

To: Adrienne Kimmell, NARAL Pro-Choice America
 Fr: Lake Research Partners
 Re: Voter Attitudes on Anti-Choice Language in the Tax Bill
 Date: December 8, 2017

Anti-choice activists and Republican lawmakers have tried various strategies to outlaw abortion by defining life from the moment of conception. From ballot measures at the state level, to federal legislation, the “personhood” movement is actively attempting to define a fetus, or even a fertilized egg as a person. However, these efforts have consistently failed, and recent polling of 2018 likely voters illustrates that the electorate rejects this latest attempt to affirm an ideological definition of when life begins.

Attitudes toward abortion

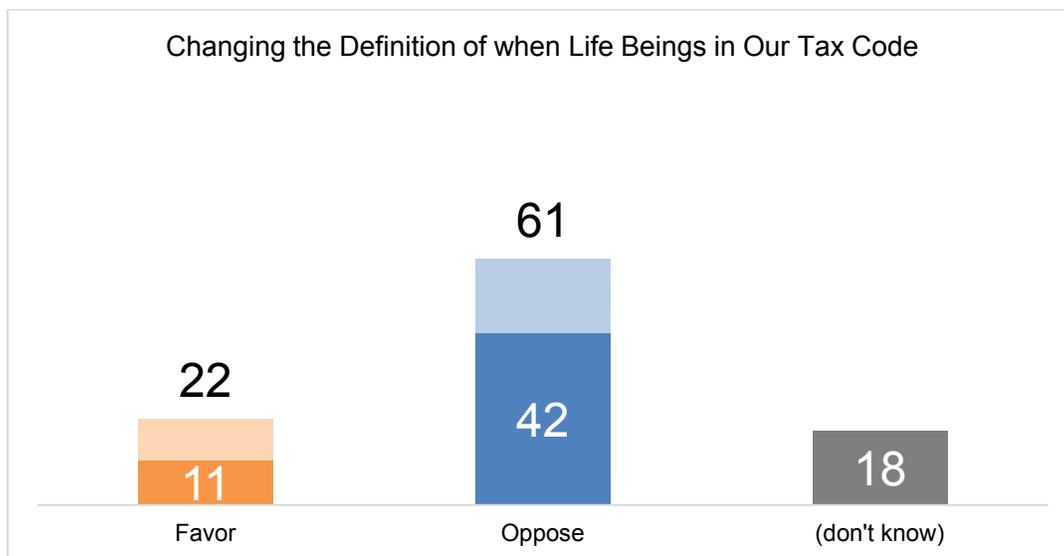
Three-quarters of likely 2018 voters support access to legal abortion. A plurality of likely 2018 voters says that while they are personally against having an abortion, they do not believe government should prevent a woman from making that decision herself (48%). Just over a quarter (27%) believe abortion is morally acceptable and should be legal, while just under a quarter (22%) think abortion is morally wrong and should be illegal.

Opposition to tax code change

By a nearly 3 to 1 margin, voters oppose changing the definition of when life begins in our tax code: 61% oppose and 22% favor. Two-in-five (42%) strongly oppose.

The U.S. Congress is considering a bill to change the tax code. For the first time, language about ‘personhood’ or ‘when life begins’ is included in this bill. Supporters of this bill say that it helps make college more affordable by allowing families to save money for college earlier. Opponents of the bill say that people can already set up a college savings accounts before the children they wish to have are born, and that this language is really an attempt to ban abortion.

Do you favor or oppose changing the definition of when life begins in our tax code?



*darker colors indicate intensity

This is a wildly unpopular idea. Every single demographic and attitudinal subgroup net opposes the change to our tax code.

- Opposition to this change in the tax code crosses party lines, with three-quarters (76%) of Democrats, a majority (51%) of Independents, and a plurality (48%) of Republicans opposed to changing the definition of when life begins in our tax code.
- Women oppose changing the definition slightly more than men (63% and 58%, respectively).
- Those who believe abortion should be legal oppose it by wide margins (74% oppose), as do those who are personally opposed, but don't want government interference (65% oppose). Even those who think abortion should be illegal split (40% oppose and 37% favor).
- Subgroups who are the most intensely opposed to changing the tax code in this way include: Democrats (59% strongly oppose), college-educated women (54%) post-graduates (53%), and women in the West (52%).

Methodology

Lake Research Partners designed this survey that was administered by Caravan in an omnibus survey conducted by telephone using professional interviewers from November 30 – December 3, 2017. The survey reached a total of 1,004 adults, including 792 likely 2018 voters nationwide.

Surveys are collected by trained and supervised US based interviewers using ORC International's computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. Final data is adjusted to consider the two sample frames and then weighted by gender, region, age, race, education, party identification, and parental status to be proportionally representative.

The margin of error for the total adult sample is +/-3.0% and the margin of error for the total likely 2018 voter sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question.