48% Say It’s Too Easy To Get An Abortion in America

Monday, August 16, 2010

Nearly half (48%) of U.S. voters continue to believe that an abortion is too easy to obtain in this country, according to a new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey.

Fifteen percent (15%) say it’s too hard to get an abortion in America, and 23% think the level of difficulty is about right. Fourteen percent (14%) are not sure.

This is in line with findings on this question in surveys for over four years now.

Women (53%) feel more strongly than men (42%) that abortions are too easy to get.

Unchanged over the years is the belief held by 54% that abortion is morally wrong most of the time. Thirty-two percent (32%) disagree, and 14% more are undecided.

Again, 58% of women believe that abortion is morally wrong in most cases, compared to 49% of men.

Forty-nine percent (49%) of all voters describe themselves as pro-choice, while 43% say they are pro-life. Ninety-one percent (91%) of pro-life voters say abortion is morally wrong most of the time, but 61% of those who are pro-choice do not share that view.

The survey of 1,000 Likely Voters was conducted on August 11-12, 2010 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Field work for all Rasmussen Reports surveys is conducted by Pulse Opinion Research, LLC. See methodology.

Sixty-one percent (61%) of voters say abortion is at least somewhat important as an issue in terms of how they will vote in November, with 33% who say it is Very Important. Thirty-seven percent (37%) say it’s not very or not at all important to them as a voting issue.

But in terms of overall voter interest, abortion ranks well below 10 other issues regularly tracked by Rasmussen Reports including the economy, government ethics and immigration.

Pro-life voters, however, are twice as likely as those who are pro-choice to say abortion as an issue is important to how they vote this fall.

Forty percent (40%) of voters trust Democrats more when it comes to the abortion issue, while 37% trust Republicans more. Twenty-three percent (23%) aren’t sure.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of pro-choice voters trust Democrats more. Sixty-six percent (66%) of those who are pro-life have more confidence in the GOP.

Ninety-three percent (93%) of the Political Class trust Democrats more on the abortion issue, while a plurality (48%) of Mainstream voters trust Republicans more.
For 60% of the Political Class though, abortion is not important in terms of how they will vote in November. Sixty-five percent (65%) of Mainstream voters, on the other hand, regard the issue as an important one when they vote.

But then 63% of voters in the Mainstream think abortion is morally wrong most of the time. Political Class voters are almost evenly divided on the question.


**Toplines - Abortion - August 11-12, 2010**

National Survey of 1,000 Likely Voters  
Conducted August 11-12, 2010  
By Rasmussen Reports

1* In terms of how you will vote in November, how important is the issue of abortion?

33% Very important  
28% Somewhat important  
25% Not very important  
12% Not at all important  
3% Not sure

2* Which political party do you trust more to handle the issue of abortion?

37% Republicans  
40% Democrats  
23% Not sure

3* Generally speaking, on the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?
49% Pro-choice
43% Pro-life
8% Not sure

4* In the United States, is it too easy or too hard for anyone to get an abortion?

48% Too easy
15% Too hard
23% About right
14% Not sure

5* Is abortion morally wrong most of the time?

54% Yes
32% No
14% Not sure

NOTE: Margin of Sampling Error, +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence