



David Binder Research

## California Likely Voter Survey Public Opinion Research Summary

### KEY FINDINGS

A recent survey conducted by David Binder Research on behalf of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California shows that voters in California are paying very close attention to the potential loss of the constitutional right to abortion and feel strongly that the right to an abortion should be legal and accessible to anyone who needs it. Voters in California will hold elected officials accountable, and reward candidates for office who fight to protect abortion access.

This survey was conducted in the days following the December 1<sup>st</sup> Supreme Court arguments on the Mississippi case that is directly challenging *Roe v Wade*. Key findings include:

✓ **89% of likely voters have heard about the Mississippi case at the Supreme Court on December 1<sup>st</sup>, with over one-third saying they've heard a lot about the case.**

✓ **Over two-thirds of likely voters in California say they would not like to see the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v Wade*.** (The exact question wording used appears in the text box to the right.)

- There is strong support for not overturning *Roe v Wade* from Democrats (90% to 7% overturn) and Independents (59% to 29%).
- Republicans are divided, with 36% of likely Republican voters in California not wanting the law overturned and 18% unsure, leaving less than half (46%) who do want to see it overturned.

As you may know, the 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v Wade* established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn the *Roe v Wade* decision, or not?

✓ **The vast majority of voters say they will be “angry”, “disappointed” or “fearful” if *Roe v Wade* is weakened or overturned.** When asked to choose which feeling describes them best about the weakening or overturning of *Roe v Wade*, two-thirds choose “angry” (31%), “disappointed” (25%) or “fearful” (10%). 13% say they don't know how they would feel, with fewer than one-quarter expressing a positive feeling (16% say they would be “satisfied” and only 6% say they would be “excited”).

✓ **Voters are proud that California will serve as a refuge for women from other states, though some are concerned about the impact on their own health care.** Upon being asked about California's role in providing abortions, particularly in light of studies that indicate there will be a 3000% increase in the number of people who would find the nearest abortion clinic in California, voters mostly express pride:

- 46% of likely voters say they are “Proud that California will serve as a refuge for women from other states”
- 16% say: “Proud that California will offer this service, but concerned about the impact on my own health care”
- 25% say: “Angry and disappointed that California would provide abortions to so many women from out of state”
- 13% are unsure

The survey included a representative sample of voters who have previously voted in midterm elections and are likely to participate in November of 2022, and also included a separate sample of voters who have typically only voted in Presidential elections. Both sets of voters – likely voters and surge voters – feel similarly in their strong support for protecting abortion rights and support for elected officials who will fight for abortion rights.

- ✓ **Among likely voters, and even stronger among surge voters, there is an urgency to protect abortion rights and support candidates for office who will support new protections.** Upon hearing about the risk to the constitutional right of an abortion, 56% of all likely voters and over two-thirds of surge voters say protecting the right to safely access abortions in the United States is an extremely urgent or very urgent issue.
  - Over three-quarters of surge voters – and 62% of all likely voters – say they prefer a candidate who will support expanding reproductive freedom and legal access to abortion, over someone who supports significant restrictions on abortion access.
  - About three-quarters of surge voters – and 60% of all likely voters – say they are much more likely to support a candidate for office who supports new protections safeguarding the right to an abortion and expanding access. Only 9% say they would prefer a candidate who opposes access to abortion and wants to restrict access. 8% are unsure.
- ✓ **A majority of the surge voters, a group critical to Democratic majorities in 2022, say they are more likely to vote in 2022 because of the attacks on abortion access in states outside of California.** In this surge voter group, the majority are non-White, with the plurality Latino, and nearly half are under 35. These voters are paying attention, and appear more likely to both cast a ballot and support candidates who will protect abortion rights in 2022.

**The message from voters is clear: Likely voters and surge voters in California do not want to see *Roe v Wade* overturned and will reward elected officials who fight to protect abortion access in California and expand reproductive freedom nationwide.**

### Survey Methodology

David Binder Research (DBR) conducted a survey of 800 voters in California, 600 of whom have a prior history of voting in non-Presidential elections and 200 of whom who have not voted in non-Presidential elections. Interviews were conducted between December 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with a total margin of error of  $\pm 3.5\%$ . Voters were interviewed by cell phone, landline, and online (email and text to web) utilizing information from the voter file, with interviews conducted in English or Spanish (at the preference of the voter).