

## ICYMI: Pivot and Dodge: Kavanaugh's (Only) Strategy

Today's Senate Judiciary Committee made it clear that Brett Kavanaugh is not going to give one straight answer on *Roe v. Wade* and the constitutional right to have an abortion. Kavanaugh has avoided answering questions about abortion, pre-existing conditions, and women's health -- making it clear that how he would rule is not in line with the American people. Why would he avoid answering questions about abortion? The [polling](#) says it all.

Unsurprisingly, he isn't fooling anybody:

[LA Times](#): Kavanaugh sticks to his position on guns, dodges questions about abortion, presidential power

"Most legal experts predict that Kavanaugh, if confirmed, will provide the fifth conservative vote on the court to restrict abortion rights or overturn *Roe*. During his campaign, Trump promised to appoint only judges who would vote to overturn the abortion ruling.

"But Kavanaugh gave no assurances about how he might vote, and nothing he said would prevent him from voting to restrict abortion rights on the court. Many Supreme Court nominees speak about the importance of respecting precedents, and then once on the court vote to overturn them."

[Vice](#): Brett Kavanaugh dodged abortion questions by saying he lives "in the real world"

"One of the important things to keep in mind about *Roe v. Wade* is that it has been reaffirmed many times over the past 45 years,' Kavanaugh responded. But Feinstein emphasized that she wanted to know how Kavanaugh would vote if such a case were presented before him, and demanded a 'yes' or 'no' answer on whether he would reaffirm the rulings in *Roe v. Wade* or *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. **But Kavanaugh didn't give that 'yes' or 'no' response, answering instead another question that no one had asked: Does he live in a bubble, and if not, where does he live?**

"His response will do little to assuage the protesters and advocates who have honed in on the law as a rallying point, however. Of the 70 protesters arrested during the committee's opening statements regarding Kavanaugh on Tuesday, a whopping 63 were women. And as more people were arrested Wednesday morning and escorted out of the hearing, one person could be heard on the live stream shouting, 'Save *Roe*, vote no!'"

[Vox](#): Brett Kavanaugh was asked about abortion in his confirmation hearing. His answer tells us nothing.

"Pressed again, Kavanaugh said that *Roe* had been reaffirmed in [Planned Parenthood v. Casey](#), the 1992 decision that established that laws could not place an "undue burden" on a person's right to an abortion. Casey, he said, was 'precedent on precedent.'"

"Kavanaugh was saying that *Roe* was not a one-off decision, but had been reaffirmed many times, most notably in *Casey*. To some, that might indicate an unwillingness to reconsider *Roe*. But as [Feinstein noted](#) in her opening statement on Tuesday, **Kavanaugh has been open to going against precedent in the past where abortion rights are concerned.**"

[The Guardian](#): Brett Kavanaugh sidesteps Senate questions on Roe v Wade

“Chief among them was his views on abortion amid concerns that Kavanaugh’s confirmation will all but ensure an end to legal abortion across the US, long a goal of ultra-conservatives. But in the hearing Kavanaugh largely danced around the issue by reciting the facts of the case without disclosing his own legal view.

“Kavanaugh’s comments will do little to pacify skeptics, who have cited his opposition to a court ruling last year that an undocumented immigrant teenager who was in government custody was entitled to seek an abortion.”

[TPM](#): Brett Kavanaugh Dances Around Views On Abortion

“Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh walked a careful line as Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) questioned him about his views on Supreme Court decisions establishing abortion rights.”