Strong Democrat	Strong Democrat	Mild Republican	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners				✓	✓		
Dissenting Minority	✓	✓				✓	✓
Determining Majority		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Lone Dissenter			✓	✓			

## SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **63**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **69.8% (44)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Theis (11)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **2**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **7**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justices A. Burke, Karmeier, and Kilbride (2)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **20**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Neville (8)**

## COURT CONTENTION

### Opinion partners

In 2020 the Illinois Supreme Court decided seven cases 5-2. Justices A. Burke and Neville allied in dissent in two of those cases and allied in one case decided 4-3. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study Justices A. Burke and Neville recorded Strong Democratic Confidence Scores.

### Dissenting minority

In 2020 the Illinois Supreme Court decided three cases by split decision. Justice Garman was in the dissent in all three of those cases. She was joined by Justice M. Burke twice. In one of those cases Justice Theis allied with them, and in another case Justice Karmeier allied with them. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices M. Burke and Garman recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores. Justice Karmeier recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score and Justice Theis recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

### Determining majority

In the three cases decided by split decision, Justice Kilbride was the only justice in the majority in all three cases. Justices A. Burke and Neville were in the majority together in two split cases and dissented together in one case. Justices Theis and Karmeier each dissented once with the minority justices who recorded two Confidence Scores, and were in the majority twice.

### Lone dissenter

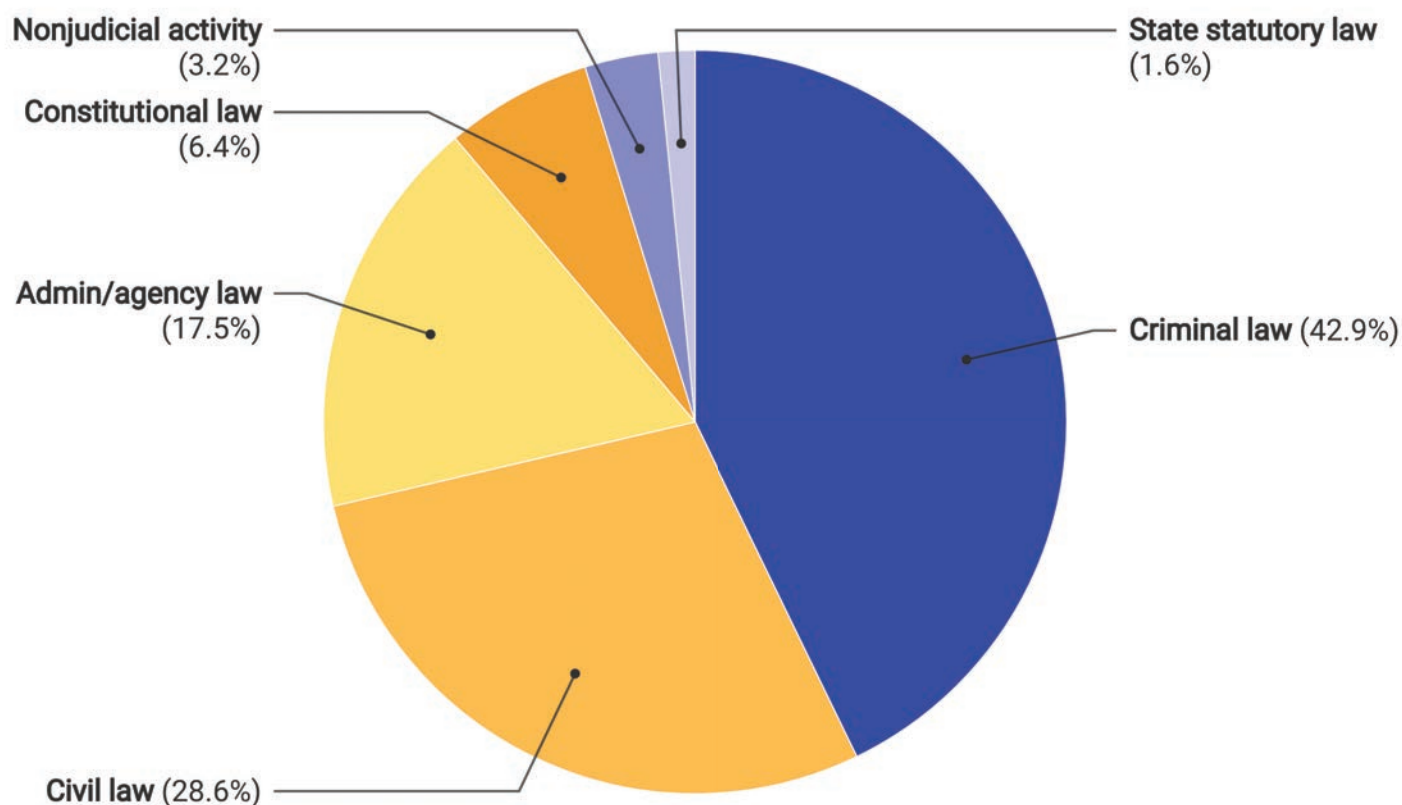
In 2020 there was a lone dissenter in seven cases decided by the Illinois Supreme Court. Justices Neville and Kilbride were lone dissenters in two cases each.

## COURT JURISDICTION

The Illinois Supreme Court has limited original jurisdiction, hears appeals of right in cases where the constitutionality of laws has been called into question, and has a docket of discretionary appeal from the Illinois Appellate Court. Along with the state legislature, the court sets rules for the state judiciary. The court has general administrative and supervisory authority over all courts in the state, which is exercised by the chief justice with the assistance of the administrative director and staff appointed by the supreme court. The supreme court hears

appeals from lower courts and may exercise original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, mandamus, prohibition, or habeas corpus. Its members also have the authority to appoint trial judges to the appellate court on a temporary basis.

## Case types decided by Illinois Supreme Court, 2020



**BALLOT**PEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2020 were criminal cases. Of the 63 cases it heard, 27 were criminal cases, or 42.9 percent of its total caseload for the year. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were civil cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Illinois Supreme Court heard 18 civil cases in 2020, or 28.6 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were administrative law cases. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. The Illinois Supreme Court heard 11 admin law cases in 2020, or 17.5 percent of its total caseload for the year.