

September 12, 2016

To: Interested Parties
Re: Battleground Polling Results on Combating Zika

The results of polling among likely voters living in battleground states find enormous support for Congress to take immediate action to combat the impacts of Zika, including providing funding for women’s healthcare clinics, contraception, and abortion access (85% favor).

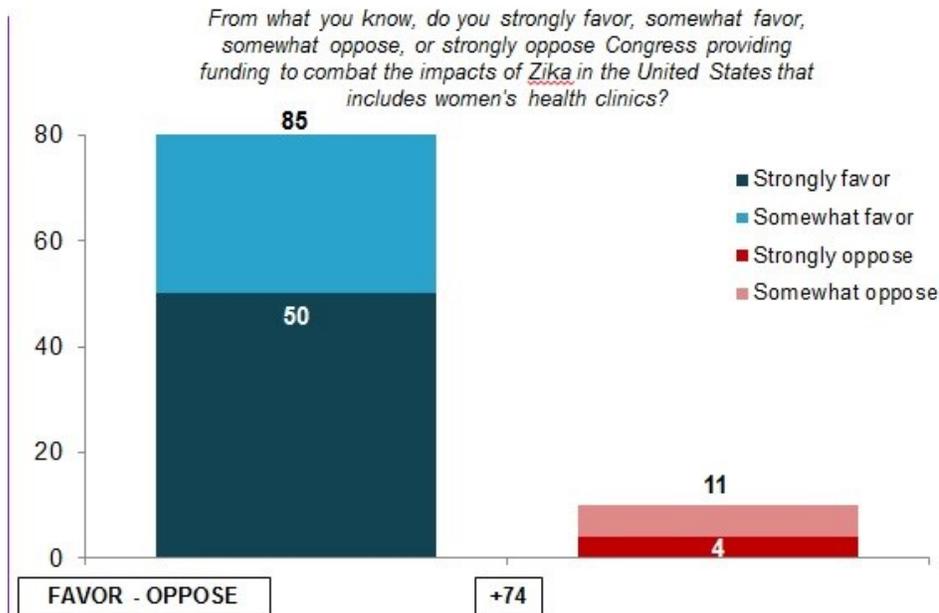
Beyond this, the poll also finds that

- 59% of battleground voters are less likely to support their member of Congress if they learn their representative voted to restrict funding for women’s healthcare during the spread of the Zika virus, and,
- 64% of battleground voters are less likely to support their representative if they learn that their representative believes a pregnant woman should not have access to abortion even if she’s infected with Zika and learns her child will be born with severe birth defects.

The following are key findings based on recent polling.

Key Findings

1. **There is nearly unanimous support for Congress to provide funding to combat the impacts of Zika, including support for women’s health clinics.** Voters overwhelmingly want Congress to put forward a plan to immediately combat that Zika outbreak that includes support for women’s health clinics (85% favor).



This analysis is based off of a survey of n=1000 likely November 2016 voters across ten battleground states, conducted online September 5-7, 2016. The data was weighted to be representative of past voter turnout. The poll includes an equal number of interviews among voters in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Support cuts across party lines, including:

- 79% of Republicans
- 93% of Democrats
- 84% of Independents

Support is also strong in every battleground state –including 91% in Virginia, 88% in Colorado and New Hampshire, and 86% in Missouri. It is highest in Florida, where 91% of voters support action, including 64% who strongly favor action, however support is over 80% in every state polled.

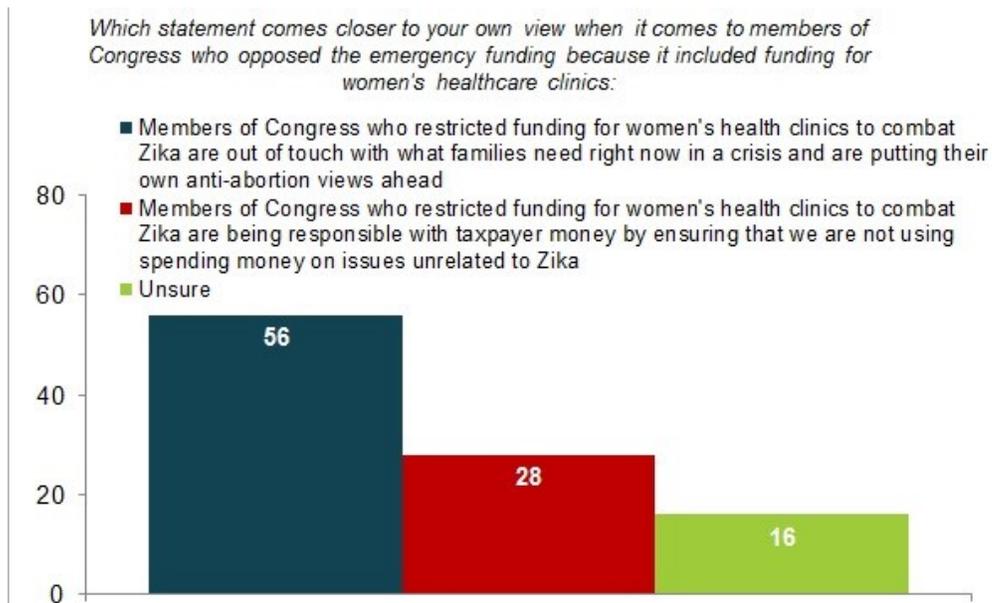
2. **Battleground voters are less likely to support their representative in Congress if he or she restricts women’s healthcare funding or abortion access.** A strong majority of voters (59%), including 60% of Independent voters, are less likely to support their member of Congress if he or she restricts women’s healthcare to respond to Zika, including 60% of self-described Independent voters. Just 24% of voters say they are more likely to support their representative. This is true across every state, including 66% of Nevada voters, 63% in New Hampshire, 62% in Missouri and 62% in North Carolina and Colorado.
3. **Even more voters are less likely to support their representative if he or she opposes abortion access.** Nearly two-thirds (64%) of battleground voters are less likely to support their representative if they discover he or she believes *a pregnant woman should not have access to abortion, even if she is infected with Zika and has learned that her child will be born with severe birth defects and brain damage*. This includes 66% of Independent voters and is highest in Nevada (74%), Colorado and North Carolina (70%), and New Hampshire (64%). More than six-in-ten (62%) Florida voters are also less likely to support the representative in Congress if they hold these views.
4. **Voters offer support for a number of different specific policy solutions to combat the impacts of Zika, including family planning services, contraception, and access to abortion.** Voters were asked to assess support for eight different specific policy solutions, including:
 - *Provide funding for family planning services, such as birth control and contraceptives to prevent unplanned pregnancy (73% favor)*
 - *Provide funding for clinics that provide contraceptives like condoms to prevent the sexual transmission of Zika between partners (72% favor)*
 - *Support access to safe, legal abortion services so that if a woman who is pregnant learns she is infected with Zika and her child will face severe birth defects and brain damage, she has the ability to make the decision with her doctor to have an abortion (65% favor).*

In fact, these solutions test with comparable support for policies that address Zika by controlling the mosquito population (like eliminating standing bodies of water, 79%, and chemical sprays and pesticides, 76%).

5. **Majorities of voters across party lines reject the idea of cutting women’s healthcare funding as a part of the response to Zika.** Two-thirds (65%) of voters oppose cutting women’s healthcare funding, including 69% of Democrats and

Independents, and 56% of Republicans. Republican women (61%) are particularly opposed to cuts to women's healthcare.

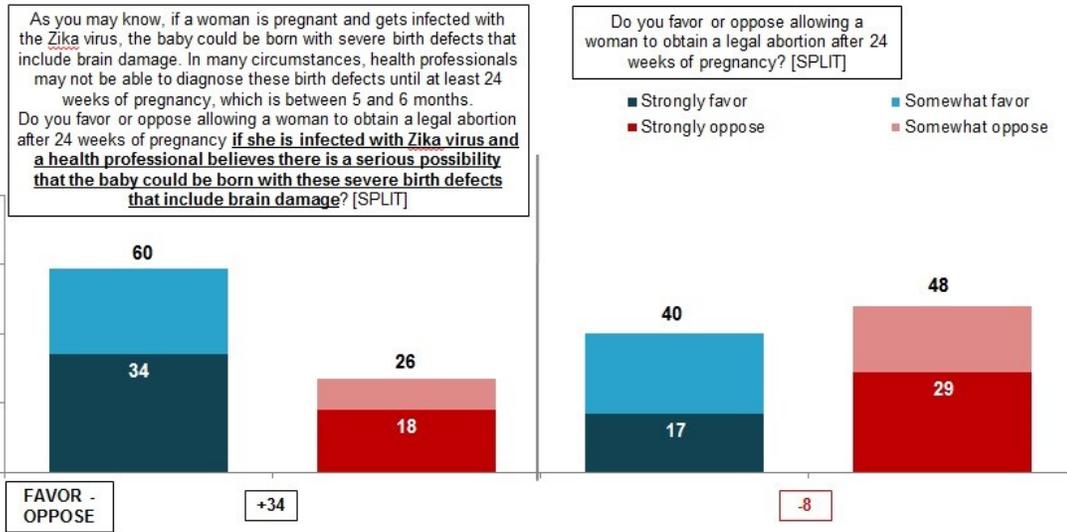
Beyond this, a majority of battleground voters (56%) believe that members of Congress who restrict funding for women's health clinics to combat Zika are out of touch and putting their anti-abortion views ahead of doing what is right.



6. **In light of the Zika spread, voters offer strong support for abortion even past twenty-four weeks of pregnancy.** Six-in-ten battleground voters (60%) support allowing a woman to have a legal abortion after 24 weeks if she is infected with Zika and a health professional believes there is a serious possibility that the baby could be born with the severe birth defects that include brain damage; only 26% oppose. This includes 55% of self-described Independent voters (26% oppose) and even a small net-advantage among Republican voters (46% favor / 40% oppose).

This also includes the vast majority of voters in Florida (75%), Colorado (72%), and Nevada (62%).

This was a split-exercise where half of battleground voters were not given introductory information about later-term abortions only when there is the risk of Zika-related birth defects; those who did not receive the introduction oppose later abortion (40% favor / 48% oppose).



7. **Voters consider the spread of the Zika virus in the US a threat to public health.** Nearly two-thirds (62%) of voters in battleground states consider the spread of the Zika virus to be a threat to public health, including 36% who consider it to be a *major* threat. Concern is highest in Colorado, Florida, and Virginia, where 74%, 73%, and 72% of voters respectively consider it to be a *major* threat, followed by 46% of Nevada voters, 44% of Colorado voters, and 41% of Virginia voters.