

# Abortion As A Voting Issue

Those people who cited abortion as one of the most (or as one of the two most) important issues to them in casting their ballots this year voted heavily Republican, just as they did in 1984 and 1988. At this level, the abortion issue is a plus for the GOP.

	How many voters said it was important	How they voted	All voters
In 1992, VRS exit pollsters asked voters, "Which one or two issues mattered most in deciding how you voted?" (Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of nine.)	12% of voters said abortion was one of the most important issues in deciding how to vote.	Bush 55% Clinton 36% Perot 9%	43% 38 19
In 1988, the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> exit pollsters asked voters "Which issues—if any—were most important to you in deciding how you would vote today?" (Voters could choose up to two responses, including "None," from a list of eleven.)	20% of voters said abortion was one of the most important issues in deciding how to vote.	Bush 63% Dukakis 36%	54 46
In 1988, CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i> exit pollsters asked voters "Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted?" (Voters could choose zero to two responses from a list of nine.)	7% of voters said abortion was one of the most important issues in deciding how to vote.	Bush 65% Dukakis 33%	54 46
In 1988, ABC News exit pollsters asked voters "Were any of the items...[listed on the survey ballot] very important in making your presidential choice?" "The candidates' stand on abortion" was one of 21 items listed, including "None of the above."	33% of voters said that abortion was a very important item in making their presidential choice.	Bush 57% Dukakis 42%	54 46
In 1984, CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i> exit pollsters asked voters "Which issues mattered most in deciding how you voted?" (Voters could choose up to two responses from a list of eight, including "None of these.")	7% of voters said that abortion was one of the most important issues in deciding how to vote.	Reagan 71% Mondale 28%	59 41
In 1980, CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i> exit pollsters asked voters "Which issues were most important in deciding how you voted today?" (Voters could choose zero to two responses from a list of eight. "ERA/abortion" was a single category.)	7% of voters said that ERA/abortion were important issues in deciding how to vote.	Reagan 38% Carter 50%	51 41

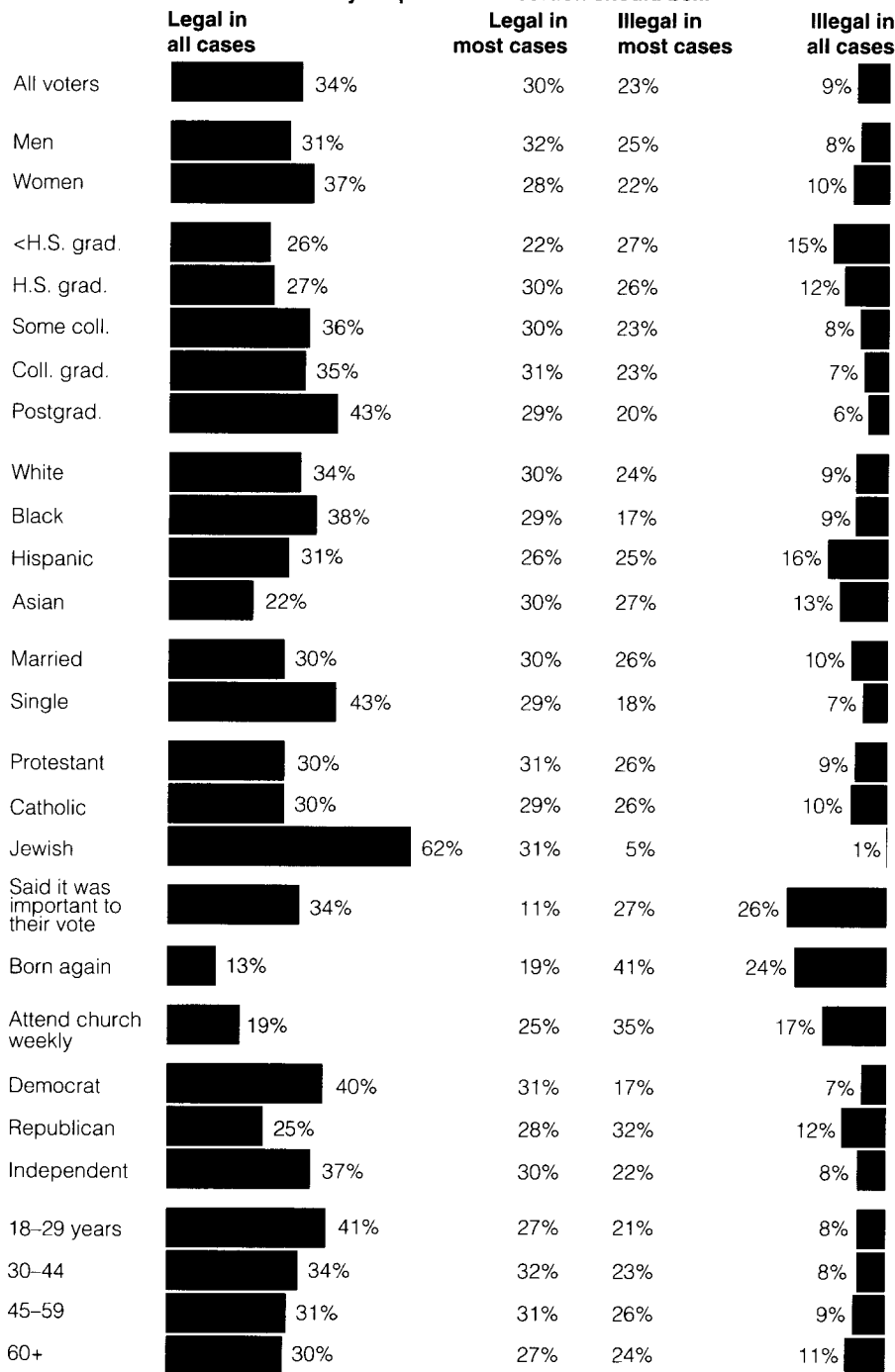
**Profile of those who said that the abortion issue was important to their vote in 1992**

Women were almost twice as likely as men to say abortion was important in casting their votes (see question above). Young women and women in the 30-44 age range were both twice as likely as men of the same age to cite abortion. Twenty-three percent of 18-29 year olds with a postgraduate degree cited it, a significantly higher percentage than 18-29 year olds with less education. Differences by region and income were small. Single people were only slightly more likely than marrieds (14-12 percent) to cite abortion. Republicans and independents were more likely than Democrats to say that abortion was important to their vote. Those who said that abortion should be illegal in all cases were much more likely to say abortion was important to their vote than were those who said abortion should be legal in all cases.

	8%					Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Of those saying abortion should be...	Percentage who said the issue was important to their vote
Men	8%					9%	15%	13%	Legal in all cases 12% Legal in some cases 4 Illegal in some cases 14 Illegal in all cases 36	
Women	15					5	11	9		
		<b>18-29 yrs.</b>	<b>30-44</b>	<b>45-59</b>	<b>60+</b>	12	18	18		
Men	10%	9%	8%	6%	12%	9	18			
Women	21	18	12	8	Moderate 9	Conservative 18				
<H.S. grad.	10	9	5	4	Liberal 12%					
H.S. grad.	10	15	8	6	Moderate 9					
Some coll.	17	12	11	7	Conservative 18					
Coll. grad.	18	14	12	9	Born again 22%					
Postgrad.	23	16	13	12						

When voters were asked whether abortion should be legal in all cases or most cases, or illegal in most cases or all cases, nearly four times as many said it should be legal in all cases as said it should be illegal in all cases. But a majority of Americans finds itself in the middle as it always has on this issue.

Question: **Which comes closest to your position? Abortion should be...**



Fifty-one percent of women with a post-graduate education compared to 36 percent of men with the same level of education said abortion should be legal in all cases.

Sixty percent of those with no religion said abortion should be legal in all cases.

Twenty-eight percent of GOP women compared to 23 percent of GOP men said abortion should be legal in all cases.

Women in every age category under 60 were more likely than men to say abortion should be legal in all cases. Forty-four percent of 18-29 year old women said abortion should always be legal; thirty-seven percent of 18-29 year old men did.

Source: Survey conducted November 3, 1992, by Voter Research & Surveys, a consortium of ABC News, CBS News, CNN, and NBC News.