



# Talking about abortion

2024 holiday guide

1. Think about what you want to say! Why do you care about abortion access? Be prepared with facts and up to date info.
2. Know your boundaries and keep yourself safe. While it's important to listen to the other person as much as you share your thoughts, if the conversation becomes too challenging consider (respectfully) removing yourself from the conversation.
3. Remember that conditional support for abortion is not actually supportive. (I'm pro-choice but...) Everyone should be able to make their own decision of whether or not to have an abortion, regardless of the circumstances.

## Preparing Yourself

Despite the outcome, it's clear that **don't want abortion bans or politicians voters across party, race, religion, & age interfering in their personal decisions.**

Support for abortion care shaped this election- from what candidates discussed, to the stories we heard, to how people voted.

- Polls consistently showed voters want abortion to be legal & available nationally. This is true across faith, age, party, and race. <sup>1 2</sup>
- Abortion was a top issue for voters and was talked about more in this election than ever before. That's a positive: it changed the narrative, educated voters, and influenced candidate behavior.

**Reinforce core values held by a majority of voters! (such as freedom)**

## References!

1. Benson, Samuel. "Poll: Most U.S. Christians Believe Supporting Abortion Rights Does Not Contradict Their Faith." MSN.
2. Nadeem, Reem. "Broad Public Support for Legal Abortion Persists 2 Years after Dobbs." Pew Research Center.
3. Guarnieri, Isabel, and Krystal Leaphart. "Abortion Rights Ballot Measures Win in 7 out of 10 US States." Guttmacher Institute
4. Vasquez-Giroux, Angela. "Republicans Are Wrong on Abortion-and They Know It." The Nation.
5. Baden, Kelly, et al. "Clear and Growing Evidence That Dobbs Is Harming Reproductive Health and Freedom." Guttmacher Institute
6. "The U.S. Maternal Health Divide: The Limited Maternal Health Services and Worse Outcomes of States Proposing New Abortion Restrictions." Abortion Restrictions Affect Mortality Rate | Commonwealth Fund.

## Claim and visibilize the wins!

**Abortion was on the ballot in 10 states, and 7 of them won!**<sup>3</sup>

- Arizona- passed Proposition 139
- Colorado- passed Amendment 79
- Maryland- passed Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment
- Missouri- passed Amendment 3
- Montana- passed CI-128
- Nevada- passed Right to Abortion Initiative
- New York- passed Proposal 1

We also saw ballot measures on abortion in states with a more challenging landscape than in 2022 and there were myriad legal challenges from extremist opponents.

For example, in **Florida** the requirement for the ballot measure to pass was 60% instead of a simple majority (they got 57% of the votes; 6,000,000+ people voted to enshrine abortion rights in the state!), and in Nebraska opponents ran a competing measure to confuse voters.

## Promoting unconditional support for abortion care- why and how

**Conditional support of abortion access can perpetuate abortion stigma.** Conversations with people who aren't totally against abortion but still make stigmatizing statements about abortion (I'm pro-choice but...) are some of the most important.

1. I'm pro choice but... only up 'til certain number of weeks: **Later abortions happen for a lot of different reasons, and everyone deserves access to whatever care they need throughout their pregnancy.**
2. I'm pro-choice but... only if you have a good reason: **Every reason is valid, period. All pregnancies are different, and we should trust those seeking abortion care to make decisions for themselves and their situation.**

No one should be denied care because of who they are, how they are insured, or where they live.

## Talking about discrepancies between ballot votes and candidate choice

- This was an election unlike any other, with voters being targeted with misinformation, outside interference, threats of violence, and issues like freedom, democracy, economic worries, and more.
- Extremist politicians tried to run away from their positions against abortion and misled voters. They dodged questions, changed their websites, and even lied about their support for abortion bans. <sup>4</sup>

## Highlighting positive values/visions

We don't need to understand everything about each other or agree with each other's decisions in order to treat one another with dignity and respect. We don't know someone's circumstances. That's why it's better that each person makes the decision that's best for them -- not politicians.

## Remind your audience: Threats Remain

Pregnant people are being denied critical, time-sensitive, emergency healthcare.

Inequities that disproportionately harm Black and Indigenous communities, which have historically faced significantly higher rates of maternal mortality than their White peers. <sup>5</sup>

**states that have banned abortion or are planning to ban abortion have fewer maternity care providers, more maternity care deserts and higher rates of maternal mortality and infant death than states where abortion is accessible.**<sup>5</sup>

Medical providers are leaving and considering leaving states where they might be persecuted <sup>5</sup>

Diminished medical training opportunities can potentially lead to a decline in clinical skills, knowledge and experience, ultimately impacting patient experience and access to care. <sup>5</sup>

Abortion bans hurt all of us, including those seeking to end a pregnancy and anyone considering a pregnancy in the future.

## STOP BANNING ABORTION.