

Abortion in Women's Lives: Exploring Links to Equal Opportunity and Financial Stability

Insights From Polling in New York and Pennsylvania | Sept 2014



NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH



Goals of Surveys

- > Measure the degree of support for legislative packages related to women, such as the New York Women's Equality Act (WEA) and the Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health (AWH) broadly, as well its individual policy components.
- > Assess the extent to which voters believe abortion access belongs in policy agendas around women's health, financial stability, and equal opportunity.
- > Begin to explore reasons why voters feel abortion access is important.
- > Identify the links voters may be making between reproductive health and rights, especially abortion, and other issues affecting women's equality, opportunity, and financial stability..



From Two Statewide Surveys

NY

- >Statewide telephone survey (cell and landline)
- >N=802 registered voters
- >Fielded May 20 – 26, 2014
- >Margin of sampling error: ± 3.5 percentage points

PA

- >Statewide telephone survey (cell and landline)
- >N=802 registered voters
- >Fielded May 22 – 26, 2014
- >Margin of sampling error: ± 3.5 percentage points

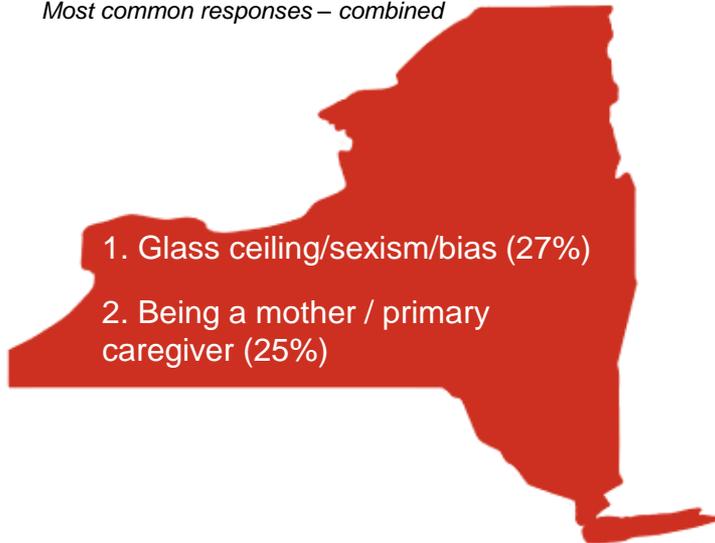


Voters Already See a Link Between Childbearing and Degree of Opportunity

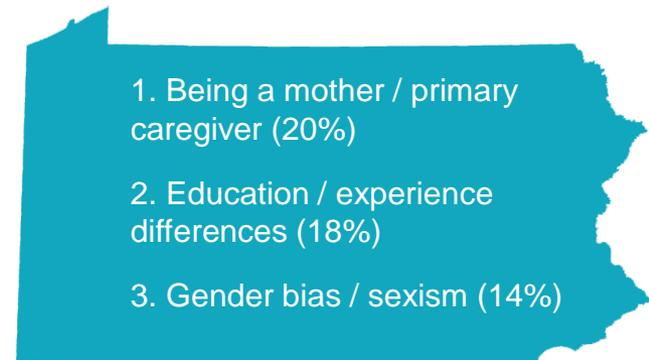
Top of Mind Responses from Open-Ended Question

“What things might prevent women from having the same opportunities (SPLIT: in life or in work) as men?”

Most common responses – combined



“What things might prevent women from having the same level of financial stability as men?” *Most common responses*

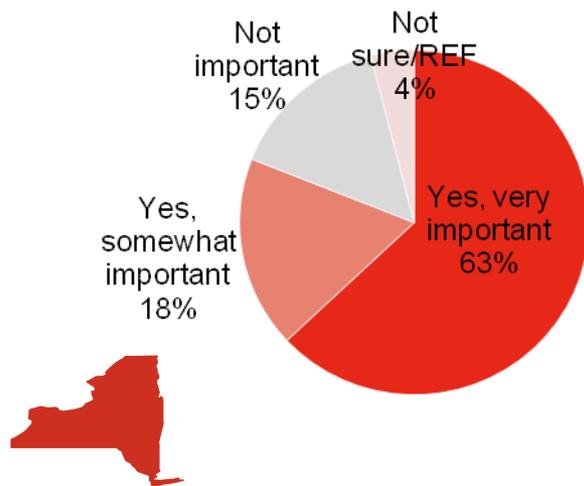




Voters Recognize Important Link Between Control Over Childbearing and Equality

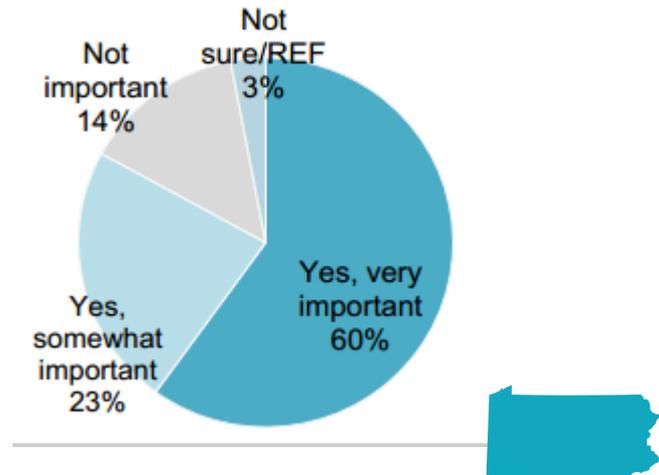
Do you think a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is an important part of equality for women?

N = 802 registered voters



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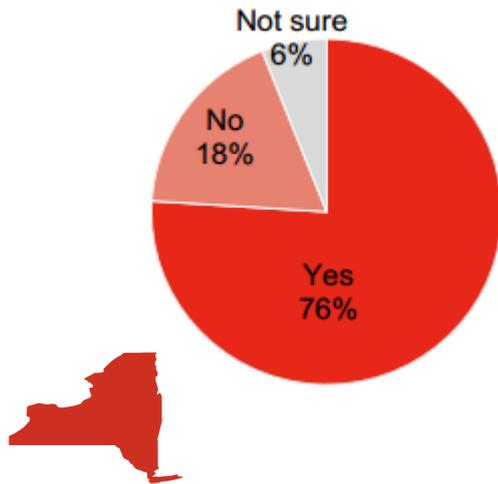




Voters Recognize Important Link Between Control Over Childbearing and Financial Stability

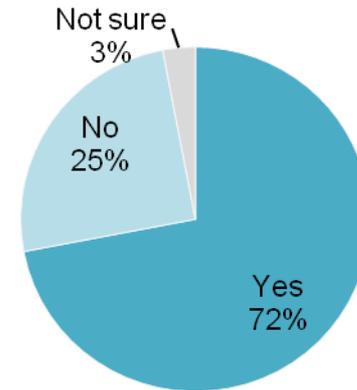
Do you think a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is related to her financial stability?

N = 802 registered voters



Do you think a woman's ability to control whether or when she has children is related to her financial stability?

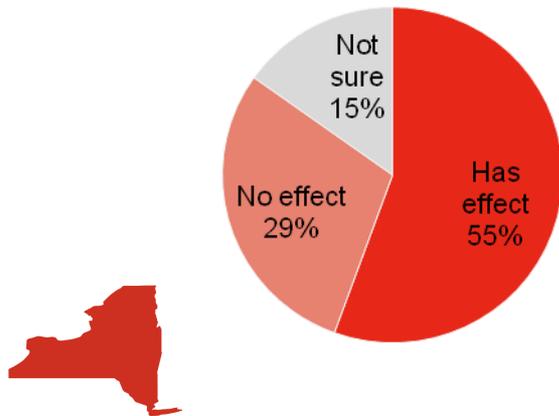
N = 802 registered voters



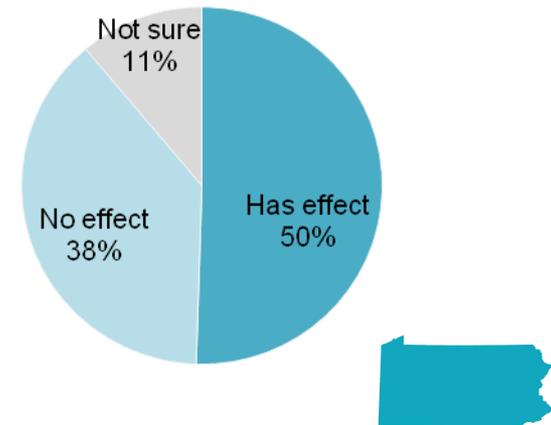


Voters Also See Link Between Abortion Access and Equality & Financial Stability

Do you think issues around access to [split A: safe and legal abortion care] [split B: birth control and] has an effect on equal opportunities for women?
N = 802 registered voters



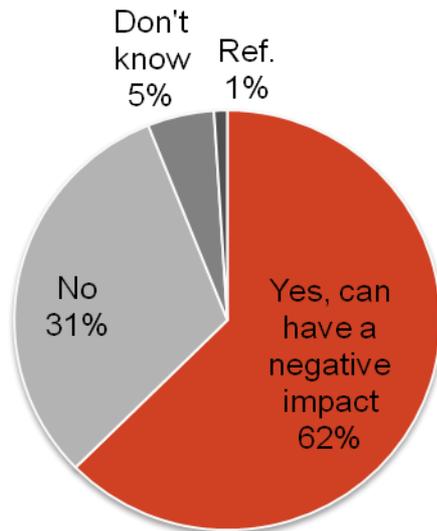
Do you think issues around access to [split A: safe and legal abortion care] [split B: birth control and] has an effect on her financial stability?
N = 802 registered voters



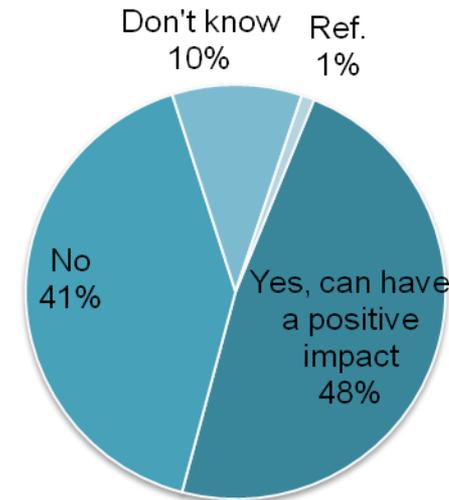
>> The Link is Stronger with Restrictions

Voters in PA

Do you think laws and restrictions that **make it harder** to access abortion can have a **negative impact** on a woman's financial stability?
(Base n=401)



Do you think laws that **improve access** to abortion can have a **positive impact** on a woman's financial stability?
(Base n=401)





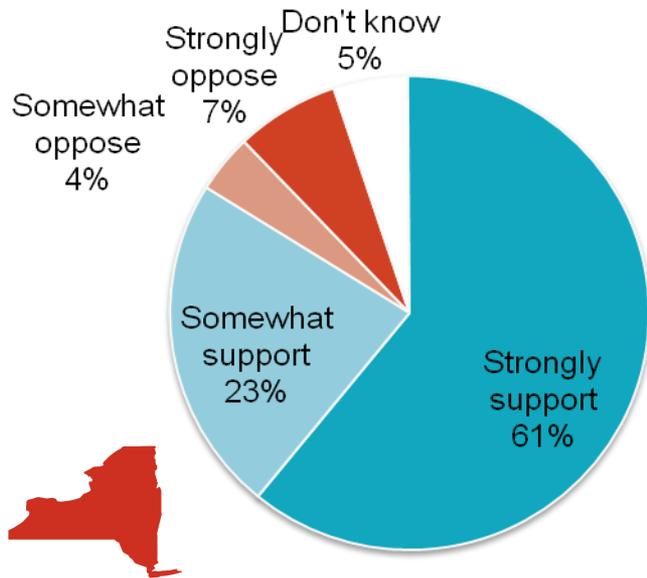
Voters See Link Between Abortion Access and Women's Rights, Health, and Equality

Having access to legal abortion...	New York		Pennsylvania	
	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Can be necessary for a woman to be able to achieve her goals	71	50	59	34
Can allow a woman to continue her education	73	52	63	40
Can enable a woman to take care of her family	71	50	59	35
SSA: Can enable a woman to be more financially stable (<i>Base NY n=399; PA n=401</i>)	71	50	58	34
SSB: Can enable a woman to be more financially stable for her family (<i>Base NY n=403; PA n=401</i>)	71	48	65	39
Is an important part of equality for women	75	58	65	45
Is an important part of women's health care	76	60	66	46
Is an important part of women's rights	80	63	72	51
Is an important part of women's ability to be financially stable	72	53	60	35



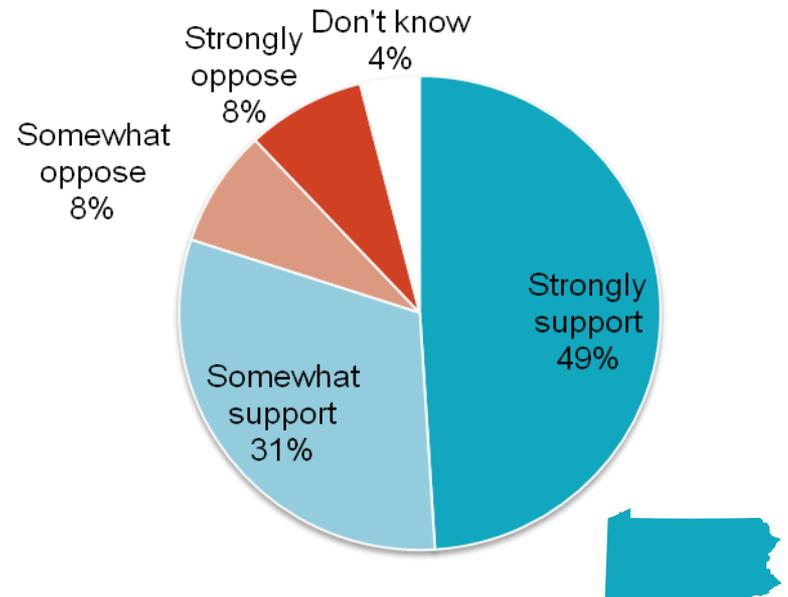
Women's Agendas Overall Receive High Levels of Support

Support for New York's Women's Equality Act



84% support

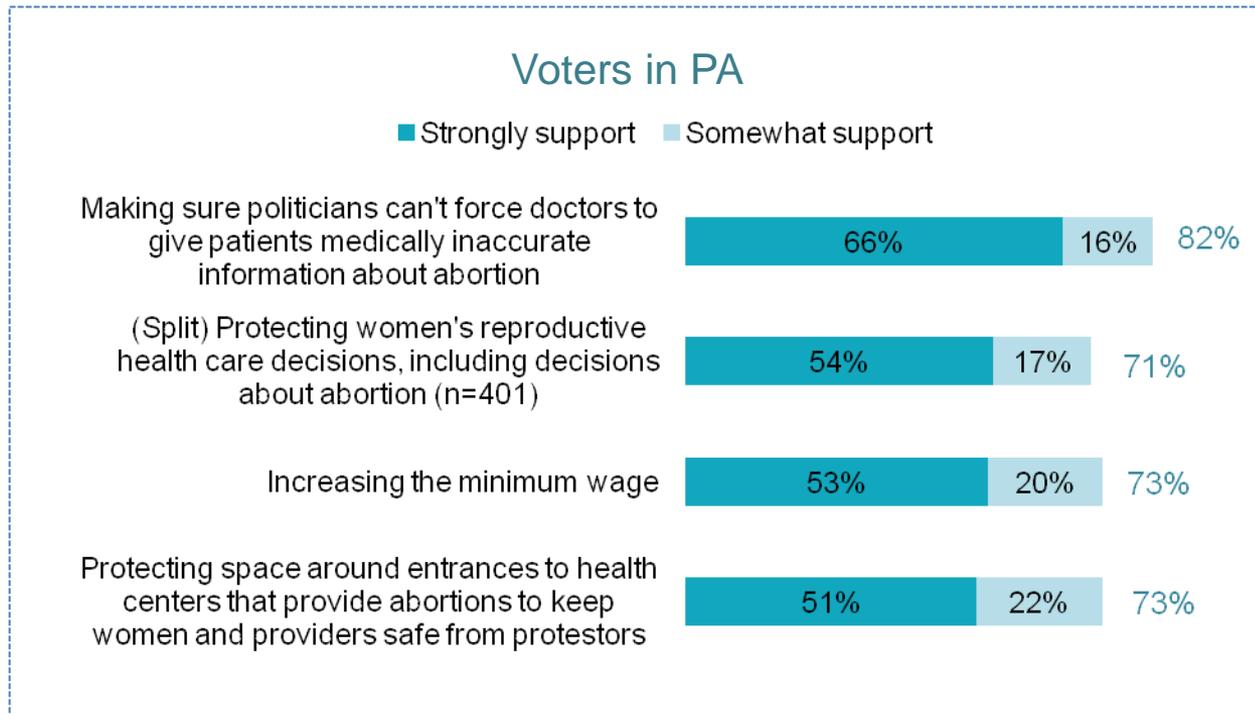
Support for Pennsylvania's Agenda for Women's Health



80% support



Support is Strong for Abortion-Specific Policies in Women's Agendas



Voters in NY

77%

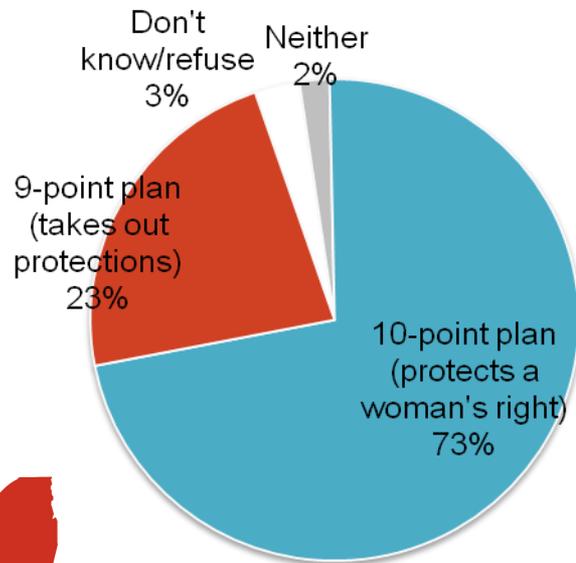
Of NY voters support the provision in the Women's Equality Act protecting a woman's right to decide to have an abortion, including if her health is at risk later in pregnancy, as is recognized by Roe v. Wade – **61% strongly.**



Voters Prefer to Include Proactive Abortion Policies in These Agendas

New York

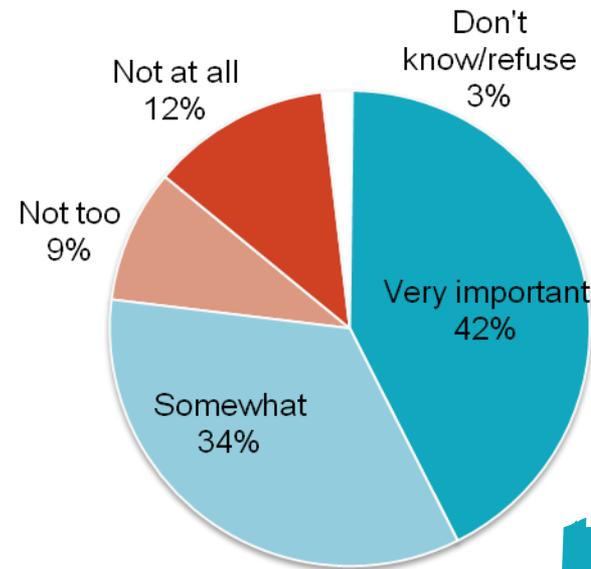
Which elected officials do you agree with more – those who want the 10-point plan or those who want the 9-point plan?



73% support 10-point plan

Pennsylvania

How important is it that the Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health addresses issues around reproductive health care, including abortion?



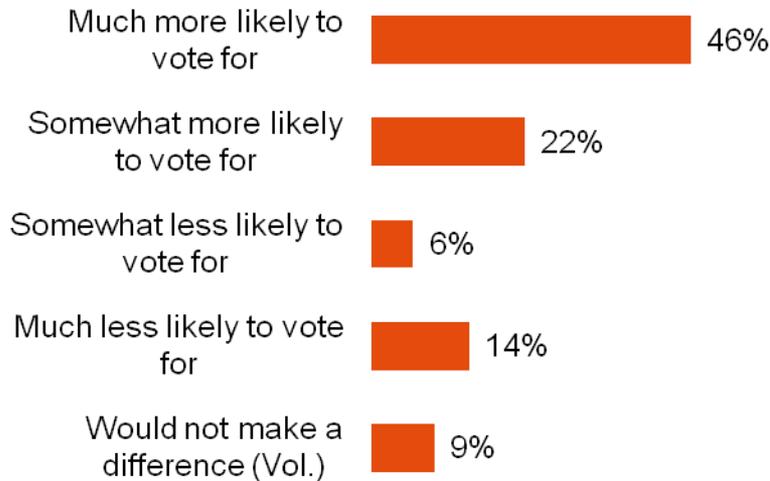
76% important



Voters Want to Re-elect Officials Who Support Agendas and Proactive Abortion Policies

NY Poll

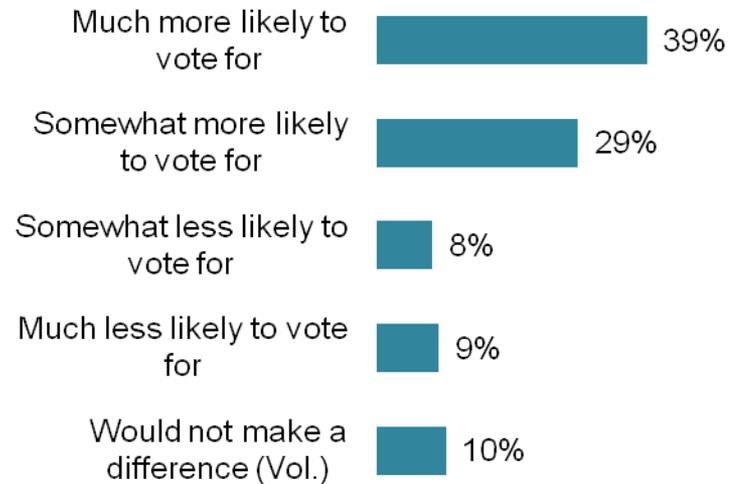
If your elected official supported the 10-point plan [that includes protecting a woman's right to have an abortion], would you be more or less likely to vote to re-elect him or her?



68% more likely vs. 20% less likely

PA Poll

If your elected official supported the Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health, would you be more or less likely to vote to re-elect him or her?



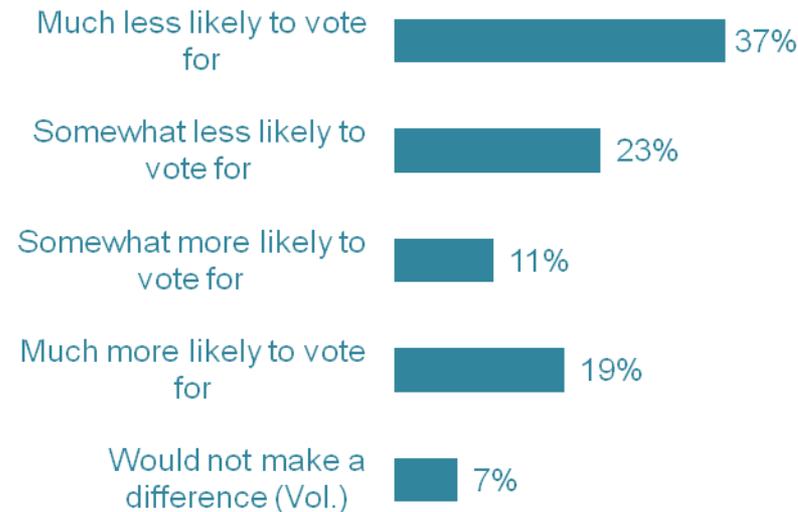
68% more likely vs. 17% less likely



Voters Less Likely to Re-elect Officials Who Support Restrictions

PA Poll

If your elected official was in favor of laws that make it harder to get an abortion, would you be...



60% less likely vs. 30% more likely



Audiences

The following segments are most favorable toward women's agendas and abortion policies:



- > Women
- > Democrats
- > Unmarried women
- > African Americans
- > 18 to 34 year olds (especially women)
- > Voters in urban areas



Insights from Continuing Research

- > The link between financial stability and abortion access is more evident when the end goal is improving financial stability and life opportunities, rather than advancing an abortion proposal
- > Framing abortion as an economic issue can evoke judgment and resistance
- > Important for people to arrive at their own conclusions on this connection
- > People need to consider long-term life path and be able to contrast two possibilities – one with abortion access and one without

Conclusion

- Legislative packages related to women, such as the New York Women's Equality Act and the Pennsylvania Agenda for Women's Health may not be as **controversial among voters as we think**, and the **abortion provisions are seen as important components**.
- Voters across party ID, regions of the state, and **every demographic group support both legislative packages**. Support is especially high among African Americans, unmarried women, and young people. A majority of registered Republicans and in rural parts of both states support these packages.
- Access to abortion is seen as an **important part of women's rights, health care, and equality**.
- The **link between control over reproductive decisions and financial security exists** among many voters.
- **Voting to restrict abortion access is more likely to generate a negative response** among these constituents; voting to protect access generates somewhat more support than opposition for elected officials in these states.



Thank You!

Questions? Contact:

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