



## 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:
  - **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.
  - **Only 7% shared the position of the Democratic Party platform:** unlimited, taxpayer-funded abortion.
  - 41% of Millennials support reversing *Roe* and returning abortion to the states.
  - 65% of Millennials support the right to vote on abortion-related policy and want a voice on abortion policy.
  - 56% of Millennials oppose selling abortion drugs online or dropping the requirement for a physical exam because of the risks to women.
  - 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.
  - 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
  - **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).
  - **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
  - **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.
  - 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
  - **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).
  - **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).
  - **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).