



Vermont Water Cooler - November Poll

Updated 12/3/2019

Quick facts:

Survey date: 11/12-13/2019

Survey Population: 17001

Sample size: 366

Method: IVR

Number of questions (nom): 3

Number of question (tot): 5

Weighted for: Age & Gender

Web Version: Yes

Description of purpose:

The Vermont Water Cooler November survey is intended to gather Vermonter's feelings towards abortion policy in Vermont and the protections offered thereof. This is particularly relevant as the Vermont Legislatures embarks on a multi-year effort to amend Vermont's constitution to include these protections. To this end, the Water Cooler team developed a few brief questions intended help to inform policy makers about Vermonter's take on abortion related issues.

Methodology:

The poll was conducted by IVR phone call to landline telephones on **November 12th and 13th of 2019** (see Appendix A for full list of questions). Questions were presented to respondents in a multi-choice format in order to standardize results. Instructions for entering the intended response were included with each question. For example, "Press 1 if you think that...."

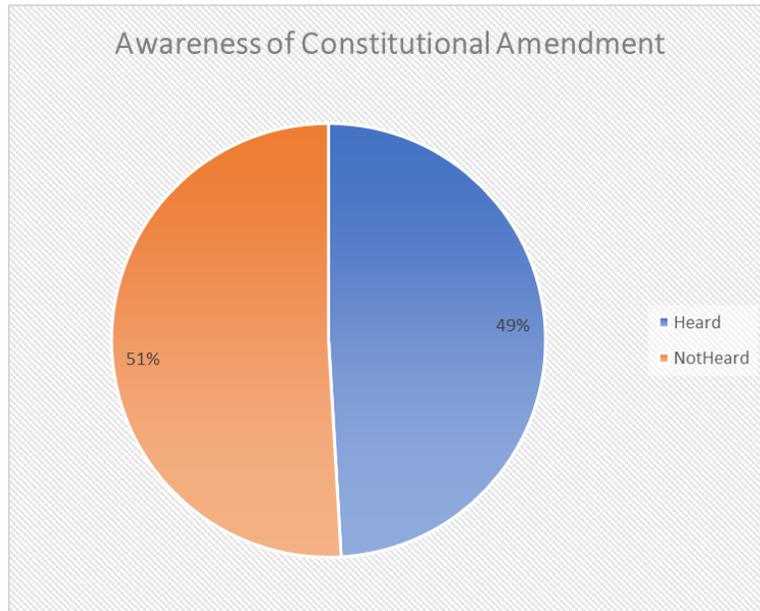
The survey population of **17,001** households was randomly selected from Vermont's registered voter list. The phone list was limited to just 802 area code numbers and deduped so individual households were not called multiple times.

The final number of respondents to the survey totaled **366**. The survey responses were then weighed for age and gender using a raking method to compensate for oversampling in either of these demographics.

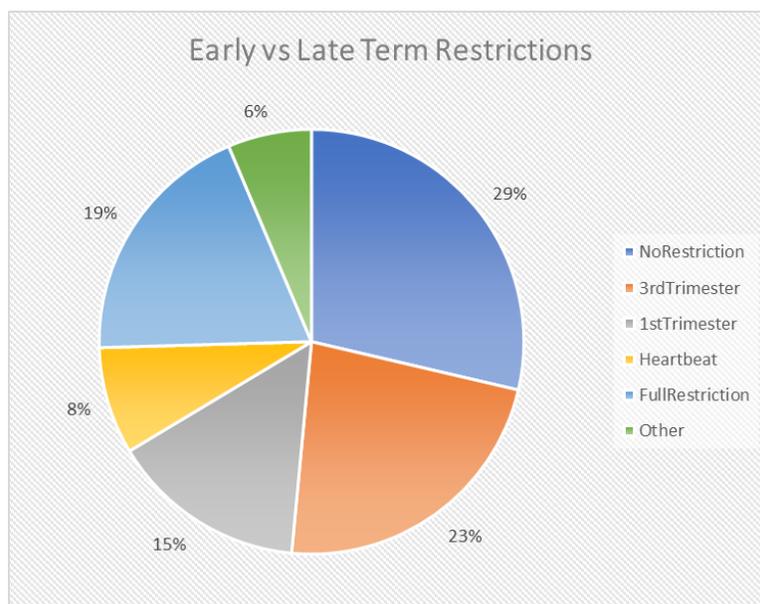
An accompanying web survey was launched on vtwatercooler.com on **October 8th, 2019**. Data from that version of the survey is not included in these results.



Constitutional Amendment - When asked if they were aware of the Vermont Legislature’s efforts to amend Vermont’s constitution to guarantee abortion rights, respondents were nearly split. We do not have other benchmark questions of this nature to compare against, however this seems somewhat low to us for an effort to amend the state’s constitution. Perhaps awareness will rise as the effort progresses.

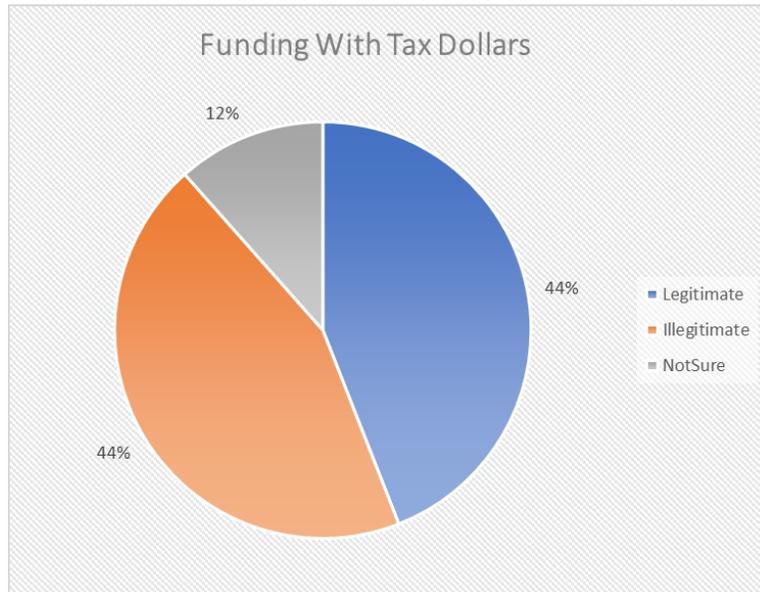


Timing – When asked about their thoughts on early or late-term abortions, respondents had a variety of views. Nearly one third supported no restrictions on abortion at point during pregnancy as opposed to about 20% that did not support abortion at any point. Close to half of respondents fell somewhere in the middle, supporting abortion up to a certain point during pregnancy; either when a heartbeat was detectable or after the first or second trimester.





Tax Funding – Respondents were split over whether or not tax dollars should fund abortions. As there are a number of different ways public funding may be used to support abortion such as direct payments, subsidies, and health care programs. Because of the limitations of this survey format we kept this as a general principal instead of offering specific funding methods. Further study here may be warranted.





Appendix A

Survey questions and allowed responses.

- 1. Are you aware that the Vermont legislature voted in 2019 to begin a four-year process of amending Vermont's Constitution to protect the reproductive rights of all citizens?**
 - a. Yes, I heard about it.
 - b. No, I have not heard about it.
- 2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion on what Vermont's abortion laws should do?**
 - a. Preserve the absolute right to an abortion for all nine months of pregnancy.
 - b. Preserve the right to an abortion only until the point where the fetus is viable outside the womb (generally considered after the 2nd trimester).
 - c. Preserve the right to an abortion only through the first trimester of pregnancy.
 - d. Preserve the right to an abortion only up to the presence of a fetal heartbeat.
 - e. There should be no right to an abortion at any point during pregnancy.
 - f. Other (phone only)
- 3. Should tax dollars be used to fund abortions?**
 - a. Yes, funding abortions is a legitimate use of tax dollars.
 - b. No, tax dollars should not be used to fund abortions.
 - c. Not sure.
- 4. What range most closely matches your current age? (age)**
 - a. 18-30
 - b. 31-45
 - c. 46-60
 - d. 61-75
 - e. 76 or older
- 5. What gender do you identify as? (gender)**
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Non-Binary