

# GALLUP®

JULY 7, 2020

## One in Four Americans Consider Abortion a Key Voting Issue

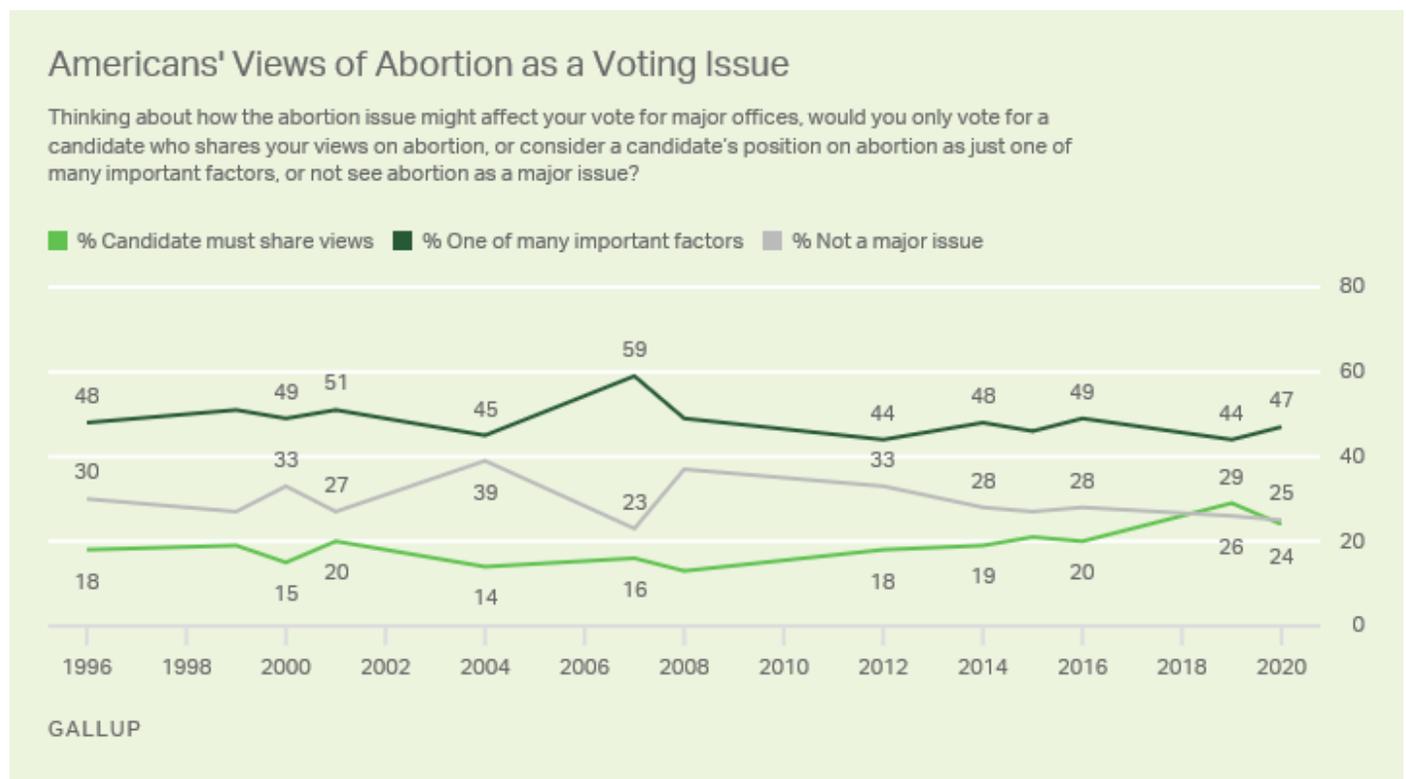
BY **MEGAN BRENNAN**

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### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- 47% say abortion issue is one of many important factors to their vote
- 24% say candidate must share abortion views; 25% say not a major issue
- 30% of pro-life, 19% of pro-choice adults say abortion is threshold issue

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Just as Americans' general views of abortion remain mostly steady, so too are their opinions of whether it is a key voting issue for them. Nearly half of U.S. adults (47%) polled in May, before the recent Supreme Court decision on abortion, say the issue will be just one of many important factors in their vote for a candidate for a major office; 25% do not consider it a major issue. At the same time, the 24% of U.S. adults who say they will vote only for a candidate who shares their views on the issue is, along with last year, significantly higher than most other years in the trend.

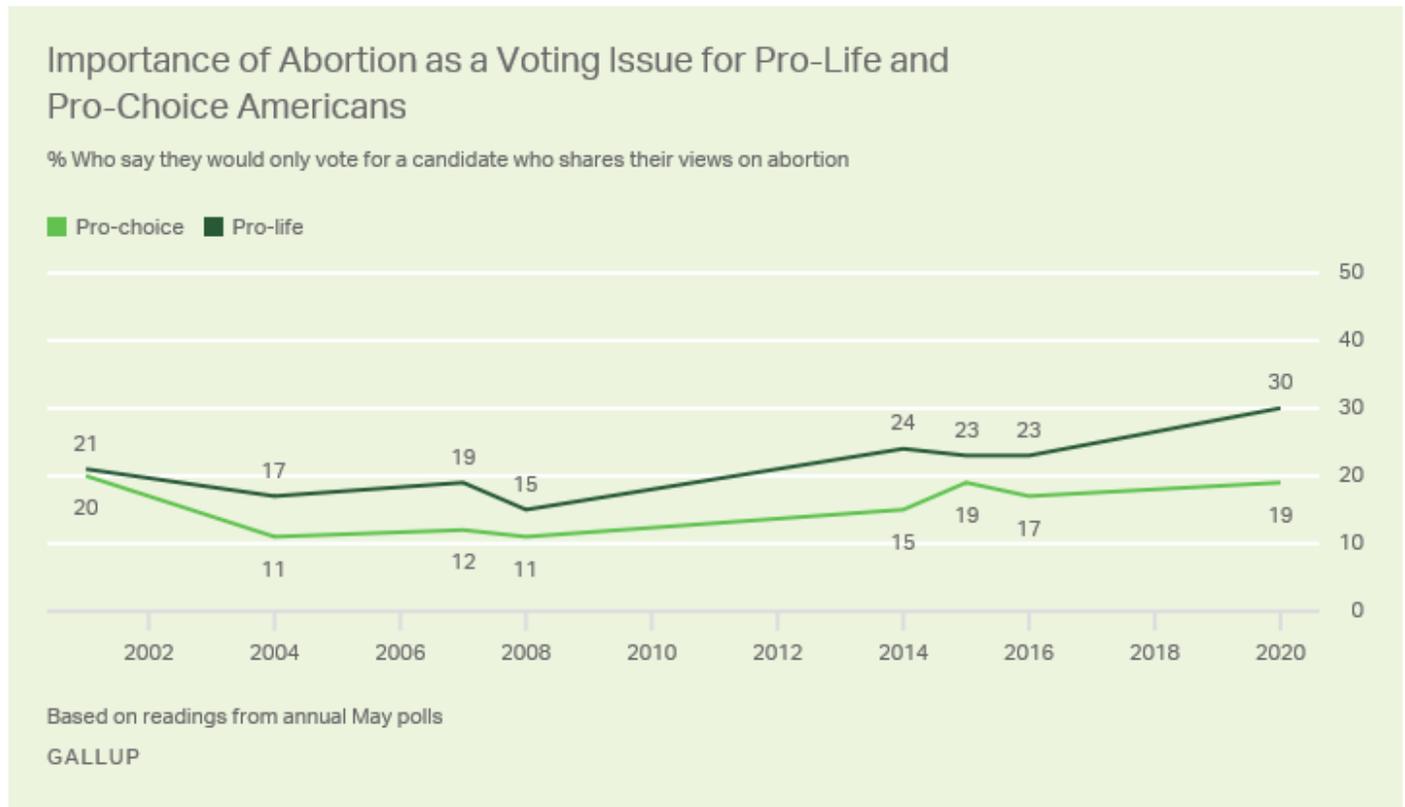


Gallup has periodically tracked Americans' views of the importance of abortion in their vote choice since 1996. Last year's 29% reading for those who say a candidate must share their views on abortion to win their support was the highest on record. Before that, from 1996 to 2016, the annual average was 18%.

The latest findings, from Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs poll conducted May 1-13, show the continuation of a trend seen since 2001 whereby Americans who consider themselves to be pro-life are more likely than those who identify as pro-choice to say

abortion is a threshold issue.

While these groups have placed varying degrees of importance on the abortion issue in the past, the gap in their views has widened. Currently, 30% of those in the pro-life camp and 19% in the pro-choice camp say they are single-issue voters when it comes to abortion.



Although there is a sizable gap in views of abortion as a key election issue based on overall opinions of it, there is notably little difference between Republicans and Democrats on the same measure. Roughly half of each group say abortion is one of many important factors to their vote, about one-quarter say a candidate must share their views and more than one in five say it is not a major issue. Independents, however, are more likely than both Republicans and Democrats not to consider abortion a major issue.

#### Americans' Views of Abortion as a Key Voting Issue Among Partisans

Thinking about how the abortion issue might affect your vote for major offices, would you only vote for a candidate who shares your views on abortion, or consider a candidate's position on abortion as just one of

many important factors, or not see abortion as a major issue?

	<b>Candidate must share views</b>	<b>One of many important factors</b>	<b>Not a major issue</b>
	%	%	%
Republicans	26	47	23
Independents	19	47	29
Democrats	27	50	21

GALLUP, MAY 1-13, 2020

## Implications

Americans currently consider race relations, the coronavirus, the government and the economy to be the most important problems facing the U.S. Abortion is not near the top of that list; still, a core one-quarter of U.S. adults consider it to be a threshold vote issue.

Americans' overall attitudes about abortion have been mostly stable in the past decade, with roughly equal percentages considering themselves pro-choice and pro-life. Those who consider themselves pro-life are significantly more likely than their pro-choice counterparts to say they will vote only for a candidate who shares their views on abortion.

The latest Supreme Court decision, which dealt a blow to the pro-life movement, has the potential to galvanize voters. The abortion issue potentially works more to the advantage of Republicans than Democrats, given the parties' respective platforms and the greater proportion of pro-life than pro-choice voters who will vote only for candidates who share their views on the issue. However, abortion may serve to mobilize voters to turn out more than it does to influence their candidate choice, given the increasingly greater alignment of Republican and Democratic candidates with their party's position on abortion.

*[View complete question responses and trends \(PDF download\).](#)*

*[Learn more about how the Gallup Poll Social Series works.](#)*



Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 1-13, 2020, with a random sample of 1,028 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cellphone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random-digit-dial methods.

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**SOURCE:** Gallup <https://news.gallup.com/poll/313316/one-four-americans-consider-abortion-key-voting-issue.aspx>

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