

Date: January 21, 2015
To: NARAL Pro-Choice America
From: Civis Analytics
Subject: Polling on Support for 20 Week Abortion Ban in Key Congressional Districts

Summary

After conducting more than 1700 interactive voice response interviews across four Congressional Districts represented by freshmen Republicans in Arizona (2nd CD), New York (21st & 24th CDs), and Virginia (10th CD), Civis Analytics found that the push for a 20 week abortion ban this week in the House is out of step with voters across the ideological spectrum in these districts. The polling further suggests that supporting this ban could hurt these Representatives' electoral chances in 2016.

Civis Analytics found that:

- The overwhelming majority (66-75%) of voters in these districts support legal abortion.
- The majority of voters (56-61%) will be less likely to vote for the Representative if they vote in favor of the 20-week abortion ban.
- Focusing on restricting abortion at 20 weeks does not reflect the priorities of the voters in any of these districts.

We surveyed over 1700 voters in these districts, including:

- 36-46% who describe themselves as very or somewhat conservative.
- 28-31% who describe themselves as moderate
- 25-28% who describe themselves as somewhat or very liberal
- 33% ages 18-39, 42% ages 40-64, and 25% over age 65
- 52% women and 48% men

The analysis below highlights particularly compelling results in each district.

Arizona's 2nd Congressional District:

- More than three in four moderates say they are less likely to support Martha McSally's reelection if she votes in favor of this abortion ban.
- McSally's 'yes' vote on the bill to ban abortion is a basis for a loss of 2016 voter support in every age group. Similarly, every age group says that Congressional focus on restriction abortion does not match their priorities.
- More than half of people who self-identified as "somewhat conservative" want Congress to stop pushing this legislation and trust women to make decisions about their pregnancy in consultation with their doctor.
- Even among people who identify as "very conservative", more than 40% feel that abortion should remain legal, regardless of whether they would make that choice themselves.

New York's 21st Congressional District:

- 86% of moderates and 62% of conservative leaners believe that Congress should stop pushing this legislation.
- Almost 70% of moderates and more than half of voters who lean conservative say that a vote for this bill would make them less likely to support Elise Stefanik in 2016.
- 70% of people 18-29 years old and 80% of people 30-39 years old say that a vote for this bill would make them less likely to support Elise Stefanik in 2016.
- Every single age group overwhelmingly wants Congress to stop pushing this bill, with opposition ranging from 69% to 81%.

- 73% of respondents think that abortion should remain legal, regardless of what they would do personally.

New York’s 24th Congressional District:

- 76% of moderates, 55% of conservative leaners, and half of strong conservatives believe that Congress should stop pushing this legislation.
- 72% of moderates are less likely to vote for John Katko in 2016 if he votes for this bill.
- More than three of four moderates believe that abortion should remain legal, regardless of whether they think that choice is right for them.

Virginia’s 10th Congressional District:

- 85% of moderates and half of conservative leaners believe that abortion should remain legal, regardless of potential personal choices.
- 80% of moderates said that a vote for this abortion ban would make them less likely to vote for Barbara Comstock in 2016.
- Comstock’s ‘yes’ vote on the bill to ban abortion is a basis for a loss of 2016 voter support in every age group. Similarly, every age group says that Congressional focus on restriction abortion does not match their priorities.

Toplines by Question and District

Q1. I'm now going to read you three statements about abortion. Please indicate which most represents your personal views about whether abortion should be legal. If you believe having an abortion is acceptable and should be legal, press 1. If you are personally against abortion for yourself and your family, but do not believe government should prevent a woman from making that decision for herself, press 2. If you believe abortion is wrong and should be illegal, press 3.

	AZ-02	NY-21	NY-24	VA-10
Total: Abortion should be legal	75.3	73.2	69.9	66.4
1. Abortion acceptable, should be legal	47.9	41.8	37.5	39
2. Against abortion, but should be legal	27.4	31.4	32.4	27.4
3. Abortion should be illegal	24.8	26.8	30.1	33.7

Q2. How would you describe yourself politically: Are you very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative? Press 1 if you consider yourself very liberal. Press 2 if you consider yourself somewhat liberal. Press 3 if you consider yourself moderate. Press 4 if you consider yourself somewhat conservative. Press 5 if you consider yourself very conservative.

	AZ-02	NY-21	NY-24	VA-10
1. Very liberal	8.8	14.2	8	7.5
2. Somewhat liberal	19.1	21.2	20.5	17.2
3. Moderate	31.3	28.3	30.8	29.6
4. Somewhat conservative	23.1	19.9	22.5	23.1
5. Very conservative	17.7	16.4	18.1	22.5

Q3. On Thursday, the new Congress in Washington will hold a vote to ban abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Does Congress' focus on restricting abortion access for women match what you think Congress should be prioritizing, not match your priorities, or do you have no opinion? Press 1 if restricting access to abortion matches your priorities. Press 2 if it does not match your priorities. Press 3 if you have no opinion.

	AZ-02	NY-21	NY-24	VA-10
1. Matches my priorities	32.5	31.4	36.4	39.8
2. Does not match my priorities	51.3	46.2	45.5	48.5
3. No opinion	16.2	22.4	18.1	11.8

Q4. I'm now going to read you a statement and ask you if you agree or disagree with it. Congress should stop pushing this legislation and trust women to make decisions about their pregnancy options in consultation with their doctors. Press 1 if you agree. Press 2 if you disagree.

	AZ-02	NY-21	NY-24	VA-10
1. Stop pushing/trust women	71.5	74.6	71.2	60.9
2. Disagree	28.5	25.4	28.8	39.1

Q5. If your Representative [name] votes in favor of this abortion ban, will this make you more likely or less likely to vote for [his/her] reelection? Press 1 if you would be more likely to support [his/her] reelection. Press 2 if you would be less likely to support [his/her] reelection.

	AZ-02	NY-21	NY-24	VA-10
1. More likely to support reelection	38.8	39.4	42.2	43.8
2. Less likely to support reelection	61.2	60.6	57.8	56.2