



**Marist
Poll**



Abortion in America

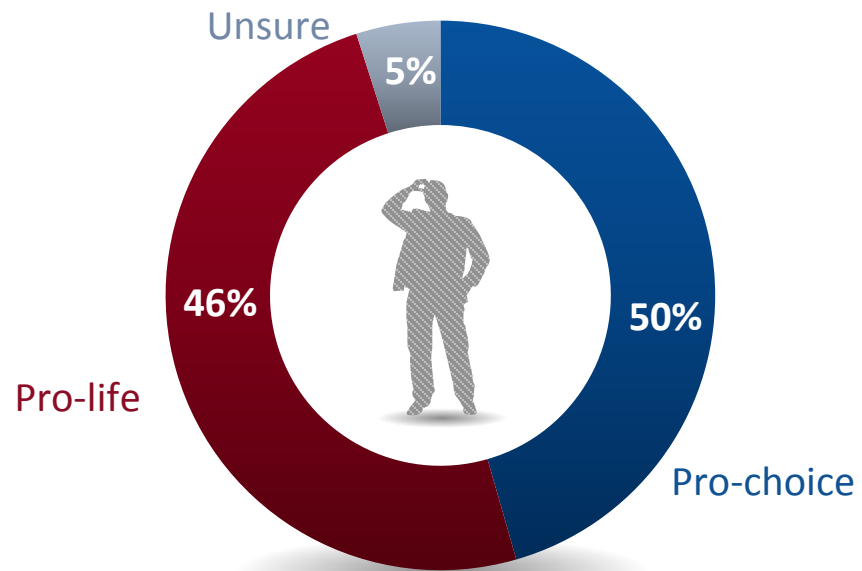
January 2014

Pro-life or Pro-choice?

When asked to describe themselves as either pro-life or pro-choice, 46% of Americans identify themselves as pro-life, and a similar proportion, 50%, consider themselves pro-choice.

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

Americans

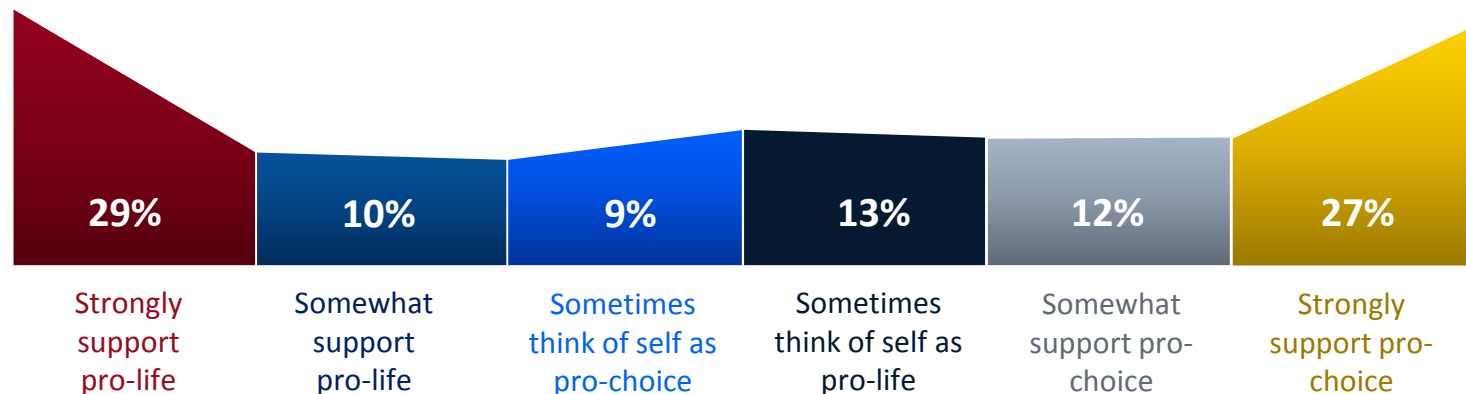


Strength of Abortion Position

Nearly three in ten Americans, 29%, are strongly pro-life, and 27% of Americans consider themselves strongly pro-choice. The plurality of Americans, 44%, do not think of themselves as strongly positioned on one side of the abortion debate or the other.

Do you strongly support the pro-life/pro-choice view, somewhat support it, or do you sometimes think of yourself as pro-choice/pro-life?

Americans



Americans' Views on Abortion

84% of Americans believe abortion should be restricted (within the first three months of pregnancy, in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother) or never allowed at all.

Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion:

	Americans May 2009	Americans Dec 2012	Americans Jan 2014
1 Abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy	6%	11%	9%
2 Abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy	8%	6%	7%
3 Abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy	26%	27%	28%
4 Abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	33%	34%	33%
5 Abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother	15%	12%	12%
6 Abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance	12%	10%	11%
	86%		84%
	83%		

Understanding Americans' Views on Abortion

Notable proportions of pro-choice Americans want to see significant restrictions on abortion.

IN THE MIDDLE

Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion:

	Strongly support pro-life	Somewhat support pro-life	Sometimes think of self as pro-choice	Sometimes think of self as pro-life	Somewhat support pro-choice	Strongly support pro-choice
1 Abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy	2%	1%	1%	5%	8%	26%
2 Abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy	1%	4%	1%	5%	15%	15%
3 Abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy	3%	16%	23%	45%	41%	49%
4 Abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	38%	59%	54%	35%	31%	8%
5 Abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother	28%	14%	14%	8%	1%	1%
6 Abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance ¹	29%	7%	7%	1%	5%	<1%

Digging Deeper

- Nearly six in ten (57%) Americans in the middle want significant restrictions on abortion. This includes 43% who believe abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother, 9% who believe it should be allowed only to save the life of the mother and 5% who believe abortion should never be permitted.

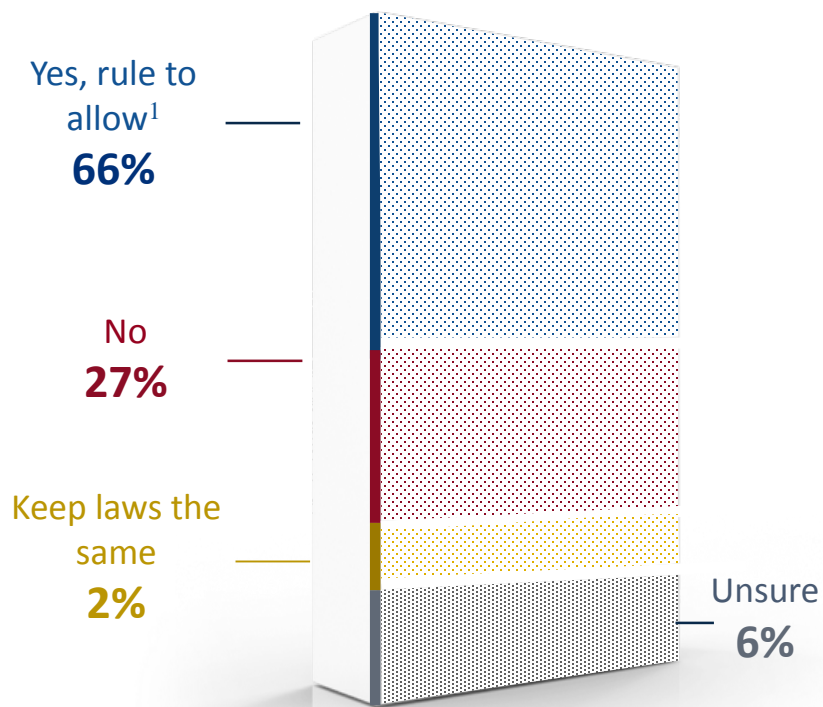
Allow Abortion Restrictions

Nearly two-thirds of Americans who believe in abortion restrictions, want to see the U.S. Supreme Court hand down a ruling to support those limits.

Would you like the U.S. Supreme Court to rule to allow these restrictions, or not?

	Americans reporting "Yes, rule to allow" restrictions
Abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy	54%
Abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	73%
Abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother	75%
Abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance	65%

Americans seeking restrictions



Digging Deeper

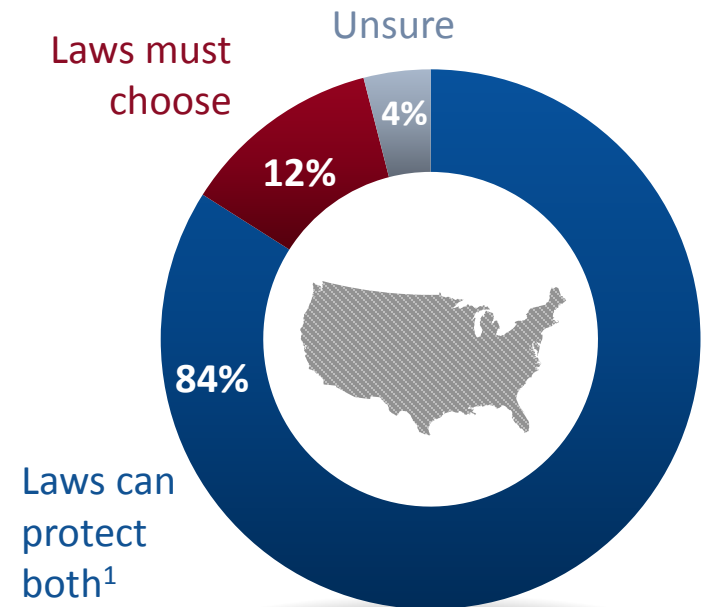
- Nearly three quarters (73%) of pro-life Americans would like the U.S. Supreme Court to rule to allow restrictions they support. 57% of pro-choice Americans who want some restrictions on abortion believe the U.S. Supreme Court should rule to allow them.

Can Laws Protect Both a Woman and the Unborn?

Most Americans believe it is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn. Few think it is necessary for laws to compromise the welfare of one for the other.

Americans

Which statement comes closer to your view: One, it is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn; or two, it is necessary for laws to choose to protect one and not the other?



Digging Deeper

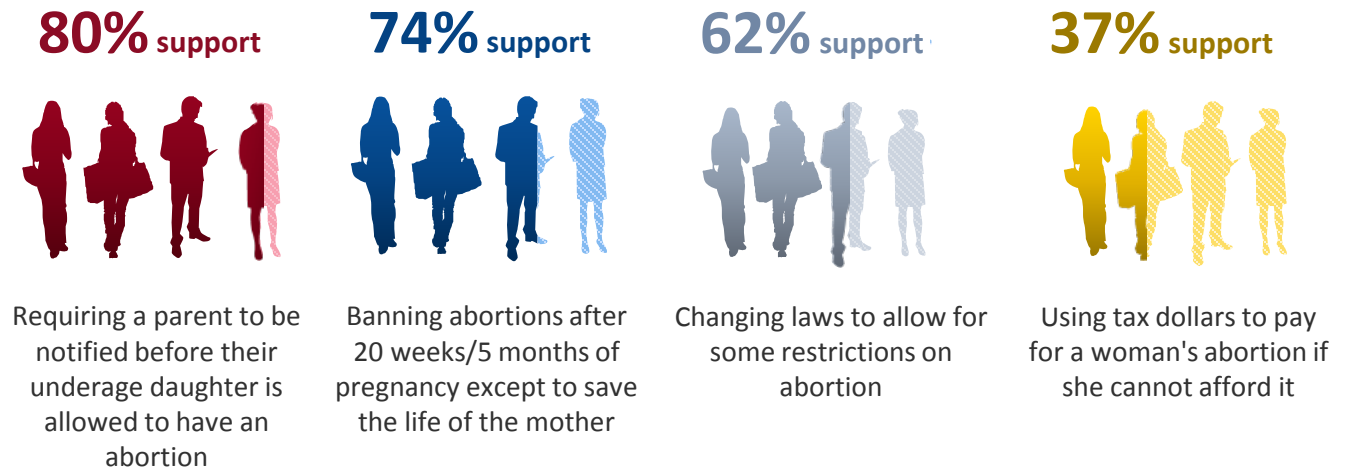
1. Most pro-life Americans (91%) believe it is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn. This compares with 79% of pro-choice Americans who share this view.

Abortion Law: Defining Restrictions

Many Americans believe laws should be changed to allow for some restrictions on abortion including requiring parental notification and banning abortions after 5 months of pregnancy.

Americans

Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following statements.



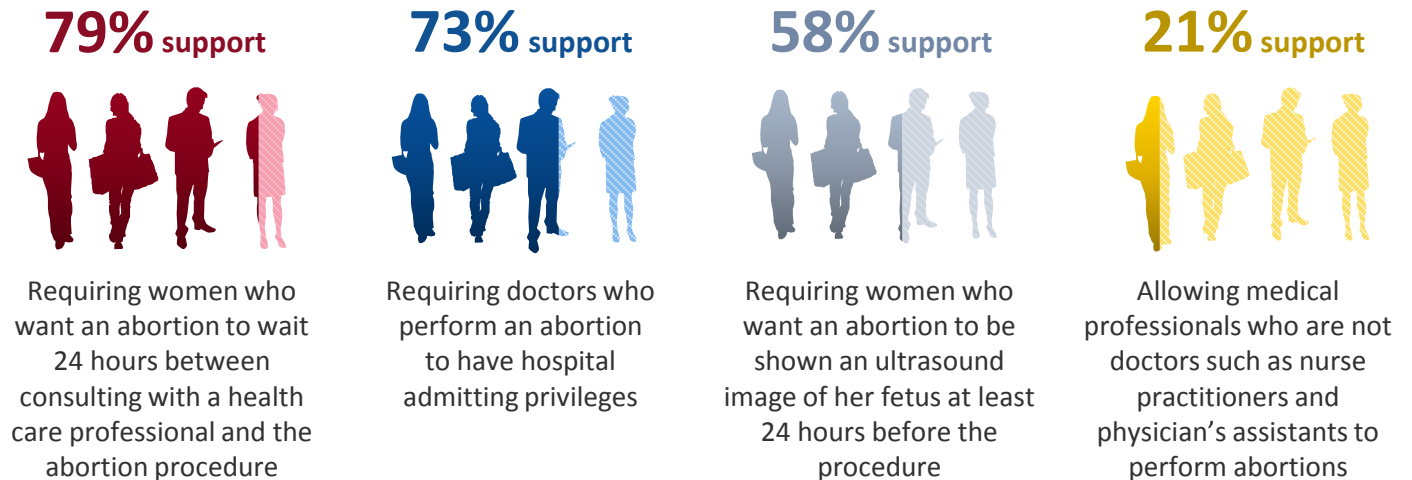
	Strongly support/support	Oppose/Strongly oppose	Unsure
Requiring a parent to be notified before their underage daughter is allowed to have an abortion	80%	18%	2%
Banning abortions after 20 weeks/5 months of pregnancy except to save the life of the mother	74%	21%	4%
Changing laws to allow for some restrictions on abortion	62%	32%	6%
Using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion if she cannot afford it	37%	58%	4%

Abortion Law: Medical

Americans show support for a range of proposed laws to allow restrictions on abortion.

Americans

Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following statements.



	Strongly support/Support	Oppose/Strongly oppose	Unsure
Requiring women who want an abortion to wait 24 hours between consulting with a health care professional and the abortion procedure	79%	19%	2%
Requiring doctors who perform an abortion to have hospital admitting privileges	73%	21%	6%
Requiring women who want an abortion to be shown an ultrasound image of her fetus at least 24 hours before the procedure	58%	40%	3%
Allowing medical professionals who are not doctors such as nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to perform abortions	21%	76%	3%

Abortion Law: Pro-life/Pro-choice Continuum

A notable proportion of strongly pro-choice Americans favor many abortion restrictions.

Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following statements.

Americans

Presents percentage reporting strongly support/support

	Strongly support pro-life	Somewhat support pro-life	Sometimes think of self as pro-choice	Sometimes think of self as pro-life	Somewhat support pro-choice	Strongly support pro-choice
Requiring women who want an abortion to be shown an ultrasound image of her fetus at least 24 hours before the procedure	88%	72%	72%	50%	46%	25%
Using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion if she cannot afford it	10%	24%	33%	45%	49%	69%
Changing laws to allow for some restrictions on abortion	75%	82%	74%	66%	62%	37%
Requiring women who want an abortion to wait 24 hours between consulting with a health care professional and the abortion procedure	89%	82%	90%	80%	84%	64%
Requiring a parent to be notified before their underage daughter is allowed to have an abortion	94%	88%	90%	79%	78%	62%
Allowing medical professionals who are not doctors such as nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to perform abortions	6%	12%	14%	22%	28%	39%
Requiring doctors who perform an abortion to have hospital admitting privileges	68%	82%	82%	78%	80%	68%
Banning abortions after 20 weeks/5 months of pregnancy except to save the life of the mother	78%	85%	81%	79%	72%	62%
Banning abortions after 20 weeks/5 months of pregnancy except in the case of rape and incest or to save the life of the mother	66%	78%	76%	78%	70%	57%

Abortion Law: The Views of the Middle

Most Americans who are neither strongly pro-life nor strongly pro-choice support allowing restrictions on abortion in many cases, including most notably a 24 hour waiting period (83%) and parental notification for women who are underage (83%).

Please tell me if you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose:

	Strongly support pro-life	In the Middle	Strongly support pro-choice
Requiring women who want an abortion to be shown an ultrasound image of her fetus at least 24 hours before the procedure	88%	58%	25%
Using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion if she cannot afford it	10%	39%	69%
Changing laws to allow for some restrictions on abortion	75%	70%	37%
Requiring women who want an abortion to wait 24 hours between consulting with a health care professional and the abortion procedure	89%	83%	64%
Requiring a parent to be notified before their underage daughter is allowed to have an abortion	94%	83%	62%
Allowing medical professionals who are not doctors such as nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to perform abortions	6%	20%	39%
Requiring doctors who perform an abortion to have hospital admitting privileges	68%	80%	68%

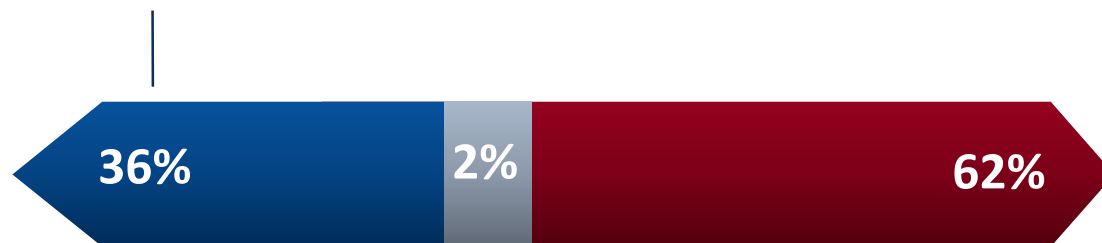
Abortion: A Moral Issue

Regardless of whether Americans think access to abortion should be legal or not, more than 6 in 10 Americans, 62%, believe abortion is morally wrong.

Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, do you believe that, in general, abortion is morally acceptable or morally wrong?

Americans

Morally acceptable



Not a moral issue

Morally wrong

Defining Life at the Start

68% of Americans believe life begins within the first three months, including a majority, 53%, who believes life begins at conception and 15% who think it begins before three months.

Americans



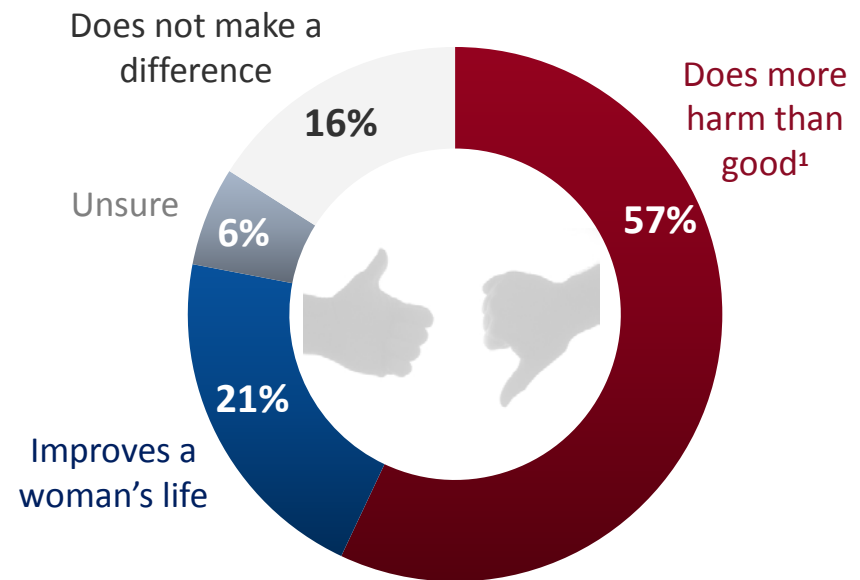
Do you believe life begins:

Long Term Impact of Abortion

In the long run, a majority of Americans believe having an abortion does more harm than good to a woman.

In the long run, do you believe having an abortion improves a woman's life, or in the long run, do you believe abortion does more harm than good to a woman?

Americans



Digging Deeper

1. 93% of strongly pro-life Americans feel, in the long run, having an abortion does more harm than good. This compares with nearly six in ten (58%) of those in the middle and about one in five (18%) of strongly pro-choice Americans who share this view.

Abortion Issue and Debate

A majority of Americans believe the issue of abortion is an important one and should continue to be debated.

Which of the following comes closer to your view:

Americans

43%

The abortion debate has gone on too long and there is nothing new to be said



55%

The issue of abortion continues to be important and needs to be debated¹

Unsure
2%

Digging Deeper

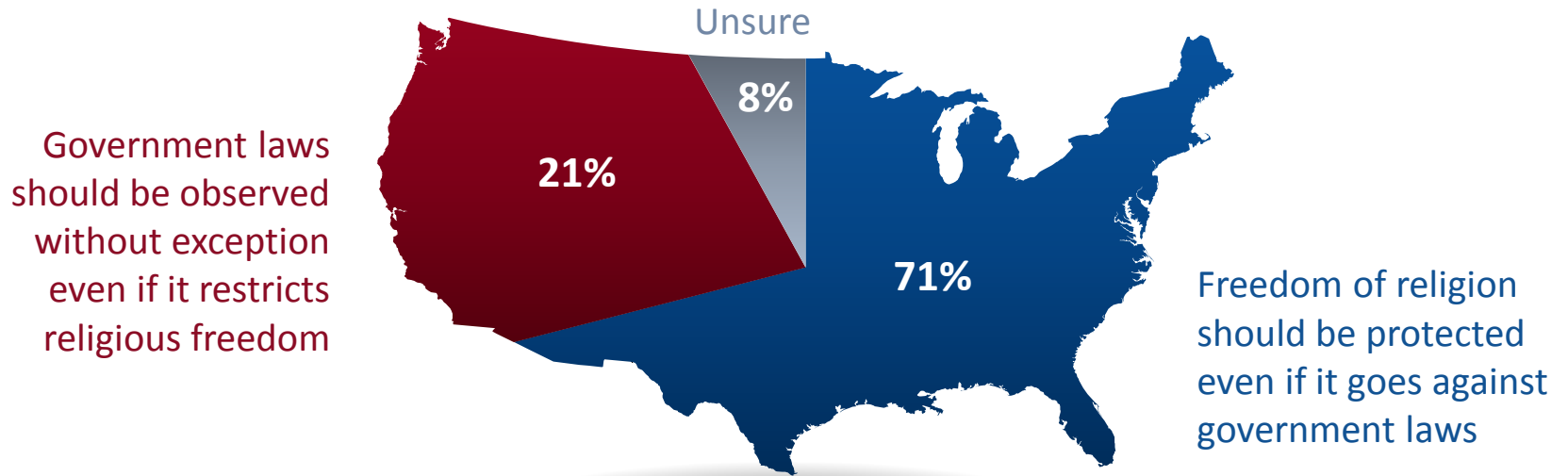
1. Younger generations, especially, believe the issue of abortion is an important one and should continue to be debated. 60% of Millennials, 71% of pro-life Americans, and even 42% of pro-choice Americans believe it is necessary to continue the discussion.

Freedom of Religion

Most Americans agree freedom of religion should be protected even if it conflicts with government laws.

Which statement comes closer to your view:

Americans



	Millennials	Gen X	Baby Boomers	Greatest
Freedom of religion should be protected even if it goes against government laws	74%	71%	70%	74%
Government laws should be observed without exception even if it restricts religious freedom	21%	22%	22%	15%
Unsure	5%	8%	9%	10%



STUDY METHODOLOGY

How the Study was Conducted

- This survey of 2,001 adults was conducted December 10, 2013 through December 15, 2013 by The Marist Poll and sponsored by The Knights of Columbus. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers.
- Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.2 percentage points.
- The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

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The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. Last year, Knights worldwide donated nearly 69 million hours, and more than \$150 million to charitable causes in communities throughout the Americas, as well in Europe and Asia. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable life insurance to its members, the Knights has been at the service of the community for more than 127 years, and is the world's largest Catholic service organization.



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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 social issues. Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.