Public Opinion Polling on Abortion in 2019

Nationwide polling:

- **Only 27% of adults** think abortion should always be legal. 36% say it should be illegal in all or most cases.
  - 65% of Republicans **approve** of the way President Trump is handling the abortion issue.
  - 61% of adults say abortion is “very important” (47%) or “one of the single most important issues” (14%) in their vote for president (Washington Post/ABC News, June-July 2019).

- **A majority (50%) of voters** – including 55% of Independents – are less likely to support Joe Biden (35% strongly less likely to support) following his announcement that he supports using tax dollars to pay for abortions after decades of opposing taxpayer funding of abortion.
- **55% of voters** – including 35% of Democrats and 57% of Independents – oppose using federal tax dollars to pay for abortions under Medicaid (40% strongly oppose).
- **57% of voters** – including 61% of women – oppose taxpayer funding of experiments that use organs and other body parts from aborted babies (41% strongly oppose).
- **54% of voters** – including 69% of Republicans and 59% of Independents – disapprove of big corporations, such as Netflix and Disney, getting involved with abortion politics (40% strongly disapprove) (SBA List/McLaughlin & Associates, June 2019).

- **One in three American voters** say abortion will be a top factor in their vote for president next year, including 2% who say it is the most important issue and 32% who say it is very important to them.
  - Another 30% say this issue will be a somewhat important factor in their vote, while 17% rate it as not too important and 17% as not at all important (Monmouth, June 2019).

- **46% of likely voters** consider themselves pro-life (48% pro-choice).
  - **Only 18% think abortion should be permitted in all cases**, including a minority of Democrats (31%) and Independents (15%).
  - **76% support** requiring doctors to provide medical care to infants who survive an abortion, including 71% of Democrats, 76% of Independents, and 74% of suburban women (Heritage Action for America, June 2019).

- **70% of Americans** think abortion should be limited to, at most, the first trimester. Only 18% think abortion should be permitted at any point during pregnancy.
  - 65% of Americans support requiring a 24-hour waiting period prior to an abortion.
  - 64% support requiring abortionists to have hospital admitting privileges.
  - A majority (52%) support requiring that a woman be shown an ultrasound image at least 24 hours prior to an abortion.

- Abortion is the second most important issue for Republicans in deciding their vote for president (NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist, May-June 2019).
The majority (52%) of Americans say abortion should always be illegal (18%) or legal only in a few circumstances (48%).

30% of Americans say they would only vote for a candidate for major office who shares their views on abortion (CNN-SSRS, May 2019).

53% of Independents and 32% of Democrats think abortion should be limited or not permitted at all.

“Men and women overall hold similar views on what should happen with Roe v. Wade” (CBS News/SSRS, May 2019).

Only 8% of Americans said abortions should be permitted up until the third trimester, and only 6% said abortion should be allowed up until birth (Harvard CAPS/Harris, May 2019).

53% of U.S. adults believe abortion should be legal “only under certain circumstances”; 21% think it should be completely illegal; and only 25% favor no limits.

Of those who said only under certain circumstances, 39% said “only a few” (13% said “most circumstances”).

By nearly a 10-point margin, self-identified pro-life adults are more likely (35%) than self-identified pro-choice adults (26%) to say they will only vote for a candidate for major office who shares their views on abortion.

49% of Americans identify as pro-life, versus 46% who identify as pro-choice (Gallup, May 1-12, 2019).

58% of U.S. adults say late-term abortion after five months of pregnancy should not be legal (Reuters/Ipsos, May 2019).

34% of registered voters say laws protecting unborn children when a heartbeat can be detected are “just right,” while 21% say they are “too lenient.”

The margin of difference between women and men was not statistically significant.

Voters age 34 and under were the most likely (27%) to say these laws do not go far enough (Hill-HarrisX, May 2019).

48% of Americans identify as “pro-life” (48% “pro-choice”).

The majority of Americans (53%) say abortion should be legal in only a few (35%) or no circumstances (18%). Over the last 25 years, no fewer than 51% of Americans have favored laws limiting abortion.

More Americans consider abortion morally wrong (48%) than morally acceptable (43%). Americans’ views on abortion have not become more liberal over the past two decades (Gallup, May 1-10, 2019).

77% of voters support legislation to ensure that a baby who survives a failed abortion be given the same medical treatment as any other baby born prematurely at the same age (55% strongly support).

62% of voters oppose legislation to allow late-term abortions even up to the point when a woman is in labor (50% strongly oppose) (SBA List/McLaughlin & Associates, Feb. 2019).

34% of Democrats identify as pro-life, 61 percent pro-choice (compared to 20% and 75% in January).

Among Americans under the age of 45, 47% identify as pro-life and 48% pro-choice (compared to 28% and 65% in January).

80% of Americans would limit abortion to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy (up from 75% in January), including two-thirds of pro-choice Americans, 64% of Democrats, and 83% of Independents (Marist/K of C, Feb. 2019).
• Three in four Americans (75%) say abortion should be limited to – at most – the first three months of pregnancy, including 78% of Independents, 60% of Democrats, and 61% of people who identify as pro-choice (Marist/Knights of Columbus, Jan. 2019).

• Millennials:
  o Seven of 10 Millennials support limits on abortion through specific policies like parental notification, limiting late-term abortions after five months of pregnancy, and opposition to taxpayer funding of abortion.
  o Only 7% shared the position of the Democratic Party platform: unlimited, taxpayer-funded abortion.
  o 41% of Millennials support reversing Roe and returning abortion to the states.
  o 65% of Millennials support the right to vote on abortion-related policy and want a voice on abortion policy.
  o 56% of Millennials oppose selling abortion drugs online or dropping the requirement for a physical exam because of the risks to women.
  o By about a three-to-one margin (48% to 17%), Millennials said they preferred that their tax dollars went to Federally Qualified Health Centers rather than Planned Parenthood, America’s largest abortion business.
  o 51% said that they opposed Roe when they understood it allows abortion at any point during pregnancy (Institute for Pro-Life Advancement/The Polling Company, inc./WomanTrend, Jan. 2019).

State-level polling:

• Florida
  o 76% of Florida voters – including 64% of Democrats, 75% of Independents, 77% of women, and 53% of self-described pro-choice voters – support a law prohibiting late-term abortions (only 24% support allowing late-term abortions).
  o 73% of Florida voters – including 60% of Democrats, 70% of Independents, and 58% of self-described pro-choice voters – support legislation that would require parental consent before a minor can receive an abortion (only 27% oppose parental consent) (SBA List/Tarrance Group, March 2019).

• Maine
  o 62% of Maine voters – including 60% of Independents, 44% of Democrats, 64% of women, and over a third (38%) of self-described pro-choice voters – oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.
  o When told the legislature is considering a bill that would require taxpayer funding of abortion for Medicaid enrollees for any reason, 62% of voters remain opposed to expanding taxpayer funding of abortion in Maine (SBA List/Tarrance Group, April-May 2019).

• Massachusetts
  o 62% of Massachusetts voters – including 49% of Democrats, 66% of Independents, and 44% of self-described pro-choice voters – oppose allowing more late-term abortions (only 38% support).
  o Three in four voters (74%) – including 74% of Democrats, 74% of women, and 77% of pro-choice voters – support existing law that requires late-term abortions after 24 weeks to be performed in hospitals (only 26% oppose).
  o 62% of voters – including 55% of Democrats, 60% of women, and 52% of pro-choice voters – support Massachusetts’ existing law that requires parental consent before a minor can receive an abortion (only 38% oppose) (SBA List/Tarrance Group, April-May 2019).

• Missouri
- 82% of Missouri voters – including 66% of Democrats, 83% of Independents, 83% of women, and 61% of self-described pro-choice voters – support a law prohibiting late-term abortions (only 18% support allowing late-term abortions) (SBA List/Tarrance Group, Feb. 2019).

- New York
  - 75% of New Yorkers – including 69% of Democrats and 73% of Independents – oppose late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, even though New Yorkers identify nearly two-to-one (62%) as pro-choice.
  - 66% of New Yorkers – including 54% of Democrats and 65% of Independents – said they would limit abortion to, at most, the first trimester of pregnancy (Marist/K of C, March 2019).

- Ohio
  - Only 22% of Ohio voters think abortion should always be legal. 37% say it should be illegal all or most of the time. Those percentages were identical for women and men (Quinnipiac, July 2019).

- Rhode Island
  - 73% of Rhode Island voters – including 63% of Democrats, 77% of Independents, and 56% of self-described pro-choice voters – oppose late-term abortions in general.
  - When told that the legislature is considering a bill that would allow abortions up until birth, for any reason, 77% of Rhode Island voters – including 69% of Democrats, 79% of Independents, 80% of women, and 62% of self-described pro-choice voters – say they oppose allowing abortions up until birth (SBA List/Tarrance Group, April-May 2019).

- Texas
  - Nearly half (48%) of Texas voters – including 27% of Democrats, 41% of Independents, and 46% of women – would support a law protecting unborn children when their heartbeat can be detected (42% oppose) (University of Texas/Texas Tribune, May-June 2019).