

*Moral Issues and Catholic Values:
The California Vote in 2008
Proposition 4*



October 2008

*How the Survey
Was Conducted*

- *Moral Issues and Catholic Values: The California Vote 2008* Proposition 4 reports the results of a survey of California voters by the Knights of Columbus.
- The survey was conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.
- 1,008 adults eighteen years of age or older who live in California and are registered to vote were interviewed from September 28th through October 5th, 2008.
- Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in California and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results for all registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 3.1\%$. There are 772 likely voters. The results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Executive Summary

◆ *Proposition 4: Parental Notification and Abortion*

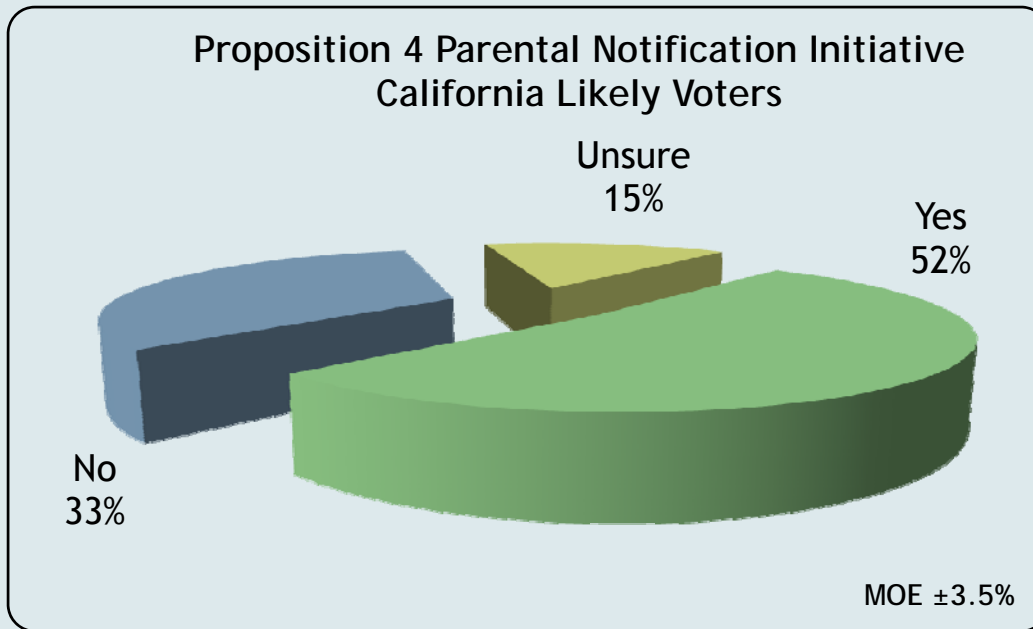
- Proposition 4 is the initiative on the California ballot to require parental notification if a girl under the age of 18 is seeking an abortion. Voters who plan to vote Yes outpace No side voters by nineteen percentage points. 52% of the state's likely voters intend to vote Yes, and 33% plan to vote No on this initiative. A large group, 15%, are unsure how they will vote.
- Likely voters who are Catholic, Republican, or who identify themselves as pro-life are much more likely to support the initiative than the California electorate as a whole. Proposition 4 also garners support from a majority of women, voters 45 or older, and 61% of Latino voters.
- The Yes side leads by 12 percentage points among Independents likely to vote on Election Day. 49% of Independents plan to vote Yes compared with 37% who intend to vote No. 14% are undecided.
- A majority of likely voters in each region of the state support Proposition 4 except in the Bay area where, although there is no majority for either side, the plurality of Bay area voters, 48%, intend to vote No.
- A majority of likely voters under 30 years old plan to oppose the initiative. Yet, only half of voters who consider themselves to be pro-choice are against the proposition. Slightly less than a majority of Democrats, 48%, also intend to vote No.

➤ *Proposition 4: Parental Notification and Abortion (continued)*

- Advocates of Proposition 4 have presented a number of arguments to the public hoping to elicit their support. Voters in this survey were asked to react to several of them. The most potent argument was the potential to decrease victimization of underage girls. Seven in ten likely voters say they are open to supporting the initiative if this was a result of its passage. Similarly, 62% of likely voters, including 51% of those who are undecided, are more likely to vote for Proposition 4 after being informed about other circumstances which already require parental notification.
- When asked to identify themselves as pro-life or pro-choice, 53% of likely California voters describe themselves as pro-choice and 40% as pro-life. However, these labels mask the consensus which exists among California voters on abortion. 76% of California voters likely to vote on Election Day want to significantly restrict abortion including a majority of voters who think of themselves as pro-choice.

*Proposition 4:
Parental Notification and Abortion*

Proposition 4: 52% Support Parental Notification Initiative

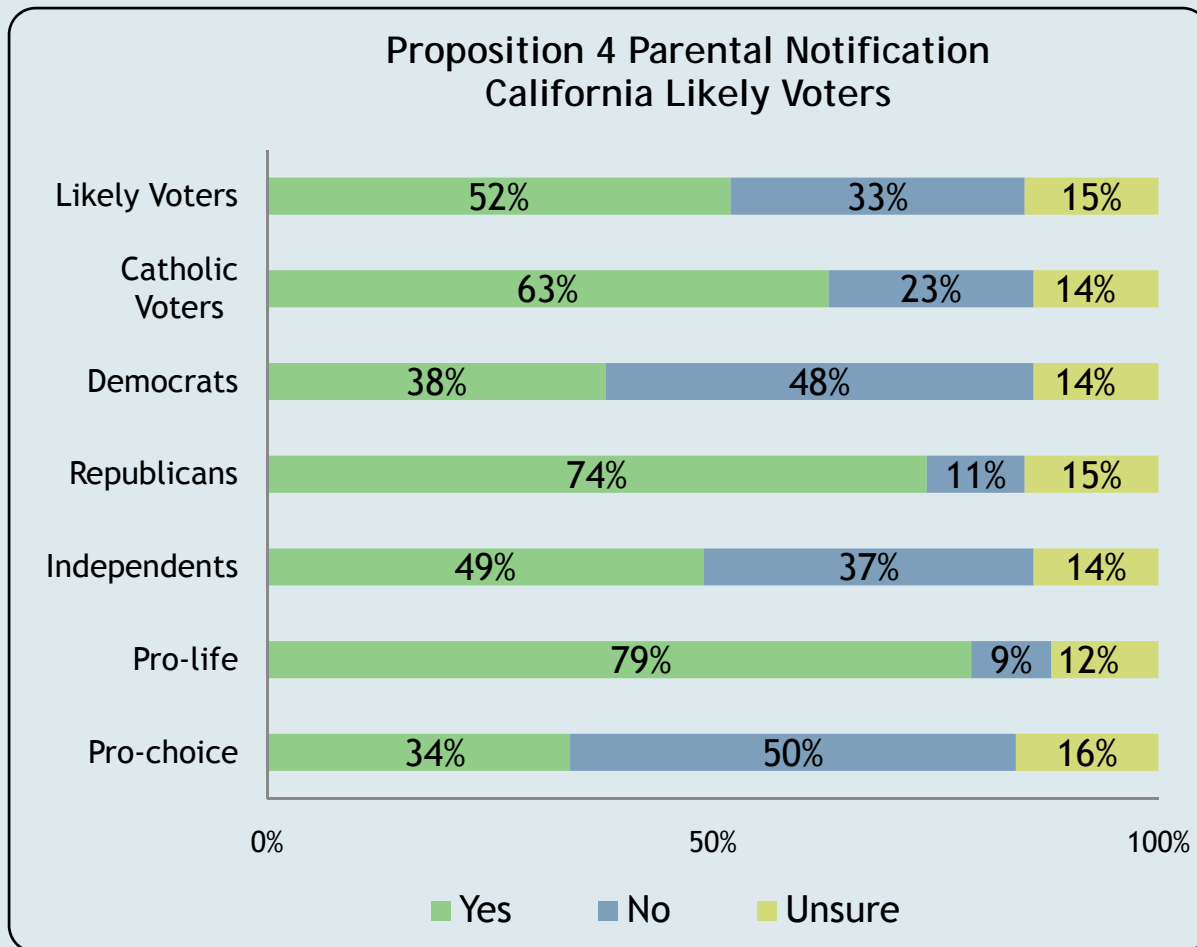


Proposition 4 is the initiative to amend the California State Constitution to require a 48 hour waiting period and parental notification before termination of a minor's pregnancy

Question wording: There will be a number of propositions on the ballot this November. Proposition 4 is the "Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy" Initiative. It would prohibit abortions for minors under the age of 18 until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor's parent, legal guardian, or adult family member. It provides for exceptions in a medical emergency. If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes or No on Proposition 4?

- ◆ Among Californians who are likely to vote on Election Day, supporters of Proposition 4 outdistance opponents by 19 percentage points. 52% of likely voters intend to vote Yes that an abortion should not be performed on a minor until 48 hours after the girl's parent has been notified. 33% of likely voters plan to vote No. A significant number -- 15% -- remain unsure.

Proposition 4: Supporters and Opponents



Vote Yes:

- 52% Likely Voters
- 63% Catholics
- 74% Republicans
- 79% Pro-life

Vote Yes, But No Majority:

- 49% Independents

Vote No, But No Majority:

- 48% Democrats

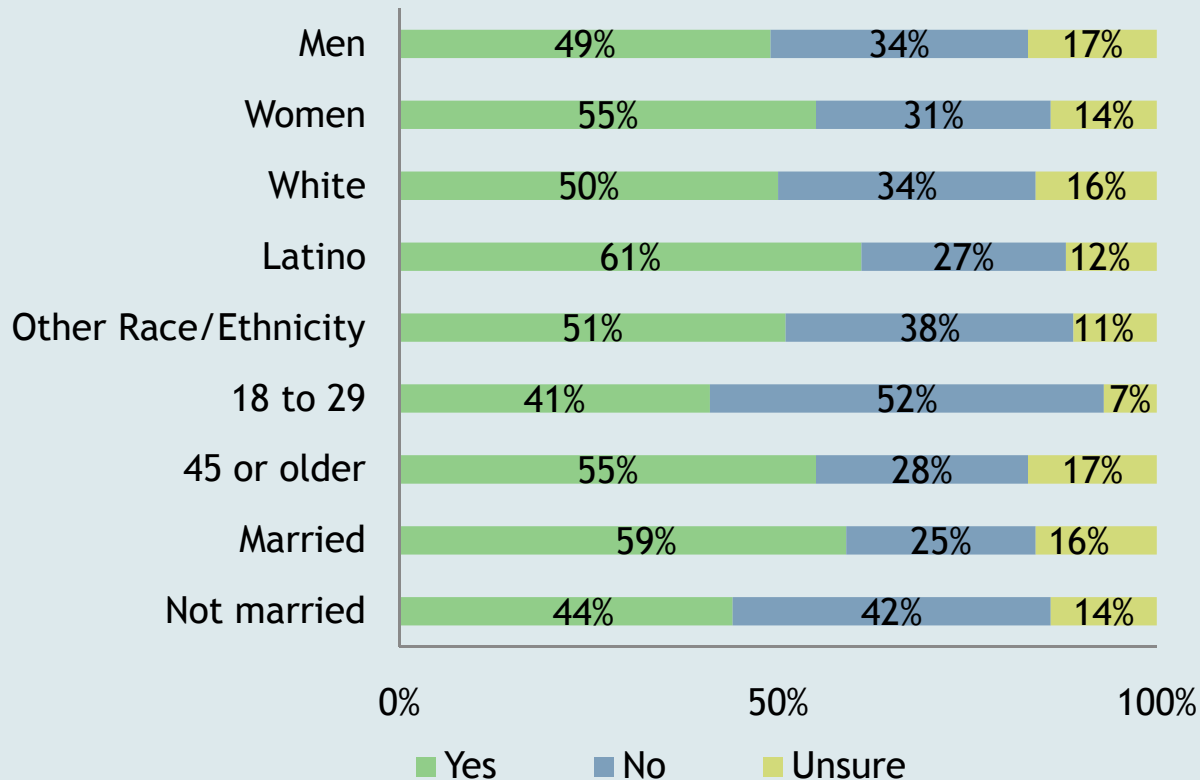
Vote No:

- 50% Pro-choice

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Proposition 4: Supporters and Opponents

Proposition 4 Parental Notification
California Likely Voters



Vote Yes:

- 55% Women
- 50% White
- 61% Latino
- 55% Age 45 or older
- 59% Married

Vote Yes, But No Majority:

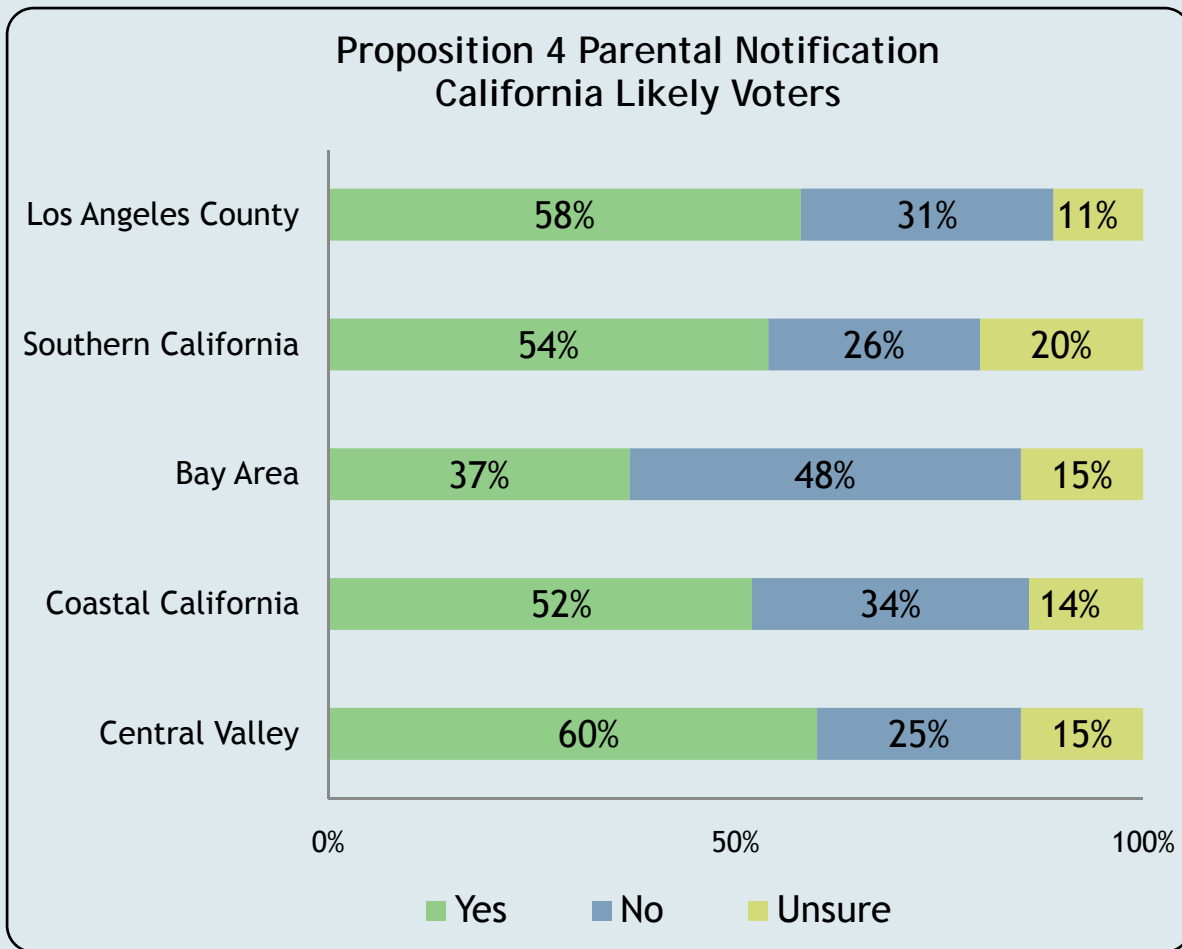
- 49% Men

Vote No:

- 52% Age 18 to 29

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Proposition 4: Supporters and Opponents By Region



Vote Yes:

- 58% Los Angeles County
- 54% Southern California
- 52% Coastal California
- 60% Central Valley

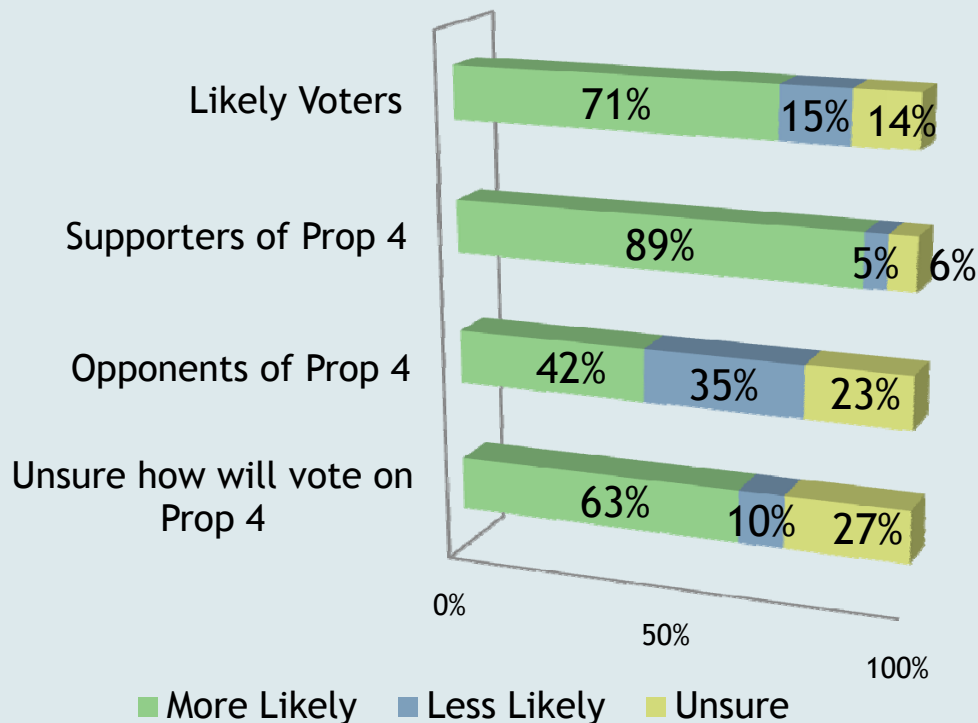
Vote No, But No Majority:

- 48% Bay Area

Question wording: There will be a number of propositions on the ballot this November. Proposition 4 is the “Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy” Initiative. It would prohibit abortions for minors under the age of 18 until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor’s parent, legal guardian, or adult family member. It provides for exceptions in a medical emergency. If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes or No on Proposition 4?

Voters React to Potential Prop 4 Effect: Argument that Changes Minds

More Likely or Less Likely to Support Prop 4
If Told Passage Decreases Victimization
California Likely Voters

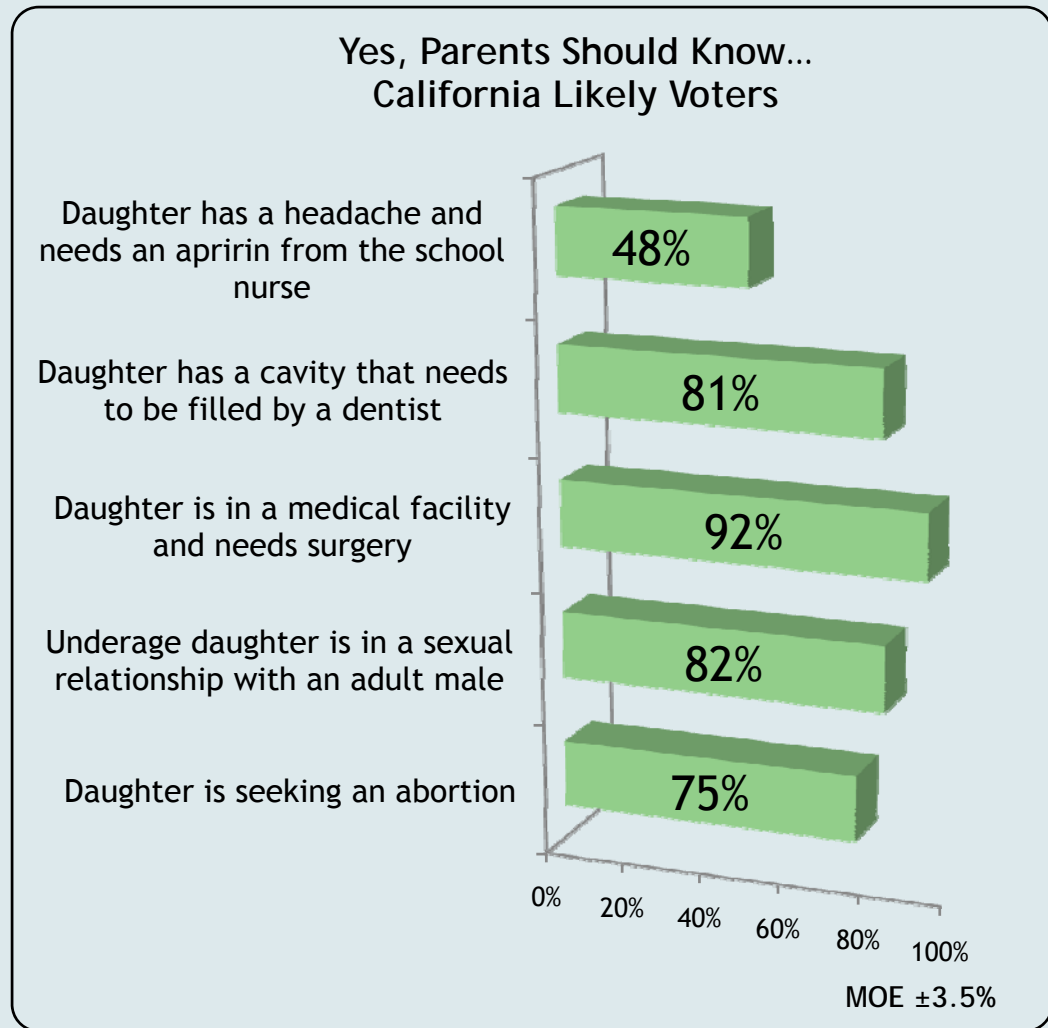


- Overall, 71% of likely California voters say they are more inclined to vote for Proposition 4 if told its passage will decrease victimization of minors.
- This includes 42% of No side voters who say they are more likely to support the initiative if informed its passage will have this result.
- 63% of likely voters who are unsure how they will vote are also more inclined to support Proposition 4 when this factor is considered.

Question wording: Passage of Proposition 4 increases the likelihood that parents will learn if their daughter has been a victim of abuse, and increases the likelihood that men who victimize young girls are arrested. Does this make you more or less likely to vote for Proposition 4?

Parents' Right to Know Issues: Argument that Changes Minds

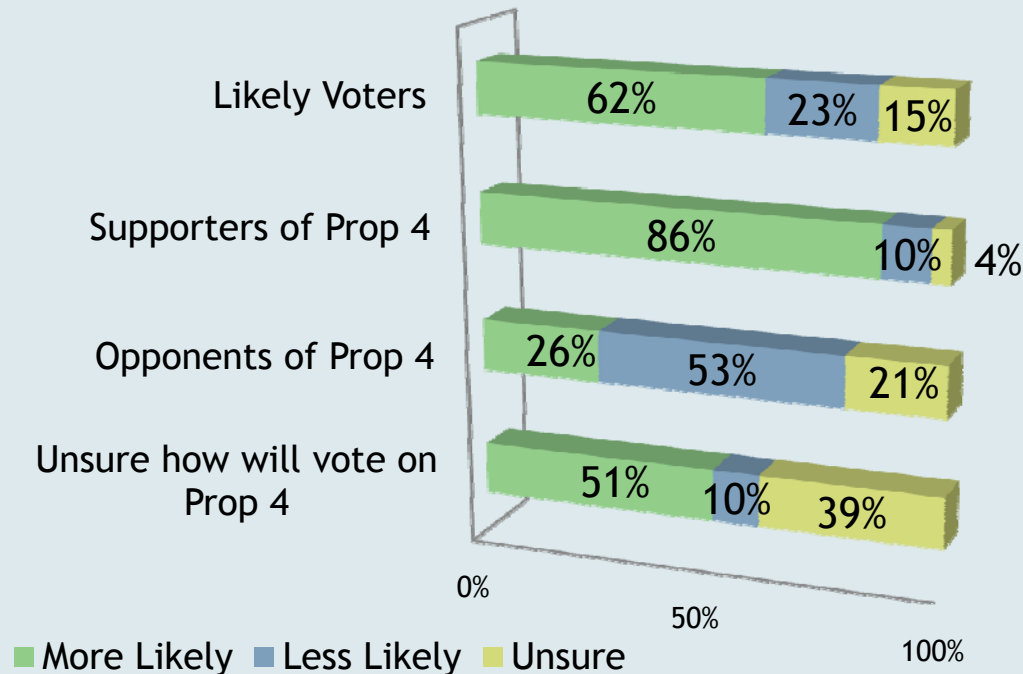
- Advocates of Proposition 4 argue there are many circumstances which require parental notification. These situations include if a minor needs an aspirin at school, needs a cavity filled, needs surgery, or is in a sexual relationship with an adult.
- Most voters agree parents should be notified in these instances including nearly a majority who would want to know if a daughter received an aspirin from the school nurse. 75% of likely voters also think this should apply to abortion.



Question wording: In general, do you believe that parents or legal guardians of a daughter who is living at home and under the age of 18 should have the right to know if:

Parents' Right to Know Issues: Argument that Changes Minds

More Likely or Less Likely to Support Prop 4
If Told Parental Notification for Other Issues
California Likely Voters

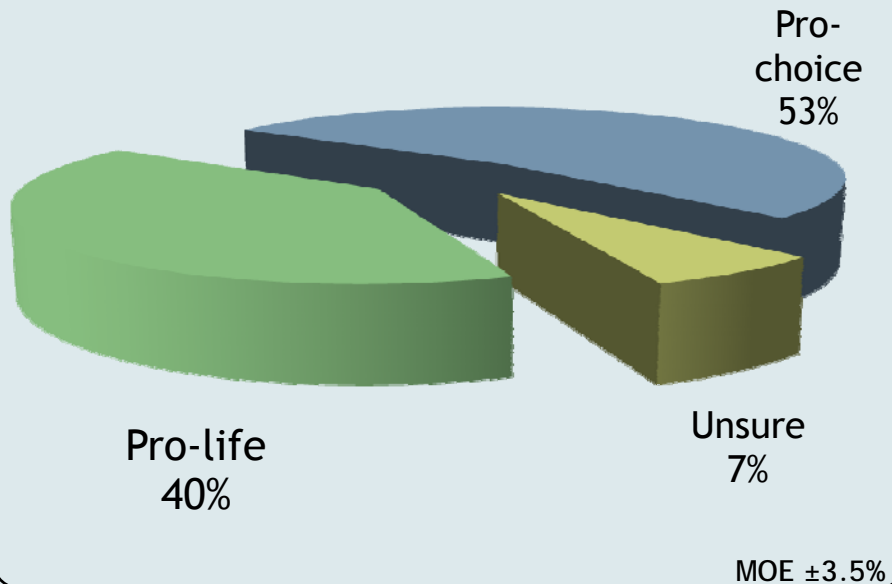


Question wording: In California, parents do have the right to know if their daughter needs an aspirin at school, or a cavity that needs to be filled. Parents, however, do not have the right to know if their daughter is seeking an abortion. A parent's right to know, which was overturned by the courts several years ago, would be restored with Proposition 4. Does this make you more or less likely to vote for Proposition 4?

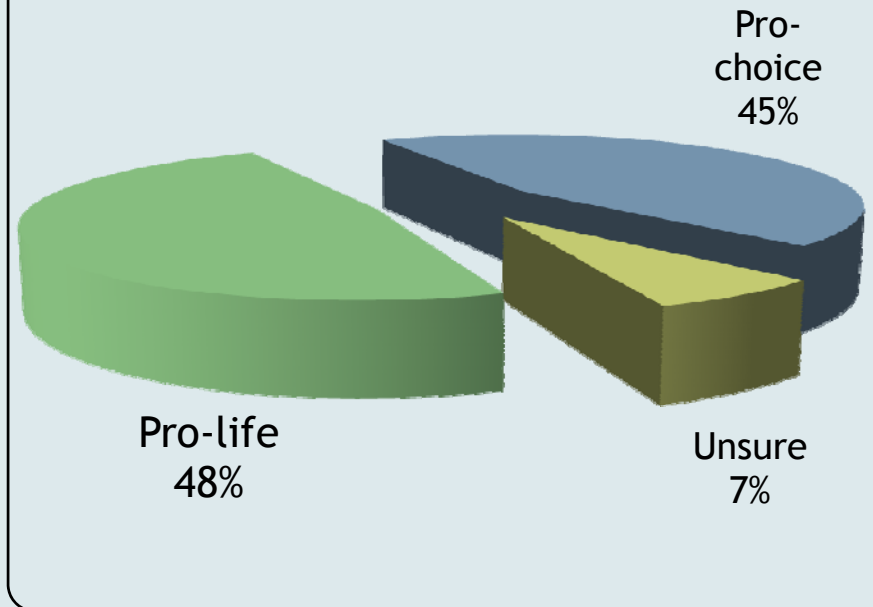
- ➔ 62% of Californians likely to vote on Election Day are more inclined to vote for Proposition 4 after being informed about other circumstances requiring parental notification.
- ➔ This includes about one-quarter of No side voters, 26%, who say they are more likely to support the initiative after learning this information.
- ➔ A majority of voters who are unsure how they will vote, 51%, are also more inclined to support Proposition 4 after receiving this information.

Abortion: Labels Magnify Division

Views on Abortion
California Likely Voters



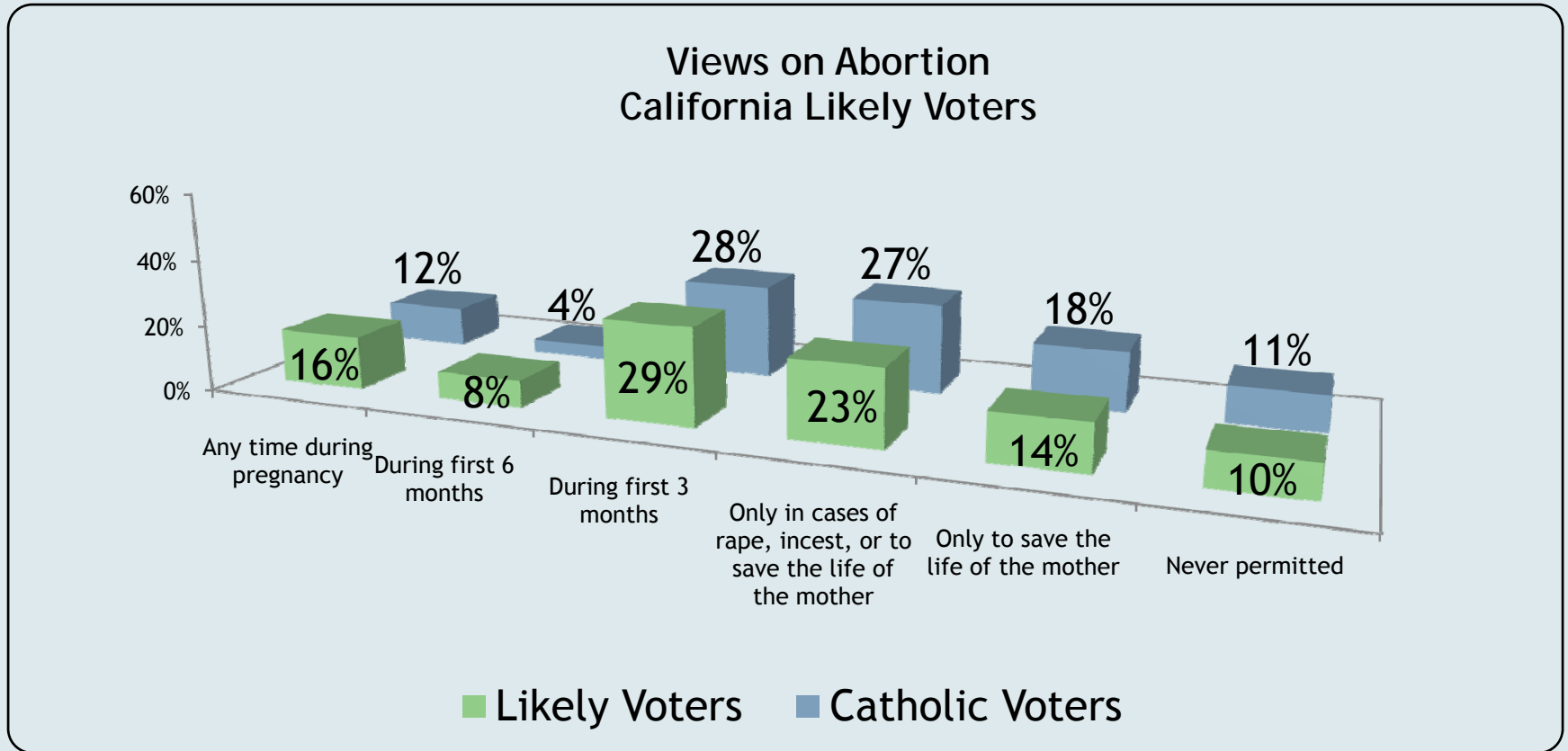
Views on Abortion
Catholic Likely Voters



Question wording: On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice?

- While a majority of California likely voters identify themselves as pro-choice, a notable 40% say they are pro-life. Seven percent of the electorate are unsure where they stand on the issue.
- The plurality of Catholic voters, 48%, consider themselves pro-life.

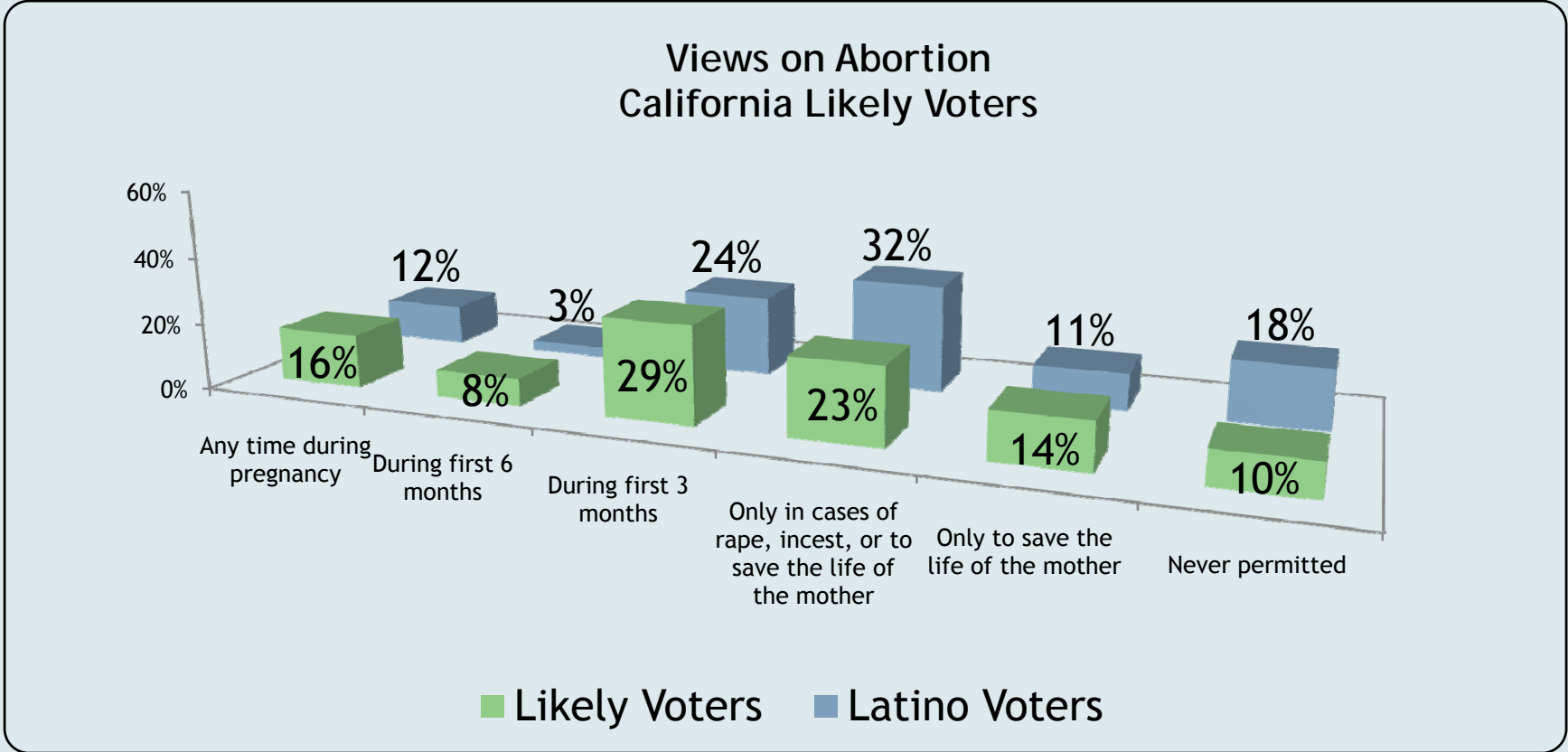
76% of California Voters Want Restrictions on Abortion



Question wording: Which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion:

- 76% of California voters want to significantly restrict abortion.
- This includes 47% who want, at most, to allow abortion only in cases of rape, incest, to save the life of the mother, or who think abortion should never be permitted.
- 84% of likely Catholic voters want significant limits on abortion.

Most Latino Voters Want Restrictions on Abortion

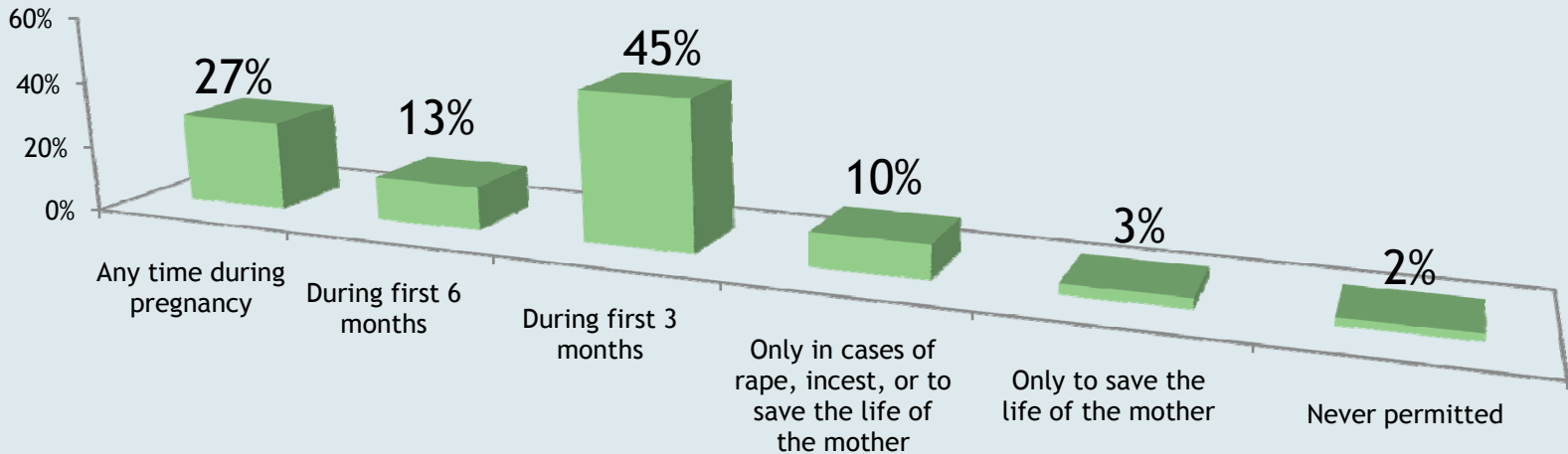


Question wording: Which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion:

- 85% of Latino voters likely to vote on Election Day want to significantly restrict abortion.
- This includes 61% who would restrict abortion to cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, and those who think abortion should never be permitted.

Pro-Choice Voters Seek Restrictions

Views on Abortion
Pro-choice California Likely Voters



Question wording: Question wording: Which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion:

- 60% of likely voters who identify themselves as pro-choice want considerable limits placed on abortion.
- This also includes 15% of pro-choice likely voters who want to limit abortion to only cases of rape, incest, to save the life of the mother, or who think abortion should never be permitted.



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Founded in 1978, the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) is a survey research center at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Marist Poll has conducted independent research on public priorities, elections, and a wide variety of public issues.

Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Frequently cited by journalists, public officials, and policy experts, the Marist Poll has been recognized for fairness, accuracy, and timeliness. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.



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The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 13,000 councils and 1.7 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.