

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Hart Research Associates

DATE: December 6, 2010

RE: Key Findings From Recent Survey

From November 5 to 8, 2010, Hart Research conducted a nationwide poll among 802 registered voters. The survey's margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points. Following is a summary of the survey's key findings.

Key Findings

A strong majority of U.S. voters express strong opposition to a range of women's health policies that Republican leadership in Congress have discussed introducing in the next Congress, including the following issues:

- 77% of voters disagree with making abortion illegal, even in cases of rape or incest (including 68% of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010).
- 74% disagree that teens should only receive abstinence-only education, not information about contraception or STDs (including 68% of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010).
- 74% disagree with making women who choose to purchase private health insurance with their own money pay higher taxes if that includes abortion coverage (including 71% of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010).
- 71% disagree with cutting federal funding for preventive health services at Planned Parenthood health centers around the country (including 60% of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010).
- 69% disagree with banning common forms of birth control, including IUDs and emergency contraception (including 65% of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010).

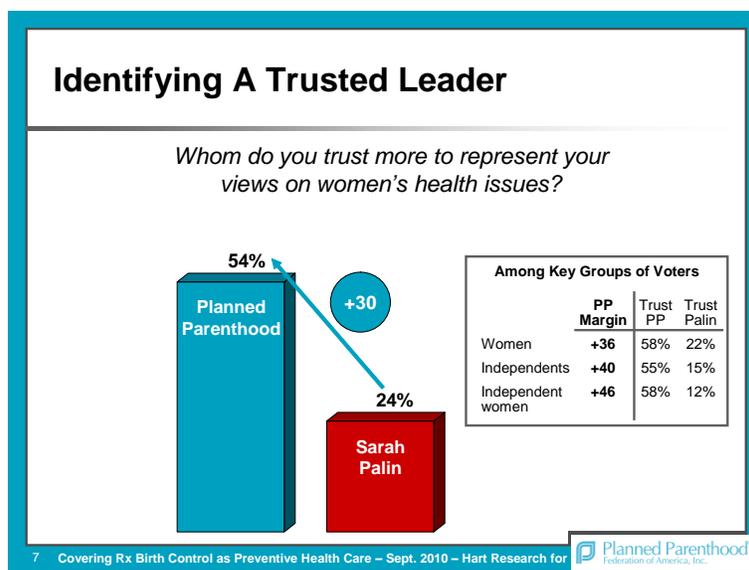
By contrast, voters show strong support for proactive family planning policies, such as comprehensive sex education and reducing unintended pregnancies through greater access to birth control.

- 88% support education for teens that includes information about abstinence as well as birth control and preventing STDs.
- 75% support policies to reduce unintended pregnancies through greater access to birth control.
- Broad majorities of all demographic and attitudinal subgroups support both of these proactive family planning policies, including Republicans, independents, and Democrats, as well as voters who want to see Roe v. Wade overturned.

Planned Parenthood stands out with a strong majority (59%) of voters as being “in step” with their views on reproductive health issues such as sex education, birth control, and abortion. With just about one in four (26%) describing Planned Parenthood’s views as “out of step,” Planned Parenthood enjoys a 33-point net-positive rating on these issues.

In fact, by a 30-point margin, voters trust Planned Parenthood more than Sarah Palin on women’s health issues (54% trust Planned Parenthood more, 24% trust Sarah Palin more).

- Among all women voters, 58% trust Planned Parenthood more while just 22% trust Palin more (36-point Planned Parenthood advantage).
- Among all independent voters, 55% trust Planned Parenthood more while just 15% trust Palin (40-point Planned Parenthood advantage).
- Further, by a 12-point-net negative margin, voters say Sarah Palin is “out of step” (43%), rather than “in step” (31%) with their views on reproductive health issues such as sex education, birth control, and abortion (compared to Planned Parenthood’s 33 point net-positive rating).



Importantly, a majority (56%) of voters admit that they do not know where presumptive Speaker Boehner stands on reproductive health issues. Among those who cannot characterize Boehner's position on these issues, there is widespread concern about some of the legislative priorities he may put forth.

For example:

- 73% oppose making women pay higher taxes for choosing to purchase private health insurance that covers abortion.
- 72% oppose cutting federal funding for Planned Parenthood.
- 76% support policies that reduce unintended pregnancies through greater access to birth control.
- 90% support sex education that includes information about birth control and preventing STDs along with information about abstinence.