



Senator Rick Scott
CHAIRMAN

Jackie Schutz Zeckman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INITIAL TAKEAWAYS FROM OPINION RESEARCH ON ABORTION

May 3, 2022

With an eye toward a mid-summer Supreme Court decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the NRSC has conducted public opinion research on abortion to help Republicans address this issue and combat potential attacks from Democrats. While research is still ongoing, the following are initial takeaways, verified in both polling and focus groups:

BE THE COMPASSIONATE, CONSENSUS BUILDER ON ABORTION POLICY

While people have many different views on abortion policy, Americans are compassionate people who want to welcome every new baby into the world. Most Americans agree that:

- Abortion should be avoided as much as possible.
- States should have the flexibility to implement reasonable restrictions.
- We should do all we can to encourage more adoptions and fewer abortions.
- We should care for and support pregnant women in difficult circumstances.

EXPOSE THE DEMOCRATS FOR THE EXTREME VIEWS THEY HOLD

Joe Biden and the Democrats have extreme and radical views on abortion that are outside of the mainstream of most Americans.

- They support late term abortions.
- They demand that taxpayers pay for abortions.
- They want abortions to be on demand and oppose any and all reasonable restrictions, such as prohibiting abortion for gender selection reasons, or even limiting abortion to the first trimester.
- In fact, they have opposed every single restriction on abortion for nearly 50 years. Restrictions on late term abortions, gender selection abortions, medical safety regulations for abortion clinics – all are strongly opposed by the radical left.

FORCEFULLY REFUTE DEMOCRAT LIES REGARDING GOP POSITIONS ON ABORTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

Joe Biden and the Democrats have and will continue to spread lies about where Republicans stand on abortion and women's health care. The facts:

- Republicans DO NOT want to take away contraception.
- Republicans DO NOT want to take away mammograms or other health care provided specifically to women.
- Republicans DO NOT want to throw doctors and women in jail. Mothers should be held harmless under the law.

AMERICANS SUPPORT REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION

If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, state and local officials closest to the people will make laws that reflect the will of their states. Some states like California will allow abortion on demand at any time for any reason; other states will place reasonable restrictions on abortion.

- Elected officials, not unelected judges, should reflect the consensus of the people.
- Science has progressed since *Roe v. Wade*. Today, we know:
 - Unborn babies can feel pain very early.
 - After six weeks, we can hear their heartbeat.
 - Modern sonograms show unborn babies smiling, yawning, and sucking their thumbs.
- Restricting late term abortions is a reasonable consensus position, but Joe Biden and the Democrats reject both reason and consensus on this issue.

CALL DEMOCRATS OUT FOR USING OBSESSION OVER ABORTION TO AVOID TALKING ABOUT THEIR RECORD

- **Democrats hold extreme views on abortion that are out of the mainstream. But, their other policies are so absurd that they would rather talk about abortion.**
- **Biden and the Democrats are making every American poorer, less safe, more dependent on other countries for energy, and making America weaker.**
- Inflation is skyrocketing, gas prices are rising, crime is raging and our southern border is in crisis.
- But Democrats want to obsess and spread lies about abortion because they've not only failed to address the concerns of the American people; their agenda has made things worse.
- While Democrats are voting nearly 100% of the time with Joe Biden and Chuck Schumer, Republicans are focused on getting the economy back on track and keeping your family safe.

FINALLY...

The coming days will feature a slew of Democrats who are angry, strident, rigid, science deniers on the issue of abortion.

Republicans must be the opposite, demonstrating compassion and kindness toward all people, mother and child, born and unborn.

One of the greatest and most unique things about America is the way we strive to take care of the least of these, the way we value defense of the defenseless, the desire to protect the weakest members of our society – the sick, the poor, and the elderly. Unborn babies deserve protection too.

The Democrat position is extreme and strident, our position should be based in compassion and reason.

SAMPLE STATEMENT

"This is a draft opinion, so we will wait to see what the final decision of the Supreme Court is in the coming months. The leak of this document is troubling and is indicative of the Radical Left's

mission to undermine the institution of the Supreme Court and ultimately pack the Court with liberal judges who will rubber stamp the Democrats' radical agenda. It's wrong and the leaker should be found, fired and potentially prosecuted.

I am pro-life, but this isn't about political labels. I believe all Americans want us to welcome every child into the world with open arms. But if you disagree with me, my door's always open. I'm always willing to listen.

Science makes it very clear that unborn babies are human beings. They feel pain, they suck their thumbs, and they have a heartbeat. Every abortion is a tragedy. I believe we must make it easier for women in difficult circumstances to choose adoption instead of abortion. And if that means they need some assistance, we should help them protect these babies."

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR PRO-LIFE REPUBLICAN AD

- Sarah Republican here. You know me, I'm the person John Democrat attacks all the time.
- The problem with Mr. Democrat is that he just doesn't seem to care about the truth.
- I'm not in favor of putting women or doctors in jail. I would never take away anyone's contraception or health care. That's just the typical BS you get from politicians.
- Here's my view – I am pro-life, but in reality, forget about the political labels, all of us are in favor of life.
- I believe all Americans want to welcome every child into life with open arms. But if you disagree with me, my door's always open, I'm always willing to listen.
- Science makes it very clear that unborn babies feel pain, they suck their thumbs, and their heartbeat can be heard after a month of pregnancy.
- I believe we must make it easier for women facing difficult circumstances to choose adoption instead of abortion. And if that means they need some assistance, we should help them protect these lives.
- I'm Sarah Republican, the gift of life is the greatest thing each of us has ever received. I approve this message.