

Fact Sheet: Voters Want Candidates Who Support Reproductive Rights & Freedoms

Background: Championing abortion access and reproductive health care isn't just good policy, it's also at the top of mind for voters and led to major victories in 2018 and 2019. The majority of voters of all political parties oppose overturning *Roe v. Wade* — Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters alike. And Americans are increasingly concerned that politicians are making it too difficult to access safe, legal abortion.

Support for abortion is the highest it has ever been, and it's growing.

- A Pew Research Center survey from 2019 showed that seven-in-ten respondents said they do not want to see the *Roe v. Wade* decision completely overturned. [Pew Research Center survey, [8/29/19](#)]
- An NBC News and Wall Street Journal poll found support for abortion at “a record high” for their survey, and demonstrated “a solid majority of Americans believe abortion should be completely or mostly legal.” [NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, [6/20/19](#)]
- A PBS NewsHour, NPR, and Marist poll found that 77% of Americans oppose overturning *Roe v. Wade*. [PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll, [6/07/19](#)]
- The majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters alike support *Roe v. Wade* and do not want to see it overturned, and that support is climbing. [Perry Udem survey, [1/11/18](#)], [NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, [6/20/19](#)]
 - Groups with a majority opposed to overturning *Roe v. Wade* include Republican men and Trump voters. [ABC News/Washington Post poll, [7/07/19](#)], [Perry Udem survey, [1/11/18](#)]

Americans are concerned that abortion is becoming too difficult to access — the extreme anti-abortion laws being pushed by Republican-controlled legislatures do not reflect the views of most Americans.

- A majority of Americans are concerned that states are making it too difficult for people to get an abortion. [Pew Research Center survey, [8/29/19](#)]
- Abortion laws pushed by Republican-controlled state legislatures “go against the views of most Americans;” with the state bans on abortion early in pregnancy opposed by nearly 60 percent of Americans. [PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll, [6/07/19](#)]

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- There is no state in the nation where making abortion illegal is popular. [Public Religion Research Institute, [8/13/19](#)]
- Recently, anti-abortion politicians have stepped out of the mainstream to push more and more extreme legislation, “even at the risk of alienating some of their constituents who hold more nuanced views on abortion.” [PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll, [6/07/19](#)]

Abortion is a leading issue for Americans going into 2020, and it’s driving voters to the polls.

- Strong visions to protect abortion access helped Democrats win in 2018. [PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll, [6/07/19](#)]
 - Example: In Virginia, where both legislative chambers flipped to pro-reproductive rights majorities in 2019, a vast majority of Virginians said that they would be less likely to support a candidate who supports abortion bans. [Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy, [10/07/19](#)]
- Democrats and independent voters said they are more likely to support a candidate for president who supports rights and access to abortion. [Supermajority/PerryUndem poll, [8/19/19](#)]
- According to a CNN Iowa poll, “8 in 10 likely Iowa caucus-goers say abortion rights are a ‘must have’ for any potential candidate they support ... This also makes abortion rights the highest supported issue in the survey.” [CNN Iowa poll, [6/10/19](#)]

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