

Poll: Most Utahns would oppose tighter abortion restrictions

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Newly released polling data suggests most Utahns are against tightening restrictions on abortion in the state, even as lawmakers consider measures aimed at virtually eliminating the procedure.

Seventy percent of those surveyed initially said they either supported loosening the state's abortion laws or leaving them the same, according to the statewide survey commissioned by Planned Parenthood Association of Utah, Alliance for a Better Utah and the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah. That number jumped to 80% after respondents were informed of the state's current restrictions on the procedure.

"As a state, we have already placed so many obstacles in the path of women when it comes to exercising reproductive freedom," Marina Lowe, legislative and policy counsel for the ACLU of Utah, said during a Monday news conference. "Our lawmakers should heed their constituents and focus their valuable and limited legislative days left this session on efforts to improve the health and well-being of Utahns rather than the pursuit of additional mean-spirited abortion restrictions."

The survey results come as the Legislature considers a trio of proposals on abortions in the state. One sponsored by Sen. Dan McCay, R-Riverton, [would outlaw elective abortions in Utah](#) as soon as the Supreme Court permits. Another would [force women to receive an ultrasound before an abortion](#). And a third would require medical providers to [cremate or bury fetal remains following](#) a miscarriage or abortion.

The poll, which delved into a sweep of reproductive issues, indicated that a slight majority of Utahns want to uphold Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court's landmark abortion rights ruling, and that about two-thirds support medically-accurate sex education.

Support for Roe v. Wade was driven by Democrats and voters not affiliated with a political party. Just 26% of Republicans supported the decision.

Dan Jones and Associates called cellphones and landlines to survey 793 Utahns from Jan. 23 through Feb. 9. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.48%, according to the executive summary.