

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FR:** Lincoln Park Strategies  
**RE:** Legislative Priorities in Maine: Survey Results  
**DATE:** May 2, 2019

With so many legislative proposals coming to the floor as the current session wraps up, we felt it would be helpful to gauge the opinions of voters<sup>1</sup> to determine how Mainers feel about how things are going in the state as well as determine their views on upcoming legislation. With a majority of Mainers (58%) believing the state is going in the right direction, one thing is clear: Mainers are concerned about the cost of health care and support proposals that ensure coverage, regardless of insurance type, for medical care including abortion services.

While 65% personally believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases (including 62% in CD2, 68% of unenrolled voters, and 46% of Republicans), regardless of their personal feelings, a majority of voters say that if a woman has decided to have an abortion the experience should be supportive (83%), affordable (79%), available in her community (79%), without added burdens (76%), and covered by her insurance (70%).

Put simply, a majority (76%) believe women should be able to make their own medical decisions about abortion without politicians and insurance companies denying care. Indeed, more than seven in ten Mainers believe politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman's health coverage for abortion just because she's poor (74%), and that it's vital a woman is able to consider all her options--including abortion--no matter what type of health insurance she has (72%). Regardless of age, gender, party, or region, a majority of Mainers agree that politicians and insurance companies should not be denying women coverage for abortion services.

Not only do Mainers believe that abortion should be covered by insurance, but they are supportive of legislation to guarantee this coverage. Indeed, two-thirds of Maine voters (66%) support efforts in the state legislature to make sure all pregnancy-related care, including abortion care, is covered by insurance. Support is consistent with all age groups, in both congressional districts in the state, and with more than seven in ten Democrats and unenrolled voters supporting the efforts. Additionally, more than two in five Republicans (44%) also support efforts to ensure insurance coverage of pregnancy-related care, including abortion, and when asked whether programs for low-income women should cover abortion and birth control, 72% agreed while only 10% strongly disagreed.

<sup>1</sup>500 interviews among registered voters were conducted from April 16-April 22, 2019 using both land line and cell phone numbers and the results were weighted to ensure proportional responses. The margin of error is  $\pm 4.38$  percent at the 95% confidence level.

Even when questioners emphasized Medicaid coverage of abortion, a majority of Mainers (51%) and a plurality of Republicans (49%) and voters who think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases (48%), still support abortion coverage.

Maine voters are clearly looking to their legislators to ensure abortion services are covered by insurance.

Maine voters' feelings about abortion and a candidate's position on abortion is consistent with national polling. Among Maine Democrats who say a candidate's position on abortion is very important, 84% believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases and only 16% believe it should be illegal in all or most cases. Similarly, among Maine Republicans who say a candidate's position on abortion is very important, 46% believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases and 54% believe it should be illegal in all or most case.

Upcoming legislation in Maine provides new opportunities for elected officials to listen to the needs and desires of their constituents. Luckily for legislators in Augusta, Mainers are sending a clear message that they are highly supportive of upcoming legislative proposals that work to ensure quality, affordable health care coverage, including coverage of abortion, for all Mainers.