

Proponents of the extreme abortion bill, including their allies in media and government, continue to dishonestly tout the “71%” response to one very misleading question¹ in a poll commissioned last year by The Providence Journal, an open proponent of the bill, together with The Public Radio (formerly RINPR), and ABC6, and conducted by a pollster rated second-least accurate by 538.com data guru Nate Silver.²

Just weeks earlier, a similarly biased polling question³ by WPRI 12/Roger Williams University poll, conducted last month by Fleming & Associates pegged support at 49%, less than the majority claimed by proponents.

The most comprehensive poll of Rhode Islanders opinions on the legality of abortion was conducted by Cygnal from February 6-9, 2019,⁴ and found that 73.8% of Rhode Islanders oppose what the relevant bill actually does, which is to allow abortion beyond viability and even until the moment of live birth.

The comprehensive poll results by Cygnal are consistent with decades of national polling data and suggest little support for the present abortion agenda. And these results were confirmed in a May 2019 poll by Susan B. Anthony List and Rhode Island Right to Life.⁵

In short, the polling data being promoted by abortion extremists, supported by some local media and unscrupulous politicians, as part of the false narrative created to push a New York style abortion expansion in Rhode Island.

¹ The question presents the false narrative that the legality of abortion in Rhode Island needs to be protected, and that the legislation in question does precisely that, thus also falsely implying a maintenance of the status quo while, in reality, the bill in questions vastly expands the abortion license in Rhode Island.

² <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/which-pollsters-to-trust-in-2018/>

³ The WPRI 12/Roger Williams University poll asked registered voters whether they would support or oppose a bill “which would give women in Rhode Island the right to have an abortion until the fetus is viable.” But nothing in Rhode Island law presently prevents a woman from having an abortion until the fetus is viable, or in some cases even beyond, and abortion proponents concur that this would not automatically or necessarily change if Roe v Wade were overturned. Moreover, the actual legislation goes MUCH further than described.

⁴ https://www.citizensforliferi.com/citizens_for_life_clarifies_methodology_of_recent_poll

⁵ <https://www.sba-list.org/newsroom/press-releases/poll-77-percent-ri-voters-oppose-bill-expand-abortion-on-demand-through-birth>