

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: May 6, 2022
RE: Poll Finds Broad Support for Keeping Abortion Legal in Minnesota

This memo outlines findings from an online survey conducted by Hart Research Associates among 805 registered voters in Minnesota from March 1 to 6, 2022, before the Supreme Court draft decision overturning Roe v. Wade was leaked in May. The sample is representative of registered voters statewide by demographic characteristics, including gender, age, education, race, and region of the state, and reflects the results of the 2020 presidential vote.

1. Overwhelming majorities (74%) of Minnesota voters favor a proposed state law establishing the fundamental right to abortion, and 65% would oppose new severe restrictions on abortion.

- Upon reading a description of the Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act, a proposed law that would establish Minnesotans’ fundamental right to make their own decisions regarding reproductive healthcare, including abortion, 74% say they favor this proposal, including 49% who strongly favor it. Significant majorities across gender, age, race, and region of the state favor the PRO Act, as do majorities of Democrats (95%), independents (78%), and Republicans (52%).

Proposed Law to Establish Minnesotans’ Fundamental Right to Abortion					
	FAVOR		OPPOSE		
	%	%	%	%	
All Voters	74	26	All Voters	74	26
Women	76	24	Age 18 to 34	77	23
Men	72	28	Age 35 to 49	78	22
White voters	74	26	Age 50 to 64	74	26
Voters of color	77	23	Age 65+	67	33
Twin Cities	77	23	Democrats	95	5
Twin Cities Suburbs	75	25	Independents	78	22
Rest of State	71	29	Republicans	52	48

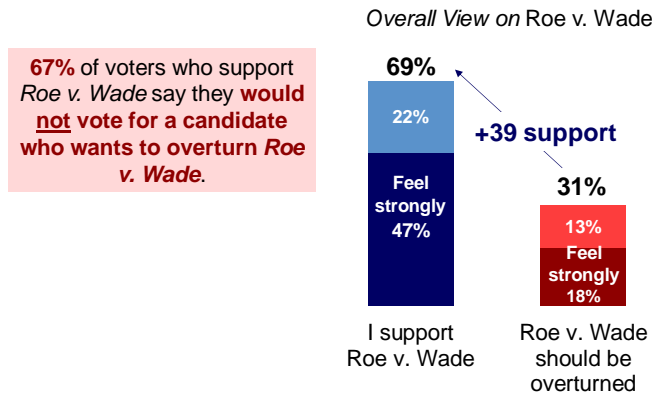
- Two in three (65%) voters oppose the state passing new laws that would severely restrict Minnesotans’ ability to get safe and legal abortions, including 44% who strongly oppose such laws.
- Across the electorate, majorities across gender, age, race, and region of the state want to keep abortion legal in MN. A solid majority (60%) of Minnesota voters believe abortion should be legal in all cases (27%) or in most cases with some restrictions (33%). Only 26% believe that abortion should be legal in just a few cases, and 14% say it should never be legal.

2. Seven in 10 (69%) Minnesota voters support Roe v. Wade, and a candidate for state office opposing Roe is a dealbreaker for many when considering their vote this fall.

- Fully 69% of voters, including nearly half (47%) who feel strongly, say they support Roe v. Wade after reading a brief description of the 1973 decision.
- Among voters who support the decision, 67% say they would not vote for a candidate for a major office in Minnesota who wants to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Spotlighting a candidate's position on *Roe* changes voters' views.

The Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman's constitutional right to decide for herself whether to have an abortion and it limited the circumstances under which government could restrict this right. (info before questions)



- The leaked Supreme Court draft decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* defies voters' expectations: when the survey was conducted in March, only 23% of voters thought the decision would be overturned, including just 4% who thought it would *definitely* be overturned. Half (48%) believed the decision would not be overturned, and 29% did not know enough to say.

3. Voters are alarmed at the idea of an abortion ban in Minnesota and the potential far-reaching consequences of losing *Roe v. Wade*.

- Seven in 10 (69%) say it is a big concern that a bill to ban all abortions without any exceptions for rape, incest, or life of the mother was introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives.
- Fully 63% say it is a big concern that if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, more than 36 million women in the United States could lose access to safe legal abortion.

4. Majorities of voters say they are less likely to vote for state legislative candidates with anti-abortion views and more likely to vote for candidates who will protect abortion rights.

- Ahead of the elections for Minnesota state offices this November, solid majorities of voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who:
 - Wants to criminalize abortion and fine or arrest doctors who perform abortions (64% less likely to vote for a candidate who supports).
 - Wants to ban all abortions in Minnesota (62% less likely to vote for).
 - Has praised the Texas law banning abortion as early as six weeks and awarding \$10,000 to those who report women for having abortions (64% less likely to vote for).
- Candidates who will protect abortion rights have the backing of Minnesota voters: majorities say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who wants to pass a law in Minnesota that will protect the right to safe, legal abortion (60%) and who has promised to fight to keep abortion safe and legal in Minnesota (59%).