

Released:  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

Contact:  
**PATRICK MURRAY**  
[pdmurray@monmouth.edu](mailto:pdmurray@monmouth.edu)  
**Follow on Twitter: @PollsterPatrick**

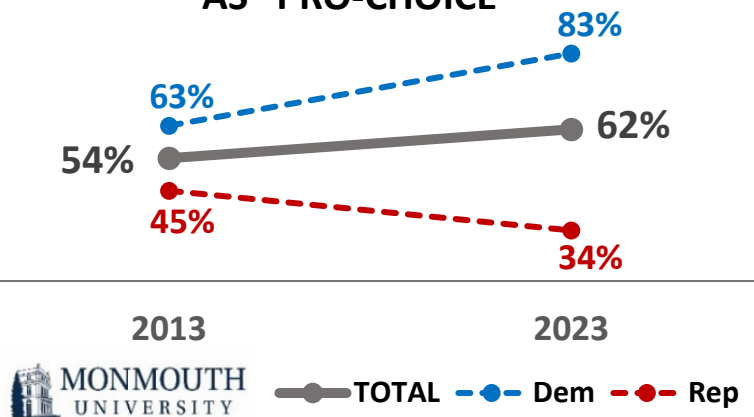
## NEW JERSEY: PRO-CHOICE VIEWS UP OVER PAST DECADE

*Majority support abortion protections in state constitution*

West Long Branch, NJ – More than 6 in 10 New Jerseyans describe themselves as pro-choice on the issue of abortion, a number that has increased over the past decade. The *Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll* finds that three-fourths of state residents support maintaining legal access to abortion, either with or without some limitations. While pro-choice views among Garden State Republicans have actually declined over the past ten years, support for abortion access among this group is slightly higher than it is for Republicans nationally. Most New Jerseyans are satisfied with the state’s current abortion access laws and few expect they will be weakened. Still, a majority say it would be a good idea to enshrine those protections in the state constitution.

Twice as many New Jerseyans identify themselves as pro-choice (62%) as say they are pro-life (29%) when asked their personal views of abortion. The pro-choice number has risen by 8 percentage points in the past decade (54% in 2013), but that increase has not been universal. While the proportion of Democrats who call themselves pro-choice has grown significantly (from 63% in 2013 to 83% now), the number of Republicans who say the same has actually fallen (from 45% to 34%). The pro-choice views of independents have remained more stable (from 53% in 2013 to 59% in 2023).

### NEW JERSEYANS WHO IDENTIFY AS "PRO-CHOICE"



“In just ten years, we’ve gone from a notable partisan difference in abortion opinion to a situation where partisanship has become more determinative. Today, a person’s position on abortion is almost a

proxy for their political party affiliation. However, it's also important to note that New Jersey Republicans are slightly more likely to stray from the national party orthodoxy on this issue," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Overall, 36% of New Jerseyans say their position on abortion policy is that it should always be legal and another 39% say it should be legal with some limitations. Moving to the other end of the spectrum, just 3% say abortion should always be illegal and 18% say it should be illegal, but with some exceptions for rape, incest or to save the mother's life. The number of New Jerseyans who agree that abortion access should be legal in all or most circumstances (75%) is somewhat larger than the proportion of Americans who hold the same view (66%) according to a national *Monmouth University Poll conducted last summer* after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Support for legal abortion, either in all cases or with some limitations, is higher among New Jersey Democrats (92%) and independents (74%) than it is among Republicans (50%). However, while legal support levels for Garden State Democrats and independents are about the same as among those two partisan groups nationally (91% of Democrats and 68% of independents), New Jersey GOP support for legal abortion is slightly higher than it is for Republicans nationally (38%).

Most New Jerseyans (54%) feel the state's current abortion access laws are about right. Just 1 in 4 would change them – with opinion being equally divided on whether access should be strengthened (11%) or weakened (10%) – and 20% have no opinion. Few New Jerseyans think it is very (8%) or somewhat (26%) likely that abortion access will become more restricted in New Jersey over the next ten years. In fact, most say this is not too likely (36%) or not at all likely (25%) to happen. Still, a majority of state residents (58%) feel it is a good idea to put abortion protections into the state constitution. Specifically among those New Jerseyans who describe themselves as pro-choice, 69% are satisfied with the state's current abortion laws and 62% think they are unlikely to be weakened, but 73% still think it is a good idea to enshrine those laws in the state constitution.

"The majority of New Jerseyans are satisfied with the state's current level of abortion access and have little concern it will change. Yet, many seem to feel that preserving those laws in the state constitution would not be a bad move when they look at what's going on in other states," said Murray.

Interestingly, New Jersey abortion opinion does not display significant gender differences. For example, 79% of women and 71% of men in the state support legal access to abortion. The comparable national results show a much wider gender gap (73% women and 59% men in June 2022).

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from January 5 to 9, 2023 with 809 New Jersey adults. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points for the full sample. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1 held for future release.]

[Q2-28 previously released.]

29. On the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?

TREND:	Jan. 2023	April 2013
Pro-choice	62%	54%
Pro-life	29%	38%
(VOL) Mixed/neither	5%	3%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%
(n)	(809)	(806)

30. Which comes closest to your view on abortion: it should always be legal, it should be legal with some limitations, it should be illegal except for rape, incest or to save the mother's life, or it should always be illegal?

	Jan. 2023
Always legal	36%
Legal with limitations	39%
Illegal with exceptions	18%
Always illegal	3%
(VOL) Don't know	4%
(n)	(809)

31. Does New Jersey need to change its current laws about abortion access or are the current laws about right? [If CHANGE: Does the state need to strengthen or weaken access to abortion?]

	Jan. 2023
Change, strengthen	11%
Change, weaken	10%
Change, not sure how	5%
Current laws about right	54%
(VOL) Don't know	20%
(n)	(809)

32. How likely do you think it is that access to abortion will become more restricted in New Jersey over the next ten years – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?

	Jan. 2023
Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	26%
Not too likely	36%
Not at all likely	25%
(VOL) Don't know	4%
(n)	(809)

33. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to put abortion protections into the state constitution?

	Jan. 2023
Good idea	58%
Bad idea	34%
(VOL) Don't know	9%
(n)	(809)

[Q34-37 held for future release.]

[Q38-44 previously released.]

## METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from January 5 to 9, 2023 with a probability-based random sample of 809 New Jersey adults age 18 and older. This includes 286 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 523 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trolldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2021 one-year survey). Interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, with sample obtained from Dynata. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 4.7 percentage points (adjusted for sample design effects). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### NJ Regions (by county)

*North* – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, Warren

*Central* – Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset

*South* – Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem

### *DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)*

*Self-Reported*

23% *Republican*

39% *Independent*

38% *Democrat*

49% *Male*

51% *Female*

27% *18-34*

34% *35-54*

39% *55+*

55% *White*

13% *Black*

20% *Hispanic*

12% *Asian/Other*

59% *No degree*

41% *4 year degree*

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		809	4.7%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	756	4.8%
	No	53	18.3%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	176	10.0%
	Independent	315	7.5%
	Democrat	294	7.8%
REGION	North	360	7.0%
	Central	248	8.5%
	South	186	9.8%
GENDER	Male	396	6.7%
	Female	413	6.6%
AGE	18-34	141	11.2%
	35-54	302	7.7%
	55+	350	7.1%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	515	5.9%
	Other	271	8.1%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	335	7.3%
	4 year degree	469	6.1%
INCOME	<\$50K	118	12.2%
	\$50 to <\$100K	194	9.6%
	\$100K+	427	6.4%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	239	8.6%
	No	566	5.6%

###

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 2/21/23

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
29. On the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?	Pro-choice	62%	61%	66%	34%	59%	83%	59%	71%	57%
	Pro-life	29%	30%	26%	57%	32%	11%	32%	22%	31%
	[VOL] Mixed, neither	5%	5%	1%	3%	5%	5%	5%	4%	7%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	7%	6%	5%	0%	4%	3%	5%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
29. On the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?	Pro-choice	57%	66%	69%	61%	58%	60%	64%	58%	68%
	Pro-life	32%	27%	22%	31%	33%	30%	28%	33%	25%
	[VOL] Mixed, neither	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%	6%	4%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	2%	5%	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%	3%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
29. On the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?	Pro-choice	58%	64%	66%	62%	62%
	Pro-life	33%	26%	27%	30%	29%
	[VOL] Mixed, neither	4%	6%	4%	4%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
30. Which comes closest to your view on abortion: it should always be legal, it should be legal with some limitations, it should be illegal except for rape, incest or to save the mother's life, or it should always be illegal?	Always legal	36%	37%	30%	12%	30%	59%	34%	43%	33%
	Legal with limitations	39%	37%	52%	38%	44%	33%	39%	37%	40%
	Illegal with exceptions	18%	19%	10%	38%	19%	5%	20%	15%	20%
	Always illegal	3%	3%	5%	7%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	1%	5%	2%	3%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
30. Which comes closest to your view on abortion: it should always be legal, it should be legal with some limitations, it should be illegal except for rape, incest or to save the mother's life, or it should always be illegal?	Always legal	30%	42%	41%	36%	34%	32%	42%	35%	39%
	Legal with limitations	41%	37%	43%	34%	39%	38%	38%	38%	40%
	Illegal with exceptions	23%	14%	12%	23%	19%	21%	14%	21%	15%
	Always illegal	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%	4%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 2/21/23

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
30. Which comes closest to your view on abortion: it should always be legal, it should be legal with some limitations, it should be illegal except for rape, incest or to save the mother's life, or it should always be illegal?	Always legal	36%	38%	38%	34%	37%
	Legal with limitations	39%	40%	39%	37%	39%
	Illegal with exceptions	18%	16%	20%	23%	17%
	Always illegal	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	1%	3%	3%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
31. Does New Jersey need to change its current laws about abortion access or are the current laws about right? [IF CHANGE: Does the state need to strengthen or weaken access to abortion?]	Change, strengthen	11%	10%	15%	12%	10%	10%	13%	9%	10%
	Change, weaken	10%	10%	7%	23%	11%	1%	8%	9%	13%
	Change, not sure how	5%	5%	4%	8%	6%	2%	6%	2%	6%
	Current laws about right	54%	54%	59%	39%	47%	71%	55%	57%	49%
	[VOL] Dont know	20%	21%	15%	18%	25%	16%	18%	23%	22%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
31. Does New Jersey need to change its current laws about abortion access or are the current laws about right? [IF CHANGE: Does the state need to strengthen or weaken access to abortion?]	Change, strengthen	11%	10%	11%	10%	11%	10%	11%	13%	7%
	Change, weaken	11%	8%	6%	13%	10%	14%	5%	10%	10%
	Change, not sure how	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%	4%	5%	8%	1%
	Current laws about right	53%	56%	65%	51%	49%	50%	61%	48%	64%
	[VOL] Dont know	20%	21%	13%	22%	23%	22%	18%	21%	18%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
31. Does New Jersey need to change its current laws about abortion access or are the current laws about right? [IF CHANGE: Does the state need to strengthen or weaken access to abortion?]	Change, strengthen	11%	13%	9%	13%	10%
	Change, weaken	7%	10%	11%	14%	8%
	Change, not sure how	10%	6%	3%	4%	5%
	Current laws about right	49%	49%	63%	52%	55%
	[VOL] Dont know	22%	23%	14%	18%	21%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
32. How likely do you think it is that access to abortion will become more restricted in New Jersey over the next ten years - very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?	Very likely	8%	8%	11%	10%	10%	7%	9%	9%	6%
	Somewhat likely	26%	26%	21%	21%	23%	33%	25%	21%	33%
	Not too likely	36%	36%	37%	32%	31%	44%	32%	43%	37%
	Not at all likely	25%	25%	26%	34%	30%	16%	29%	24%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	5%	3%	6%	1%	4%	3%	4%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 2/21/23

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
32. How likely do you think it is that access to abortion will become more restricted in New Jersey over the next ten years - very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?	Very likely	10%	7%	8%	11%	7%	7%	10%	10%	6%
	Somewhat likely	25%	27%	28%	23%	28%	22%	30%	30%	21%
	Not too likely	29%	43%	40%	35%	34%	39%	34%	36%	37%
	Not at all likely	32%	19%	20%	28%	27%	28%	23%	21%	32%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
32. How likely do you think it is that access to abortion will become more restricted in New Jersey over the next ten years - very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?	Very likely	18%	6%	5%	11%	8%
	Somewhat likely	34%	25%	24%	26%	26%
	Not too likely	28%	42%	38%	32%	38%
	Not at all likely	16%	24%	31%	28%	24%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
33. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to put abortion protections into the state constitution?	Good idea	58%	58%	53%	32%	56%	76%	54%	67%	56%
	Bad idea	34%	33%	36%	56%	35%	19%	37%	25%	36%
	[VOL] Dont know	9%	8%	11%	12%	9%	5%	9%	8%	8%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
33. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to put abortion protections into the state constitution?	Good idea	55%	60%	68%	50%	58%	55%	64%	57%	60%
	Bad idea	37%	30%	24%	42%	34%	35%	29%	35%	32%
	[VOL] Dont know	7%	10%	8%	8%	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
33. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to put abortion protections into the state constitution?	Good idea	56%	59%	61%	50%	61%
	Bad idea	35%	32%	33%	42%	30%
	[VOL] Dont know	9%	8%	6%	8%	8%