

ABORTION · Published January 20, 2022 10:16am EST

71% of Americans support abortion restrictions: poll

The poll found most Americans want the states to decide the abortion issue, in contrast to *Roe v. Wade*



By Tyler O'Neil | Fox News



Texas abortion law stands: Supreme Court

Alexandria Hoff describes the latest Supreme Court ruling on Texas' abortion law and the continuing legal challenges on 'Special Report.'

NEW You can now listen to Fox News articles!

Listen to this article

BeyondWords

0:00 / 5:20
1X

The vast majority of Americans support restrictions on [abortion](#), according to a new poll sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and conducted by Marist Poll. The poll also found that a majority of

Americans want to return abortion restrictions to the states, in contrast to the central ruling of [Roe v. Wade \(1973\)](#).

"When it comes to the direction of government policy, there has been consistency and consensus in American public opinion on the issue of abortion over the decades," Dr. Barbara Carvalho, director of the Marist Poll, said in a press release on the results.

"As we await a decision in the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, our polling continues to show that over 60% of Americans reject the central holding of *Roe v. Wade*, and want to return the decision to the states or make abortion illegal," Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said in the release. *Dobbs v. Jackson* centers on whether all pre-viability restrictions on elective abortion are unconstitutional.

PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES RIP KAMALA HARRIS' PREDICTION THAT 'WOMEN WILL DIE' IF ROE V. WADE IS OVERTURNED

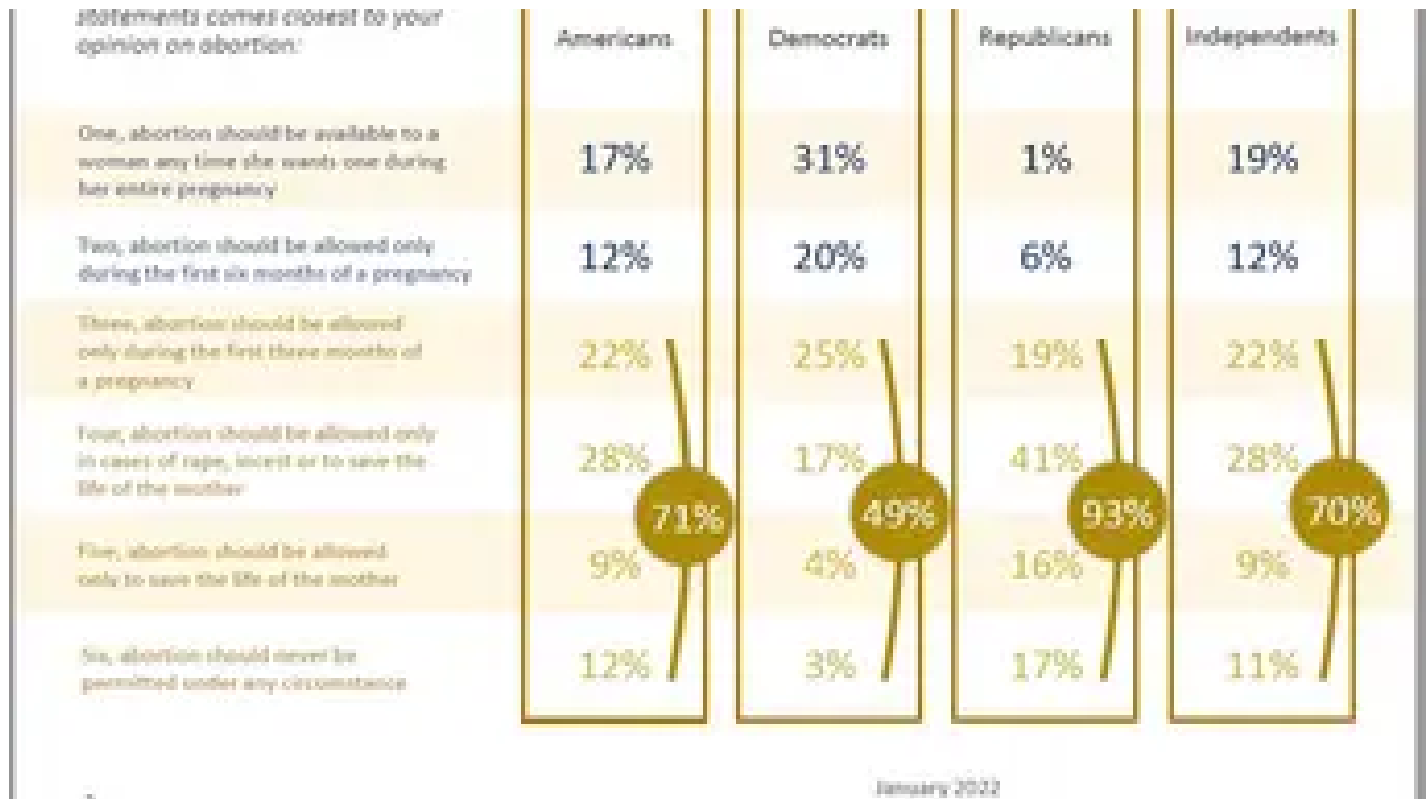
The Knights of Columbus-Marist poll does not just ask Americans whether or not they support *Roe v. Wade* or whether they identify as "pro-life" or "pro-choice," but rather presents in-depth questions about abortion issues, probing Americans' public policy opinions rather than identity markers.

"When asked about their actual opinion, 71% of Americans support real restrictions that are more pro-life than federal law and the laws of many states," Timothy Saccoccia, vice president at the Knights of Columbus, said on a press call regarding the poll. He noted that 54% of Americans identify as "pro-choice," but this label does not translate to a support to unlimited abortion.

The poll presented six options on abortion restrictions: "abortion should be available to a woman at any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy"; "abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy"; "abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy"; "abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother"; "abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother"; and "abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance."

Most Americans (71%) said that abortion should be restricted to the first three months of pregnancy (22%) or in other limited circumstances such as rape and incest (28%), to save the life of the mother

(9%) or not at all (12%). Only 17% of Americans said abortion should be available during an entire pregnancy and 12% said it should be restricted to the first six months.

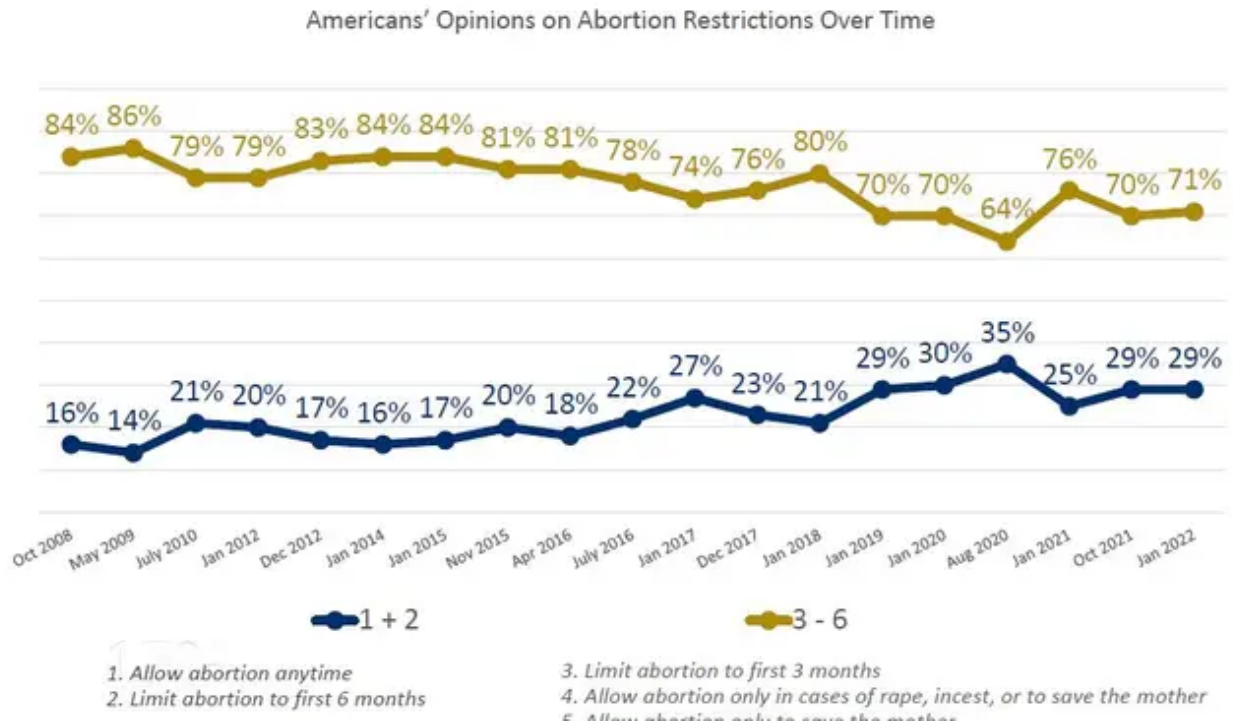


Knights of Columbus/Marist poll on abortion restrictions (Knights of Columbus/Marist Poll)

Even almost half of Democrats (49%) supported tight restrictions, with only 31% saying abortion should be available during all nine months of pregnancy. A vast majority of Republicans (93%) supported tight restrictions on abortion, while only 1% said abortion should be available throughout all of pregnancy. Most Independents (70%) also supported tight restrictions, while only 19% said abortion should be available throughout pregnancy.

CHRISTIANS FROM DIFFERENT RACES, DENOMINATIONS AND PARTIES GATHER TO PRAY BEFORE SUPREME COURT ABORTION CASE

Support for tight restrictions has remained consistent over time, with between 64% and 86% of Americans supporting restricting abortion to the first three months of pregnancy, cases of rape, incest, or threats to the life of the mother, or banning the practice entirely.



Knights of Columbus/Marist poll on abortion restrictions (Knights of Columbus/Marist Poll)

The poll also found that a plurality of Americans support banning abortion at the point in which the unborn baby can feel pain.

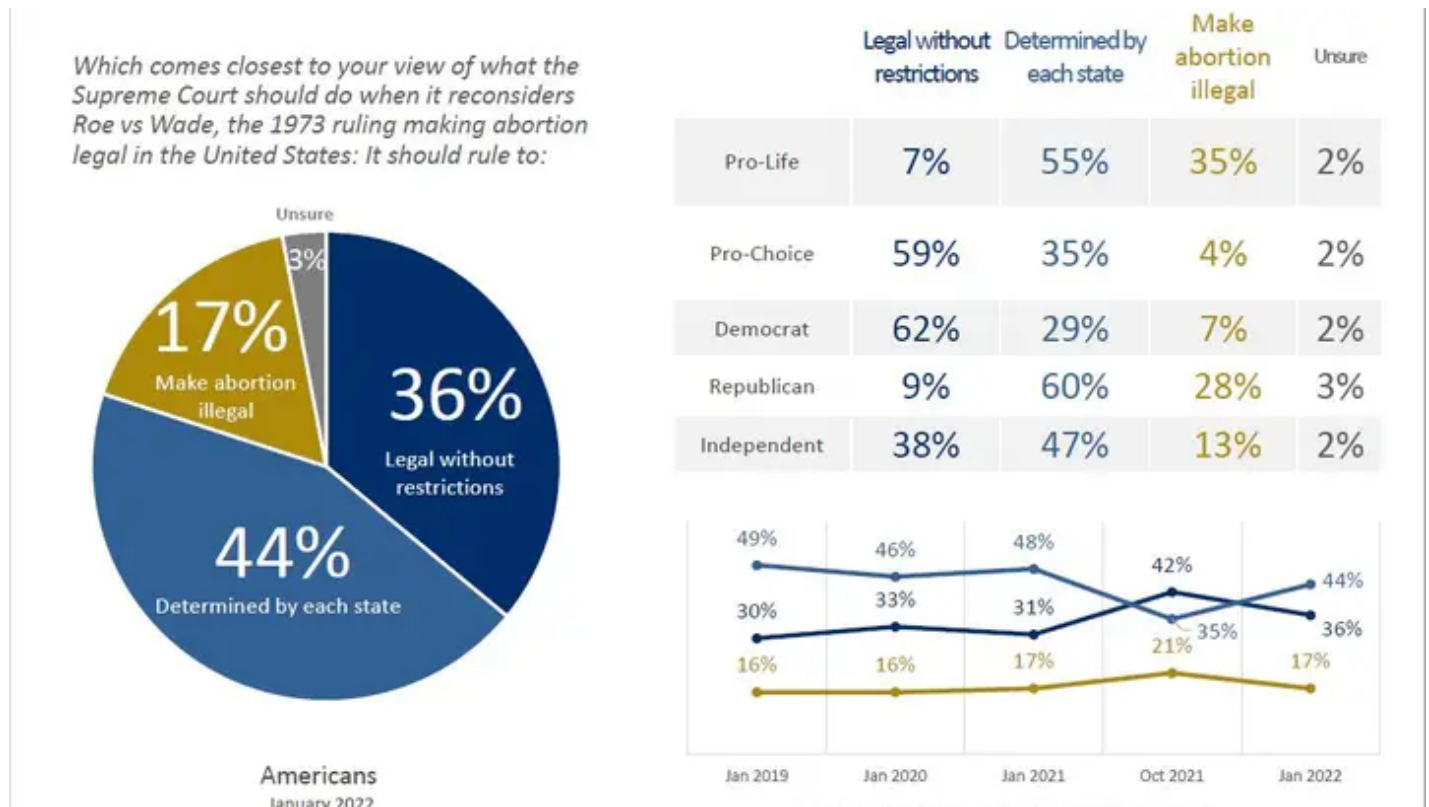
"If abortion remains legal in the United States including for cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, at which point should abortions for other reasons be limited?" pollsters asked. Forty-two percent of Americans said abortion should be banned at "the point at which a fetus can feel pain," while 36% said it should be banned at "the point at which a fetus can live outside the womb," the position established in Roe v. Wade. Many Americans (11%) said they are unsure on that question.

NEW DEM GROUP AIMS TO 'PUT THE NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF THE ABORTION INDUSTRY'

Rather than just asking whether respondents support Roe v. Wade or want it overturned, Marist asked respondents what the Supreme Court should do when it considers the Roe v. Wade ruling.

Although 36% of Americans said abortion should remain legal without restrictions, a position more in line with Roe, most Americans (61%) would either have the court make abortion illegal (17%) or have the issue determined by each state (44%), both positions that would involve overturning Roe.

A [September Fox News poll](#) found that 65% of Americans said they support Roe v. Wade when asked directly about the decision, not about the specific policy issues.



Knights of Columbus/Marist poll on Roe v. Wade

"Roe v. Wade was wrong when it was decided, and its legacy is the tragic destruction of more than 60 million unborn lives and countless wounded women," Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said. "The time has come for America to turn the page on Roe."

[CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP](#)

The Marist Poll conducted the survey of 1,004 adults between Jan. 4 and Jan. 9, 2022, in partnership with the Knights of Columbus. Marist selected adults 18 years of age and older residing in the contiguous United States, contacted on landline or mobile numbers and interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Results are statistically significant within ±3.3 percentage points. There are 849 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ±3.6 percentage points.

Tyler O'Neil is an editor at Fox News. On Twitter: [@Tyler2ONeil](#). News tips can be sent to: tyler.oneil@fox.com.



Conversation 1.1K Comments

What do you think?

Sort by Best ▾

s schnellimbiss · 20 January, 2022



In the woke democracy we have now it doesn't matter if its 71% or 99%. The rulers will always cater to the lesser percentage not the majority. (NCAA Women's Swimming?)

Replies 18 2

c chucklasvegas · 20 January, 2022 ...

There are more ways to prevent a pregnancy than there are to end one.

Reply 12 1

c ClassOne180 · 20 January, 2022 ...

All with far less cost and damage

Reply 8 1

w W.Earp · 20 January, 2022 ...

Same people that are prolife are anti education however.

Reply 5 1

Show 1 more reply

k klik395 · 20 January, 2022 ...

I thought we didnt believe polls. Or is it only when they dont fit the narrative?

Reply 20 1

D danieldale · 20 January, 2022 ...

I actually agree with Trump on polls. Polls are partisan, fake, and trash. I've been voting for over 40 years and I've never taken a poll or been asked to participate in one.

Reply 5 1

J jammyjam611 · 20 January, 2022 ...

"The pool found most Americans want the states to decide the abortion issue, in contrast to Roe v. Wade".

How does a "pool" know what Americans want?

Reply 2 1

2 replies

Show 5 more replies

s skroowi · 20 January, 2022 ...

Botched abortions were all the rage before it was made legal. The problem I have with banning it entirely is the "back-alley" clinics that will pop up that are proven by historical

precedent to be unsafe.
There needs to be a middle road.

Reply 11 4

o **olivemarie** · 20 January, 2022 ...

Yeah ...Birth control.

Reply 8 1

T **twashington1960706** · 20 January, 2022 ...

Abortion should be used if the woman's life is in danger or in cases of rape
Imagine aborting the next Einstein, Lebron, Mandela, Martin Luther king?

Reply 1 1

4 replies

Show 2 more replies

valannín · 20 January, 2022 ...

The funny thing is, this was a telephone poll conducted by dialing random numbers in a phone directory. Including landlines.

Which means two things:

1 - No one under the age of 35 participated in this poll, as no one under the age of 35 is answering their phone and having a conversation with a stran...[See more](#)

Reply 3

1 reply

want2believe_ts-13 · 20 January, 2022 ...

Of course the majority of Americans support abortion restrictions. Roe v Wade is inherently a restriction on abortion after viability.

Reply 6

thegoldenrule2240 · 20 January, 2022 ...

Today, a 59% majority of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 39% think abortion should be *illegal* in all or most cases. These views are relatively unchanged in the past few years

Reply 5 1

E **edmundblackadder** · 20 January, 2022 ...

Yeah, apparently 71% of that 59% want it legal with restrictions. Or did you miss that part.

Reply  2 

 1 reply

We_Survived_45 · 20 January, 2022 ...

I think it's interesting that only 17% of the Republicans polled believe abortion should not be permitted under any circumstances, AND 19% of Republicans polled during the first three months. Yet, Texas and other states soon-to-follow are putting in restrictions that only 17% of Republicans suppor...**See more**

Reply  3  1

N **nottasocialist** · 20 January, 2022 ...

Like it or not, there is no mention of abortion in the Constitution. By definition of this document, any powers not expressly granted therein, are States Rights issues by default. This means "we the people" of each state will make the determination.

Reply  2 

R **redtriangle** · 20 January, 2022 ...

Ever heard of the ninth amendment? It essentially says "just cause the right isn't listed here, doesn't mean Americans don't have that right". The founding fathers realized they couldn't predict every single right that would be needed.

Reply  3 

 Show 3 more replies

liberal4ever · 20 January, 2022 ...

Roughly that same 71% think there should be restrictions on gun ownership too. Also, about that same 71% believes abortion should be legal.

From the article: "A September Fox News poll found that **65% of Americans said they support Roe v. Wade when asked directly about the decision**, not about the specific policy issues. "

Reply  12  9

Merlin · 20 January, 2022 ...

First, your 71% on "gun restrictions" is the number of identified DEMOCRATS who think that.

Nice attempt to spin that number.

Second, the 2nd Amendment protects that right....**See more**

Reply  11  1

 2 replies

pathenryi · 20 January, 2022



So, give the SAUCE on the same 71% wanting restrictions on gun control. Plus, just a small detail..but gun ownership is GUARANTEED by the constitution. *(Edited)*

Reply 1

3 replies

Show 2 more replies

Show More Comments

Powered by OpenWeb

[Terms](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#)

Coronavirus

U.S.

- Crime
- Military
- Education
- Terror
- Immigration
- Economy
- Personal Freedoms
- Fox News Investigates

World

Opinion

- U.N.
- Conflicts
- Terrorism
- Disasters
- Global Economy
- Environment
- Religion
- Scandals

Politics

- Executive
- Senate
- House
- Judiciary
- Foreign Policy
- Polls
- Elections

Business

- Personal Finance
- Economy
- Markets
- Watchlist
- Lifestyle
- Real Estate
- Tech

Science

- Archaeology
- Air & Space
- Planet Earth
- Wild Nature
- Natural Science
- Dinosaurs

Entertainment

- Celebrity News
- Movies
- TV News
- Music News
- Style News
- Entertainment Video

Lifestyle

- Food + Drink
- Cars + Trucks
- Travel + Outdoors
- House + Home
- Fitness + Well-being
- Style + Beauty
- Family
- Faith

Tech

- Security
- Innovation
- Drones
- Computers
- Video Games
- Military Tech

Health

- Coronavirus
- Healthy Living
- Medical Research
- Mental Health
- Cancer
- Heart Health
- Children's Health

TV

- Shows
- Personalities
- Watch Live
- Full Episodes
- Show Clips
- News Clips

About

- Contact Us
- Careers
- Fox Around the World
- Advertise With Us
- Media Relations
- Corporate Information
- Compliance
- Supplier Diversity

Other

- Fox Weather
- Fox Nation
- Fox News Shop
- Fox News Go
- Fox News Radio
- Newsletters
- Podcasts
- Apps & Products

[New Terms of Use](#) [New Privacy Policy](#) [Do Not Sell my Personal Information](#) [Closed Captioning Policy](#) [Help](#)
[Contact Us](#) [Accessibility Statement](#)

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. ©2022 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. Quotes displayed in real-time or delayed by at least 15 minutes. Market data provided by Factset. Powered and implemented by FactSet Digital Solutions. Legal Statement. Mutual Fund and ETF data provided by Refinitiv Lipper.