

# Marquette University: New Marquette Law School poll national survey shows 40% rate abortion one of most important issues, with a larger percentage of Democrats than Republicans viewing it this way

Posted on Thursday, May 26, 2022

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MILWAUKEE – A new Marquette Law School Poll national survey finds 40% of adults nationwide say abortion is one of the most important issues to them, while 39% say it is somewhat important, and 21% say it is not very or not at all important.

Table 1 shows the full set of responses on the importance of abortion as an issue.

*Table 1: Importance of abortion issue, May 2022*

<b>Poll dates</b>	<b>One of the most important issues</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Not important at all</b>
5/9-19/22	40	39	15	6

The latest Marquette Law School Poll's Supreme Court survey was conducted May 9-19, 2022, a week after a draft opinion that would overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion-rights precedent was leaked to the Politico news organization. The survey interviewed 1,004 adults nationwide and has a margin of error of +/-3.9 percentage points.

A previous Marquette Law School Poll release yesterday, [May 25](#), described other

results of the new national survey; that release primarily focused on public opinion of the Supreme Court and of cases concerning abortion and other issues. This release provides further results of the same survey on national topics.

Table 2 shows the importance of abortion as an issue, by party identification. Democrats rank the issue as more important than do independents or Republicans. A quarter of Republicans and independents say abortion is not very or not at all important to them, while 14% of Democrats say this.

*Table 2: Importance of abortion issue, by party identification, May 2022*

<b>Party ID</b>	<b>One of the most important issues</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Not important at all</b>
Republican	31	44	17	8
Independent	38	36	15	10
Democrat	48	37	12	2

Asked what public policy on abortion should be, 29% say abortion should be legal in all cases, 38% say legal in most cases, 24% say it should be illegal in most cases, and 8% say illegal in all cases.

Those who say abortion should be illegal in all cases are the most likely to say it is one of the most important issues to them, followed by those who say it should be legal in all cases. The middle categories, involving those who say abortion should be mostly legal or mostly illegal, have about half as many (or fewer) people who say the abortion issue is one of their most important issues as those in the other categories just described. The relationship between policy preference and opinion on importance of the issue is shown in Table 3.

*Table 3: Opinion on importance of abortion issue, by policy preference on abortion, May 2022*

<b>Policy preference on abortion</b>	<b>One of the most important issues</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Not important at all</b>
Legal in all cases	60	30	5	4
Legal in most cases	24	46	25	5

Illegal in most cases	32	47	14	7
Illegal in all cases	67	20	5	7

While abortion policy is a highly polarizing issue among elected members of Congress and state legislatures, opinion is not as strongly divided by party among the public. Table 4 shows that, while substantial majorities of Democrats and independents say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, a substantial minority of Republicans also say it should be legal always or mostly. A majority of Republicans say it should always or mostly be illegal.

*Table 4: Policy preference on abortion, by party identification, May 2022*

<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Legal in all cases</b>	<b>Legal in most cases</b>	<b>Illegal in most cases</b>	<b>Illegal in all cases</b>
Republican	10	31	44	14
Independent	35	40	16	7
Democrat	44	43	10	3

Policy preferences are sensitive to the specific limitations proposed on abortion. With the potential for *Roe* to be overturned, several state legislatures have enacted or debated laws that would ban abortions (in most cases, with some exceptions) at various stages of pregnancy. This survey asked a series of questions about support for or opposition to bans based on these state proposals. Each question included an exception for “medical emergencies.”

The question asked:

Here are some limits on when during pregnancy an abortion might be banned, except in cases of medical emergencies, that some states are considering. How much do you favor or oppose each of these proposals?

The results for the five alternative policies are shown in Table 5. There is majority opposition to bans that would apply at any time or after 6 weeks, and an even divide on bans after 15 weeks. A majority favor bans after six months, and a majority oppose there being no restrictions on when a woman can obtain an abortion.

*Table 5: Favor or oppose abortion bans, by when ban would take effect, May 2022*

<b>Ban when</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
Ban at any time during pregnancy	27	72
Ban after 6 weeks	34	65
Ban after 15 weeks	50	49
Ban after 6 months	65	35
No restrictions at any point	39	60

Some states have considered legislation that would make it illegal for a woman to have an abortion by traveling to a different state where abortion is legal. This policy is favored by 22% of respondents nationwide and is opposed by 78%.

Opinion on making out-of-state travel for abortions illegal is shown by party identification in Table 6.

*Table 6: Should states be able to make out-of-state travel for abortion illegal, by party identification, May 2022*

<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Republican	32	68
Independent	19	81
Democrat	14	86

### **Enthusiasm to vote**

Looking ahead to the November elections, 37% say they are very enthusiastic about voting, 31% are somewhat enthusiastic, 22% are not too enthusiastic, and 10% are not at all enthusiastic to vote this fall.

Enthusiasm to vote varies by party, with Republicans most likely to say they are very enthusiastic, trailed by Democrats. Independents are much less enthusiastic. Enthusiasm is shown in Table 7 (a) for all adults and in Table 7 (b) for registered voters only.

*Table 7: Enthusiasm to vote, by party identification, May 2022*

*(a) All adults*

<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
Republican	50	28	19	3
Independent	17	23	28	31
Democrat	34	37	22	7

*(b) Registered voters only*

<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
Republican	53	29	16	2
Independent	25	25	25	25
Democrat	39	37	21	2

Enthusiasm measured by opinion on the importance of the abortion issue is shown in Table 8 for all adults and for registered voters. There are too few respondents who say the abortion issue is not important at all to reliably estimate results for that group, so they have been combined with those who say abortion is not very important in this table.

*Table 8: Enthusiasm to vote, by opinion on importance of abortion issue, May 2022*

*(a) All adults*

<b>Importance of abortion issue</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
One of the most important issues	44	27	20	8
Somewhat important	30	36	23	11
Not very or not at all important	35	28	24	13

*(b) Registered voters only*

<b>Importance of abortion issue</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

One of the most important issues	51	27	17	5
Somewhat important	35	37	22	6
Not very or not at all important	43	31	19	7

Enthusiasm to vote is shown by abortion policy preference in Table 9. Enthusiasm to vote is higher among those opposed to abortion than among those who favor legal abortions.

*Table 9: Enthusiasm to vote, by abortion policy preference, May 2022*

*(a) All adults*

<b>Abortion policy preference</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
Legal in all cases	33	30	21	15
Legal in most cases	33	32	27	9
Illegal in most cases	44	32	16	8
Illegal in all cases	50	25	19	6

*(b) Registered voters only*

<b>Abortion policy preference</b>	<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not too enthusiastic</b>	<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>
Legal in all cases	40	30	22	8

...