

TABLE 2.1 AmericasBarometer Questions on Support for Democracy and Citizen Participation Rights

Preference for democracy as a system of government:

1. *Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*
1 (Completely disagree) . . . 7 (Completely agree).

Support for basic participation rights:

I am going to read you a list of some actions people can take to achieve their political goals and objectives. On a scale of 1 (strongly disapprove) to 10 (strongly approve), how strongly would you approve or disapprove of people taking the following actions:

2. *Of people participating in legal demonstrations?*
3. *Of people participating in an organization or group to try to solve community problems?*
4. *Of people working for campaigns for a political party or candidate?*

Political tolerance (support for dissenters' participation rights):

There are people who only say bad things about [this country's] form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. On a scale of 1 (strongly disapprove) to 10 (strongly approve), how strongly do you disapprove or approve of the following?

5. *Of such people's right to vote?*
6. *That such people should be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views?*
7. *Of such people being permitted to run for public office?*
8. *Of such people appearing on television to make speeches?*