

MEMORANDUM

To: Greg Pfundstein
From: John McLaughlin
Re: New York City Survey Results
Date: February 23, 2011

Methodology:

McLaughlin & Associates conducted a survey of 800 likely voters in New York, NY on February 8-10, 2011. A subsequent oversample was conducted for a total of 100 interviews in Staten Island. The oversample interviews were then weighted down proportionately to 800 interviews in the overall report. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Respondents were randomly selected within predetermined geographic units structured to correlate with actual voter turnout. The survey of 800 likely voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.4% at a 95% confidence interval.

Major Findings:

Even though the vast majority of voters in New York City are pro-choice and fairly liberal, the results of McLaughlin & Associates' recent poll on abortion issues are significantly surprising.

1. Voters are generally unaware of the current abortion rate in New York City, and the majority agrees that the abortion rate is too high.

Six in ten voters (62%) agree that women have sufficient access to abortion in New York, while only 15% disagree. On average, voters think that 25.7% of pregnancies end in abortion in New York City, which falls well below the current rate of 41%. Upon being informed that 41% of all viable pregnancies in New York City ended in abortion in 2009, two thirds of all voters (64%) say the abortion rate is too high. Another 17% say the abortion rate is just right, while only 3% say it is too low. Three in four voters (74%) agree that the 60% abortion rate in the African American community is too high, while only 15% disagree. While Mayor Bloomberg and the City have launched a public campaign to reduce salt intake, as many voters perceive the 41% abortion rate in New York City as an equal public health problem to salt intake (44% agree/44% disagree).

Do you agree or disagree that women have sufficient access to abortion in New York?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Agree	62	64	62	64	61	64	63	60	65
Disagree	15	10	16	14	10	19	19	17	13
DK/Ref.	23	26	22	21	29	17	18	24	22

What percentage of pregnancies do you think end in abortion in New York City?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
5% or Less	9	6	11	12	7	15	3	9	9
6 to 10%	14	11	15	17	16	10	10	13	15
11 to 20%	16	13	17	15	19	15	13	18	14
21 to 30%	14	14	14	14	15	12	20	13	15
31 to 40%	10	8	10	10	8	14	11	9	10
41 to 50%	9	9	9	9	9	6	12	9	8
More than 50%	10	18	7	6	8	16	8	10	11
DK/Ref.	19	21	17	18	19	12	23	19	19
MEAN	25.7	30.8	23.5	22.6	24.4	27.2	28.8	25.7	25.7

If you knew the fact is that 41% of all viable pregnancies in New York City ended in abortion in 2009, would you say that is too high, just right or too low?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Too High	64	84	56	57	65	72	53	66	63
Just Right	17	10	21	23	18	13	23	15	19
Too Low	3	2	3	4	3	2	5	2	4
DK/Ref.	16	5	20	17	15	13	20	17	15

If you knew that 60% of African American pregnancies in New York City are terminated in abortion, would you agree or disagree that this rate of abortion in the African American community is too high?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Agree	74	88	69	70	74	80	76	75	72
Disagree	15	9	17	18	13	16	14	12	17
DK/Ref.	12	3	15	12	13	4	10	13	10

Do you agree or disagree that the 41% abortion rate in New York City represents a greater public health problem than salt intake?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Agree	44	65	36	34	44	52	44	49	40
Disagree	44	24	53	55	42	46	40	38	49
DK/Ref.	12	11	11	11	14	3	17	13	11

- 2. New York City voters favor providing information, parental consent and a waiting period prior to obtaining an abortion. They oppose using state tax dollars to pay for abortion and oppose forcing health care workers to perform abortions.**

Nine in ten voters (90%) approve of providing women with accurate information about the abortion procedure and their options before receiving an abortion. Similarly, seven in ten voters (69%) would be more likely to vote for a candidate for public office who supports a law requiring that women be given accurate information before consenting to an abortion.

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Now, I am going to read you a list of issues. Would you please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each of the following?

Approve/Disapprove	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Providing women with accurate information about their options and about the abortion procedure <u>before</u> receiving an abortion.	90/8	86/12	92/5	91/4	91/7	94/6	87/10	90/8	89/7

Please tell me whether each of the following statements would make you more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office. If each would make no difference, just say so.

More Likely/ Less Likely	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
A candidate who supports a law requiring that women be given accurate information about their options and about the abortion procedure before consenting to an abortion.	69/9	80/3	66/12	66/10	64/13	76/5	86/3	70/10	69/9

The majority of voters (63%) disapproves of allowing teenage girls under the age of 18 to receive an abortion without the consent of their parents or guardians. Similarly, 59% of voters would be more likely to vote for a candidate for public office who supports a law requiring that a parent or guardian be notified before a minor can receive an abortion.

Now, I am going to read you a list of issues. Would you please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each of the following?

Approve/Disapprove	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Allowing teenage minor girls under the age of 18 to receive an abortion without the consent of their parents or guardians.	33/63	7/89	45/52	45/51	42/54	16/82	29/68	29/67	37/60

Please tell me whether each of the following statements would make you more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office. If each would make no difference, just say so.

More Likely/ Less Likely	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
A candidate who supports a law requiring that a parent or guardian be notified before a minor can receive an abortion.	59/22	83/4	49/31	49/29	49/31	76/9	70/15	62/22	56/23

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By a margin of 52% to 46%, voters disapprove of using state tax dollars to pay for abortions. However, 85% of voters approve of providing free medical care to New York City mothers who want to carry their pregnancies to term. Additionally, the majority of voters (51%) approves of requiring a 24 hour waiting period in New York City to have an abortion until the ratio falls from 41% to the national average of 22%.

Now, I am going to read you a list of issues. Would you please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each of the following?

Approve/Disapprove	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Providing free medical care to New York City mothers who want to carry their pregnancies to term.	85/12	90/7	83/14	82/14	81/15	90/8	90/9	85/12	85/12
Requiring a 24 hour waiting period in New York City to have an abortion until the ratio falls from 41% to the national average of 22%.	51/37	64/22	45/44	44/44	49/40	63/29	50/33	53/36	48/39
Using state tax dollars to pay for abortions.	46/52	13/87	62/35	58/38	50/48	50/47	31/67	48/50	44/53

More than nine in ten voters (93%) think that abortion clinics should be regulated as strictly as other medical facilities for the health and safety of the patients. Two thirds of voters (68%) think that health care workers who believe abortion is morally wrong on personal or religious beliefs should not be required to assist in abortions.

Do you think abortion clinics should be regulated as strictly as other medical facilities for the health and safety of the patients?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Yes	93	91	94	94	95	92	89	92	93
No	5	8	3	3	3	8	9	6	4
DK/Ref.	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2

Do you think health care workers such as doctors or nurses who believe abortion is morally wrong on personal or religious beliefs should be required to assist in abortions?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Yes	25	14	29	29	26	21	20	24	26
No	68	77	64	63	66	75	74	69	66
DK/Ref.	8	10	7	8	9	4	6	8	8

3. Voters say they have sufficient access to condoms, know how to use them, and are under the impression that condoms help reduce the abortion rate.

Four in five voters (83%) say they personally have sufficient access to condoms, while 91% say they know how to use a condom. Four in five voters (82%) think that condoms help reduce the rate of abortion. However, when voters are informed that the City of New York passed out 40 million condoms in 2009, the percentage who believe that condoms help reduce abortion drops from 82% to 54%.

Do you personally have sufficient access to condoms?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Yes	83	78	86	82	85	88	76	89	79
No	10	13	7	10	7	9	16	6	13
DK/Ref.	7	9	6	9	8	4	8	6	9

Do you know how to use a condom?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Yes	91	83	95	94	90	97	91	92	90
No	6	13	3	5	7	2	8	5	8
DK/Ref.	3	4	2	2	4	1	1	3	3

Do you think that condoms help reduce the rate of abortion?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Yes	82	79	84	82	83	82	85	85	80
No	13	16	12	13	11	15	15	10	15
DK/Ref.	5	5	4	4	6	3	0	5	5

If you knew that 40 million condoms were passed out in New York City last year, would you say that the use of condoms to reduce the rate of abortion is effective or ineffective?

	Total	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Pro-Choice Women	White	African Amer.	Hispanic	Men	Women
Effective	54	51	56	55	53	62	46	53	54
Ineffective	30	34	29	30	29	27	39	30	31
DK/Ref.	16	15	15	15	18	12	15	17	15

Conclusion:

Overall, voters say that the current rate of abortion in New York City is too high, particularly among the African American community. However, prior to being informed, voters' perception of the abortion rate is significantly lower than reality. Despite the fact that New York City voters tend to be pro-choice, they approve of several measures to reduce the rate of abortion such as providing information on the procedure and options to women, parental consent for minors, and a 24 hour waiting period before an abortion can

be performed. They also oppose using state tax dollars to pay for abortion and oppose forcing health care workers to assist in abortions against their conscience.

Demographics:

Area	Total	Religion	Total
Bronx	17	Protestant	31
Brooklyn	29	Catholic	27
Manhattan	24	Jewish	19
Queens	24	Atheist/Agnostic	10
Staten Island	6	Born Again (Prot. Only)	%
Party	%	Yes	45
Republican	13	No	51
Democrat	69	Attend Church	%
Independent	18	Regularly	57
Ideology	%	Not Regularly	39
Liberal	35	Marital Status	%
Moderate	34	Single	29
Conservative	25	Married	47
Vote Behavior	%	Separated	2
Always/Usually Democrat	61	Divorced	10
Ticket Splitter	20	Widowed	11
Always/Usually Republican	12	Children in Household	%
Race	%	Yes	28
White	44	No	71
African American	22	Abortion	%
Hispanic	17	Pro-Life	29
Immigrant Household	%	Pro-Choice	67
Yes	39	Abortion	%
No	60	Legal Any Time/Reason	25
Age	%	Legal First 3 Months	35
18-25	7	Legal Rape/Incest/Mother	21
26-40	19	Legal Mother's Life	11
41-55	25	Not Legal	4
56-65	23	Michael Bloomberg	%
Over 65	23	Favorable	55
Gender	%	Unfavorable	38
Male	47		
Female	53		