

Abortion. Educate, Don't Take the Bait.

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Abortion. It's a dirty word that no one talks about. Republicans remain silent so "the base" remains happy, while crime, cost, and toxic government remain out of control. Far left Democrats control the narrative that all Republicans want a national abortion ban, want to set women back, and want to eliminate a doctor's right to do their job and "do no harm". Those caught in the middle choose to stay silent in fear that our friends will judge us, that our party will abandon us, and that those who preach to forgive and love will cast judgment and ill will. As a woman, daughter of a single mother, sister, aunt, friend, advocate and believer in limited government, I support the option for choice. I do not support abortion as birth control, late-term abortion, over-the-counter abortions, and fully support those of medical necessity. However, my opinion matters for my own body, not yours, nor that of the State's and is between me and God.

If the government wants a say in family planning, the government must acknowledge that family make up varies, that single parents need more help, that the foster care system is broken, and that not everyone is guided by a religious compass. Those that are, find their parish also split on abortion (<https://www.pewresearch.org/religious-landscape-study/database/views-about-abortion/>). Perhaps the focus should remain on finding solutions to prevent the destruction of the nuclear family. The purpose of the government is to represent the will of the people, and the people have spoken and continue to speak on this issue. Abortion is an established right and has been legal in Washington State since 1970. Since the overturn of Roe vs Wade, our state has enacted additional protections to abortion services (see <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/sexual-and-reproductive-health/abortion>). It would take a two-thirds Democrat majority to codify abortion rights in the State's constitution, and this is likely to occur by 2026.

RCW 9.02.110 Right to have and provide.

*The state may not deny or interfere with a pregnant individual's right to choose to have an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, or to protect the pregnant individual's life or health. A physician, physician assistant, *advanced registered nurse practitioner, or other health care provider acting within the provider's scope of practice may terminate and a health*

*care provider may assist a physician, physician assistant, *advanced registered nurse practitioner, or other health care provider acting within the provider's scope of practice in terminating a pregnancy as permitted by this section.*

In 2022, I campaigned for a House seat in the 28th LD (Pierce County) and voters were asked to rank the issues top of mind. Here's how they answered:

Republicans:

- 1) Crime
- 2) Cost of Living
- 3) Good Governance

Democrats:

- 1) Abortion & Trump
- 2) Crime
- 3) Cost of Living

The environment, immigration, and border security were mentioned by both parties, though the root cause and solutions were of varying opinion.

Washington state Voter Turnout from 2020 thru 2023:

Year	Registered Voters	Ballots Counted	Turnout %
2020	4,892,871	4,116,894	84.14
2021	4,814,675	1,896,481	39.38
2022	4,806,852	3,067,686	63.82
2023	4,829,084	1,758,084	36.41%

Source:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/data-research/election-data-and-maps/reports-data-and-statistics/general-election-turnout>

Those I spoke with who did not vote cited:

- 1) Did not identify with either party aka “politically homeless” / Did not align with 100% of their party platform
- 2) Did not feel like their vote mattered (election integrity, outnumbered, religion)

3) Was not registered in WA state (primarily military & families)

I also heard the personal stories from women, and supportive stories from men as fathers and brothers. There was also a lot of misinformation about which party was and is doing what to help or hurt women. I knew I had to share my personal story, and I wasn't going to win or lose by ignoring such an important topic. For the most part, I received positive feedback across the political spectrum. Most said "choice" was the single most important issue they were voting on (remember I was in a blue district). However, there were a handful that critiqued the way I told my own story.

Self-proclaimed Christians called me a RINO (Republican in Name Only) and shared that they prayed that I would lose the election, as well wished hell and infertility on me. It was then I realized I wasn't going to let anyone on the far right or far left speak for me, whether that be in a Facebook post or in a 30-second political ad. I am constantly reaffirmed that the extremes of both sides do not represent their party as a whole and the more I am outside of the echo chamber, the more I meet others that feel the same way.

Recent polls provide insights into how people who identify as moderates feel about abortion. According to a Pew Research Center survey from 2024, among Moderates and Liberal Republicans (yes, there is such a thing), 67% believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 31% think it should be illegal. This shows a more nuanced position compared to more conservative Republicans, who largely oppose legal abortion. Similarly, among moderate and conservative Democrats, 76% support legal abortion in all or most cases, which is slightly less than the overwhelming support among Liberal Democrats (Public Opinion on Abortion Pew Research Center [https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/.](https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/))

Another survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) found that views on abortion are a significant factor in voting decisions for many Americans, including moderates. About 23% of independents (many of whom might identify as moderates) said they would only vote for a candidate who shares their views on abortion, illustrating how pivotal this issue remains across the political spectrum (New KFF Survey Finds Abortion Remains Key Issues for Voters with Democrats Holding a Sizeable Edge over Republicans; A Third of Women say They'll Only Vote for Someone Who Shares Their Views KFF (<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/press-release/new-kff-survey-finds->

[abortion-remains-key-issue-for-voters-with-democrats-holding-a-sizeable-edge-over-republicans-a-third-of-women-say-theyll-only-vote-for-someone-who-shares-their-views/](#)). These findings indicate that while moderates are more likely to support legal abortion than their conservative counterparts, they also favor some restrictions, reflecting a balanced stance on the issue.

Former President Clinton stated that “Abortions should be legal, safe and rare” and Former President Trump has also stated he would not support a federal abortion ban and leave this matter up to the states. Washington state Gubernatorial candidate Dave Reichert does not believe that “any politician, regardless of personal beliefs has the right to make that decision for any woman” and Senate candidate, Dr. Raul Garcia would also not support an abortion ban, while also aiming to improve women's health care. Therefore, men have a “choice” as well, and the pro-choice discussion for women should also include a pro-responsibility discussion for men.

It's no secret that crime, drug use, rising costs, homelessness, and the list goes on, are issues that impact everyone. These things can be changed, so why are Republicans losing on the one thing that can't? WE MUST NOT BE A SINGLE-ISSUE VOTING POPULATION. When we vote for a Governor, Senator, or any position, we must consider all the issues over party and choose the candidate that best balances the scale. Right now, the scale is heavy, and leans left. Republicans have lost every gubernatorial race since John Spellman in the mid-80s. Democrats hold a 58–40 majority in the House of Representatives and a 29–20 majority in the Senate. Fifty percent of the state's voters are in King, Snohomish, and Pierce County and these areas contribute to the Democrat majority. In addition, people are moving away from these areas into other parts of the state and not realizing their votes contributed to the reasons why they left. More so, they continue to vote in the same manner and turn their new home into the place they left, and the cycle continues.

Thus, if you are not educating yourself outside of the echo chamber, you will lose. If you are running a statewide race and do not campaign along the Puget Sound, you will lose. If you fail to acknowledge today's trends in human migration and associated voting behavior, you will lose. Lastly, if you are not educated on the facts around abortion and how it is a protected right, you will lose. The failure to evolve is extinction, and to win we need to evolve. This does not mean we leave our beliefs behind; it simply means we start living

what we believe.

Abortion is not a singular issue, and we must consider why women feel as though it is the only option. No one wants to be in the position to need one. Yet, no one wants to feel alone on the journey. What are we doing to support mothers/parents that choose life? What are we doing to support the foster care system? What are we doing to discourage late-term abortion that is not medically necessary? If we continue to ignore or “don’t take the bait” on abortion, we will lose. If we lose, we cannot make our state safer, more affordable, or have the good governance we need for “ourselves and our Posterity.”

For more detailed data, you can explore the full reports on the [Pew Research Center] (<https://www.pewresearch.org>) and [KFF](<https://www.kff.org>) websites.