



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Wes Anderson, OnMessage Inc.
Date: July, 2022
Re: Polling Results – GOP National Primary Survey

*On behalf of **Independent Women’s Voice**, OnMessage Inc. is pleased to present findings and analysis from a national survey of N=1,000 Likely Republican Primary Voters. The survey was conducted by live interviewers July 5-7, 2022. The margin of error is 3.1%.*

Our survey explored the implications of a post-Roe political environment for the Republican base, particularly with regards to safe contraception. While a strong majority of the GOP base approves of the recent *Dobbs* decision, they nearly universally oppose restricting access to contraception. Three key findings stuck out:

Republicans Strongly Support Safe Contraception:

- Republican primary voters support safe contraception to the tune of 84% to 7%, with 74% saying they strongly support it. It would be inadequate to characterize GOP support for contraception as merely overwhelming. It’s more than that; at 84% it approaches universal support.
- This intensity is consistent across gender, age, and education, making a definitive majority.

Republicans Want States To Heed the Decision:

- The Supreme Court’s majority opinion made clear that prior cases protecting contraception rights are totally unaffected by this decision, and 81.2% of Republicans want legislators to heed that aspect of the case and not try to restrict contraception.
- Almost three out of four Republicans (74%) feel strongly about states heeding the contraception aspects of the *Dobbs* decision.

Restricting Contraception Loses Votes:

- Support for contraception is not just surface-level; it has clear political implications.
- Republican primary voters reported being 81% less likely to support a lawmaker who tried to restrict access to contraception, with 68.5% much less likely. Only 12% would be more likely to support that lawmaker.
- Perhaps one reason for this split is that 64.9% believed that legally restricting contraception would increase the number of abortions in this country, with 55.2% saying significantly so. Indeed, 66.3% of self-identifying pro-life GOP primary voters agree this would be the result of restricting contraception.
- In contrast, what does not have support are chemical abortifacients once a pregnancy is underway. Abortion pills are opposed 53.5% to 25% with 21.5% DK/refused.

The Pro-Life Position:



- The GOP base clearly distinguishes between methods that *prevent* pregnancies and medications that *end* pregnancies. That framework holds among those who self-describe as pro-life. The GOP's pro-life core – in the survey 77.1% self-identify as pro-life v. 17.6% identifying as pro-choice -- supports the former while strongly rejecting the latter.
- 67% of likely primary voters, and a nearly identical 67.4% of self-identifying pro-life GOP primary voters, say preventive measures of contraception do not present the same ethical concerns as those methods designed to end pregnancy.
- This attitude is notably strong with suburban women (71%) and women under 45 (80%), key swing demographics we must retain.
- Indeed, 78.9% agree with the following statement: "It is a pro-life position to support legal and accessible contraception that prevent pregnancy so that we can prevent abortion from even being considered." Only 8.4% disagreed. Among self-identified pro-life voters, the number who agree with that statement rises to 82.7%.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. Some people who are pro-life say that birth control methods that PREVENT pregnancy, such as the pill and IUDs, do not raise the same ethical questions as medications and procedures that END a pregnancy.

	Agree	Disagree
Topline	67	13
Suburban Women	78	7
Women Under 45	80	9

Conclusion:

While there have always been a few members of the GOP coalition who support restricting, but not outlawing, common contraception, they represent a tiny fraction of all GOP primary voters – and hold a position that is unpopular among primary voters. That is why the issue has never been seriously debated among the Republican base in the last 30 years. However, since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*, the Democrats have falsely attempted to make the argument that eliminating contraception is a Republican goal, and that the *Dobbs* ruling opens the door to banning contraception -- even though the Court's majority ruling specifically stated that's not the case. Regardless, Democrat messaging will force us to address the attack. Republican elected officials will have to respond to this false attack and they should forcefully rebut it, with both the truth from the Court's ruling protecting contraception, and by noting that most Republicans, like most other Americans, support access to contraception. This rebuttal will be accepted by voters, who know contraception has wide support.