

Voters' Priorities for Congress.

Insights from Recent Polling

Conducted for the National Women's Law Center

April 9, 2019



Methods.

1

Three online Remesh groups – December 10th and 11th, 2018

- Democrats, mix of race
- Democrats of color
- Republicans

2

National survey of n = 2,000 registered voters nationwide, including:

- n = 400 Black voters
- n = 400 Latinx voters
- n = 400 AAPI voters

Conducted using YouGov January 4 – 10, 2019.

We'll go through...

1

Mood of the country

2

Views toward women, equality, #MeToo

3

Priorities for the new Congress on protecting reproductive rights, preventing sexual harassment and assault, and improving economic opportunities for women and families

4

Views toward specific policies

5

Insights into the underlying values that connect the issues

1

Mood of the country.

"All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?"

70%

Dissatisfied

Republicans: 47%

Democrats: 90%

26%

Satisfied

Republicans: 47%

Democrats: 8%

Pew Research Center. Jan. 9-14, 2019. N=1,505 adults nationwide

2 Views toward women, equality, #MeToo.

75%

Of voters think sexism is a big or somewhat of a problem.

PerryUndem survey 12/18

8 in 10

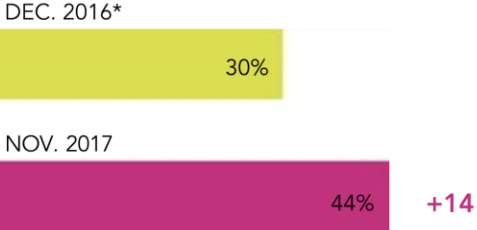
Voters say men have more positions of power in our society than women. PerryUndem survey 12/18

72%

Of voters say it is important that Congress work on promoting gender equality.

Effects of #MeToo.

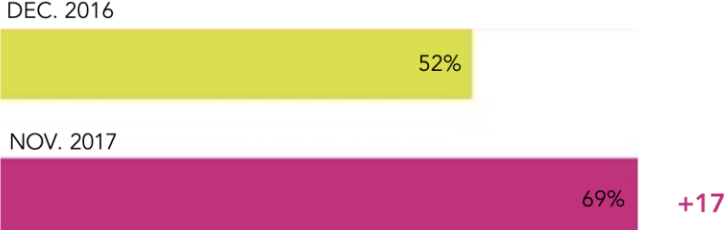
SEXISM IS A "BIG" PROBLEM IN OUR SOCIETY



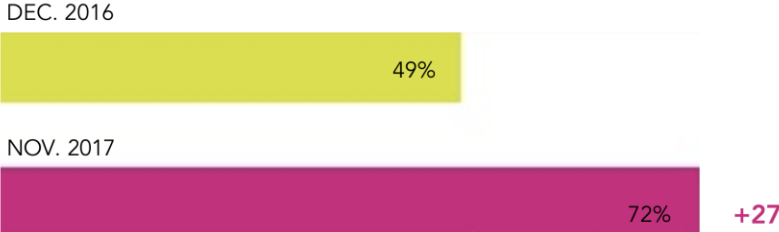
_____ HAS MADE ME THINK MORE ABOUT SEXISM IN OUR SOCIETY



AGREE THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH MORE WOMEN IN OFFICE



TALKED WITH FRIEND(S) OR FAMILY MEMBER(S) ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN THE PAST YEAR



DEC. 2016
65%
say men have more positions of power in society

NOV. 2017
87%
say men have more positions of power in society

Effects of the
Kavanaugh hearings +
nomination.

- Large shares of electorate thought about gender disparities in positions of power.
- Kavanaugh events sent Republican men backwards.
- Others moved forward, including Republican women.
- Majority of voters thinks Kavanaugh lied. Favorables are low.
- Margin believing Ford is now bigger.
- #MeToo seems largely intact, with the exception of Republican men.

3

Issue priorities for Congress.

Voters want Congress to protect core women's issues.

Protecting reproductive rights

Preventing sexual harassment and assault

Improving economic opportunities for women and families

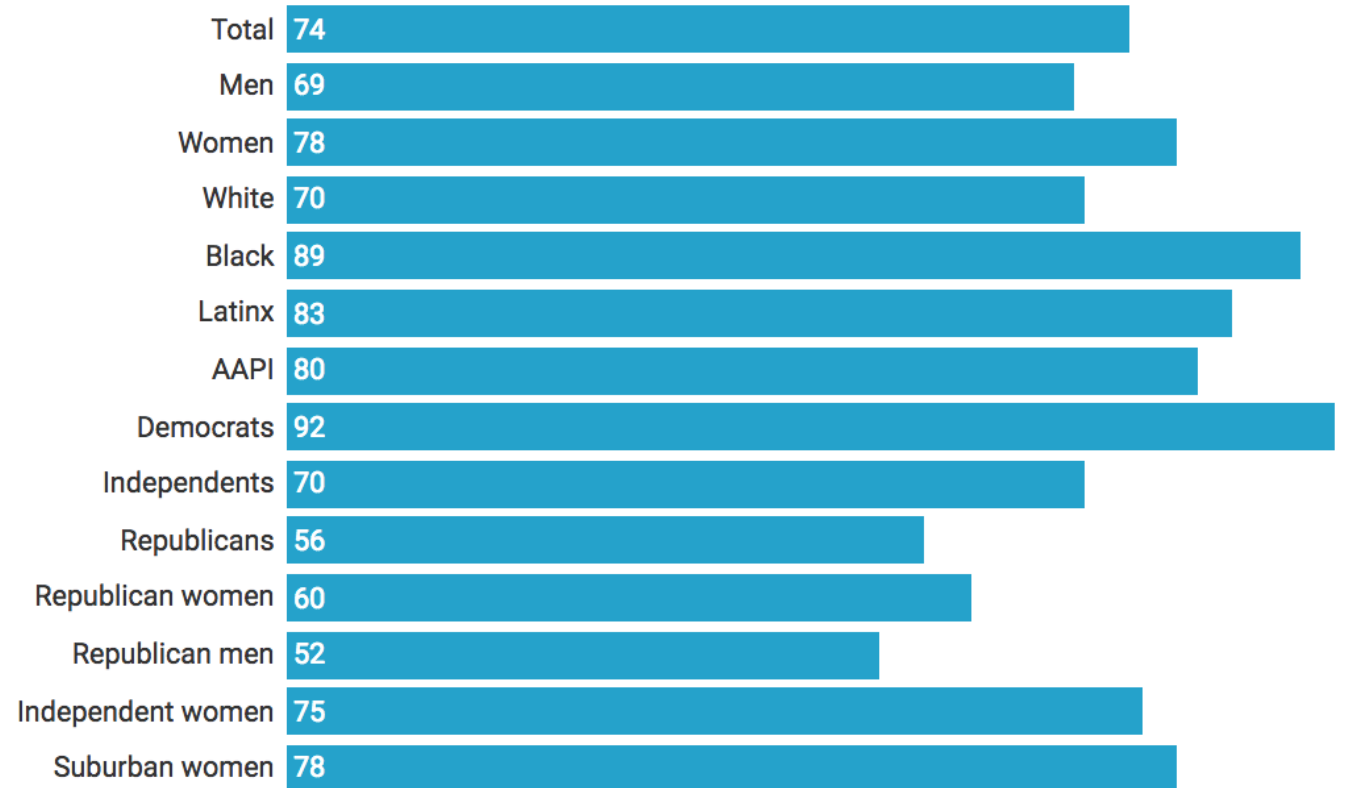
Voters want Congress to protect reproductive rights.

Majorities of voters support reproductive rights and want Congress to work on protecting those rights.

Most likely to say extremely/very important:
Democrat voters (76%)
Black women voters (70%)
Latina women voters (61%)

As you may know, Congress will start a new legislative session in January. In your own view, how important is it that the next Congress work on protecting reproductive rights?

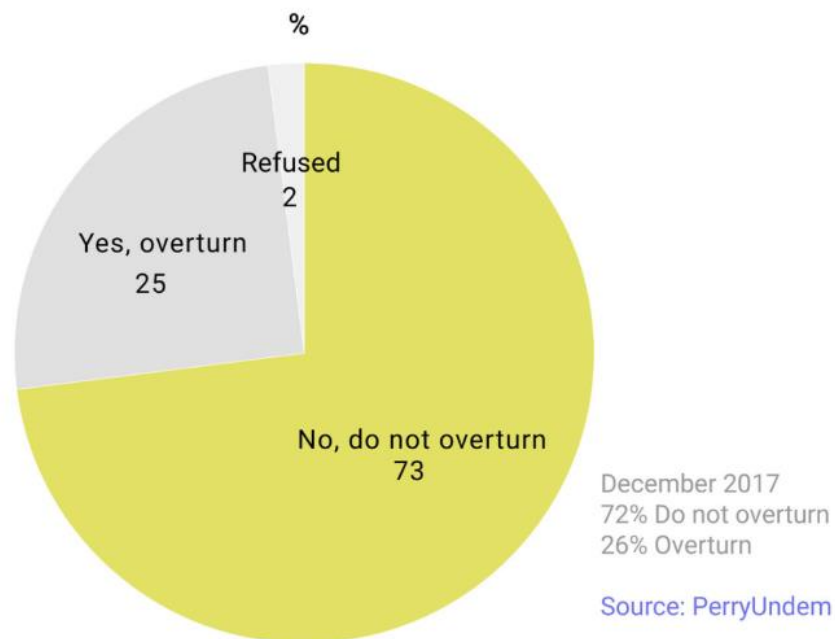
% Important (extremely, very, or somewhat)



Seven in ten do not want *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?

In 1973, the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?



	NO, DO NOT	YES, OVERTURN
Total	73	25
Men	71	26
Women	75	24
18-29	70	27
30-44	73	24
45-59	81	17
60+	68	30
White	71	27
Black	79	17
Latino	75	23
AAPI	77	20
Less than college	70	27
College+	77	21
Democrats	89	10
Independents	76	21
Republicans	49	48
Voted Dem for House	90	9
Voted Rep for House	50	47
Trump supporters	52	47

OCT. 31, 2018, AT 7:58 AM

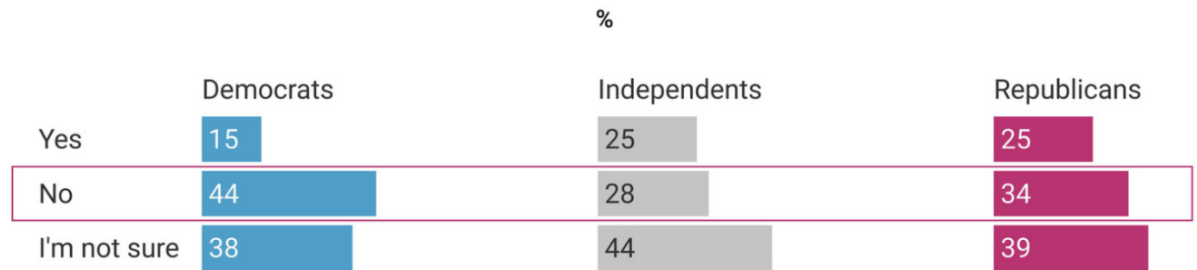
Abortion May Be Mobilizing More Democratic Voters Than Republicans Now

By [Daniel Cox](#)

Filed under [2018 Election](#)



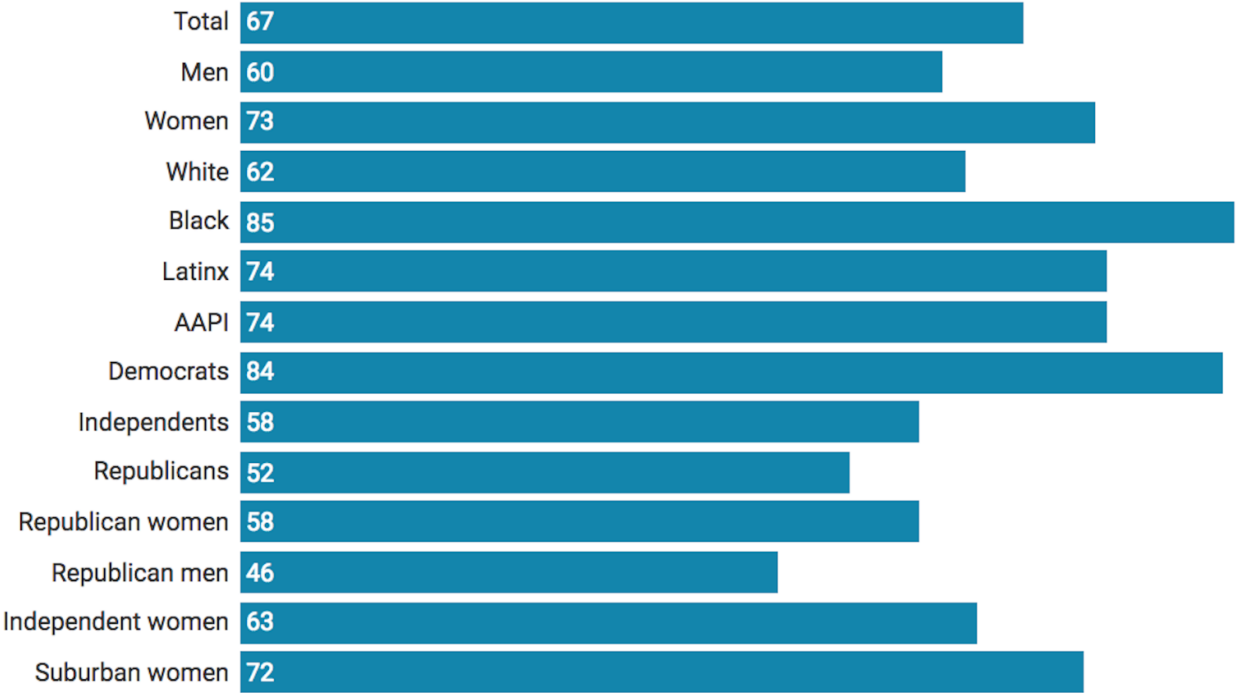
Would you vote for a candidate who does not share your views on abortion?



Improving economic opportunities for women is an important legislative priorities.

As you may know, Congress will start a new legislative session in January. In your own view, how important is it that the next Congress work on improving economic opportunities for women?

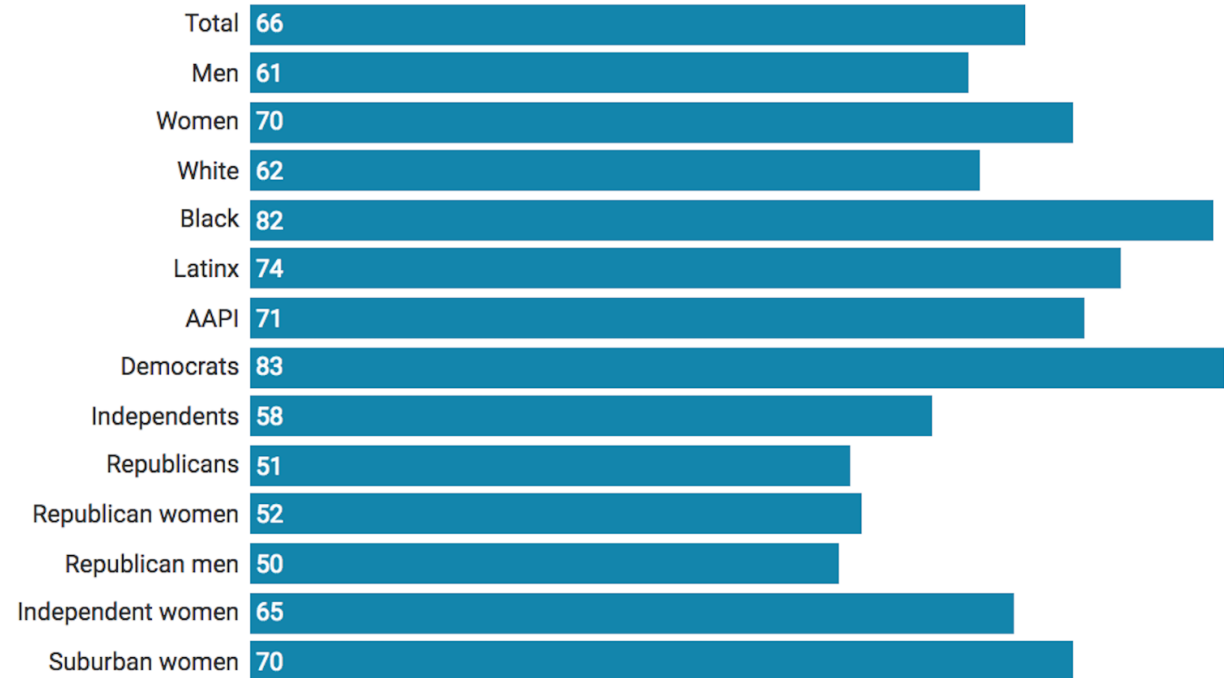
% Extremely or very important



Voters also prioritize preventing sexual harassment and assault.

As you may know, Congress will start a new legislative session in January. In your own view, how important is it that the next Congress work on preventing sexual harassment and assault?

% Extremely or very important



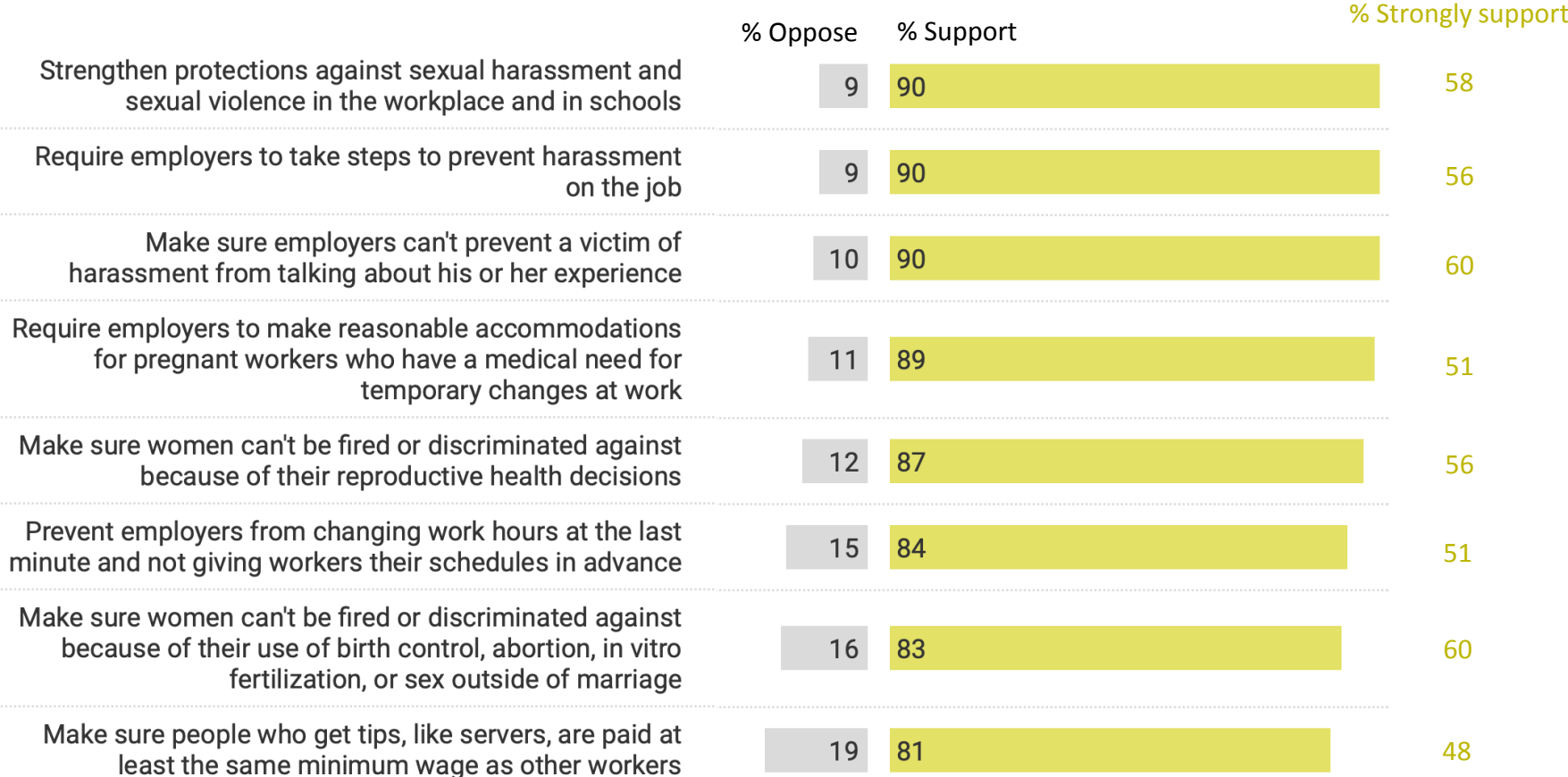
4 Views toward specific policies.

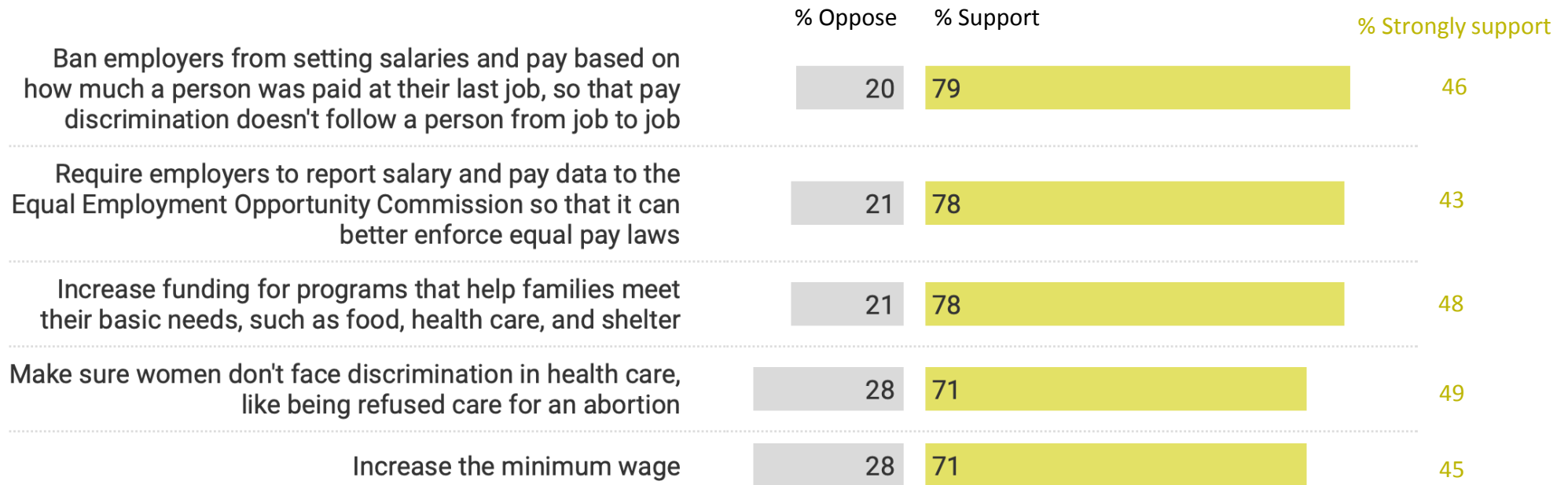
Specific policy proposals that promote women's rights in these three areas receive broad, widespread support.

Wide majorities support a range of specific measures tackling women's equality. Policy ideas around economic security, sexual harassment and assault, and reproductive rights all receive broad support transcending gender, party and racial lines, with the strongest support coming from Democrats and voters of color.

Specific proposals that promote women’s equality receive broad, widespread support.

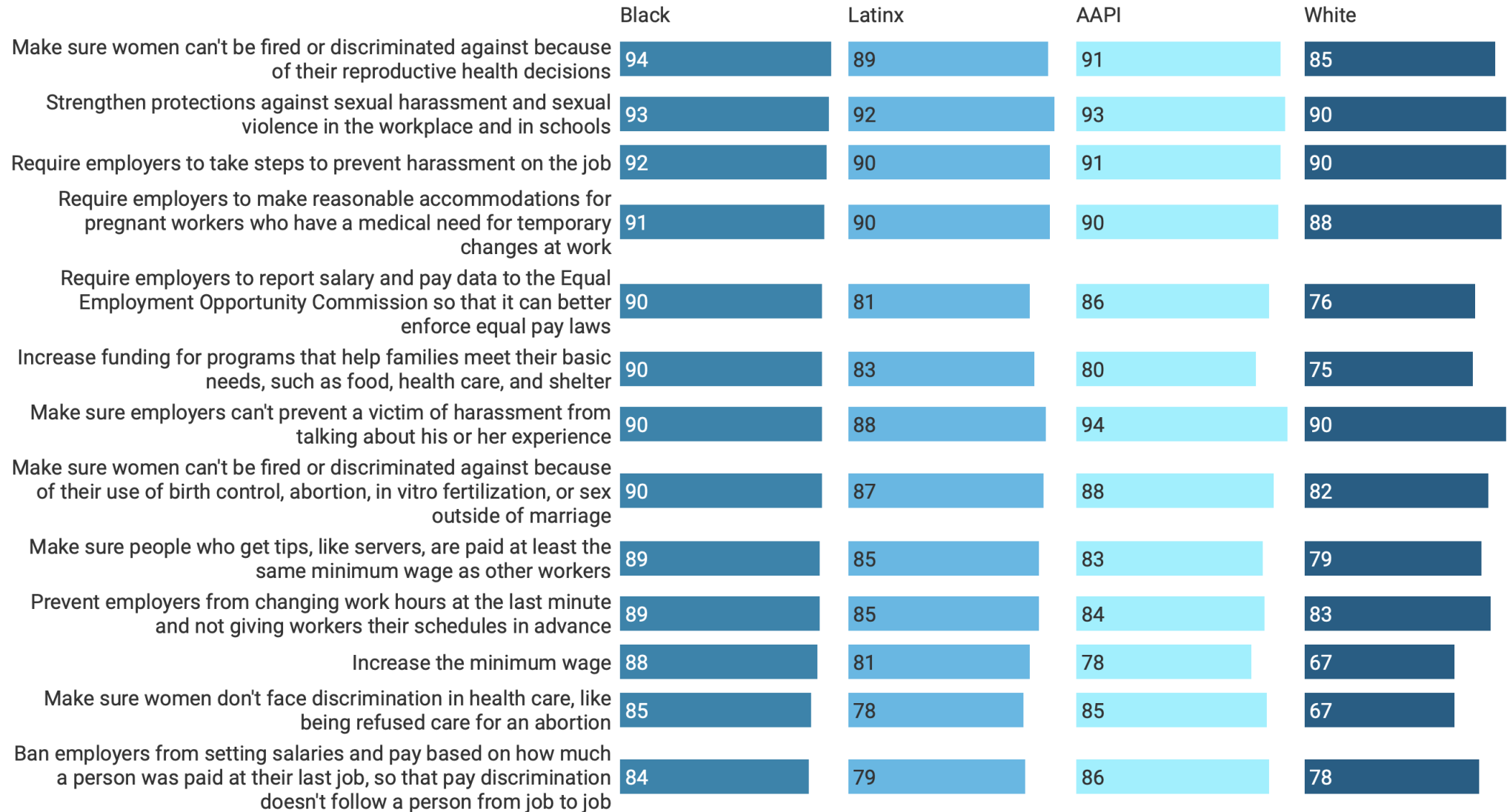
Thinking about the next Congress, would you support or oppose Congress working to...





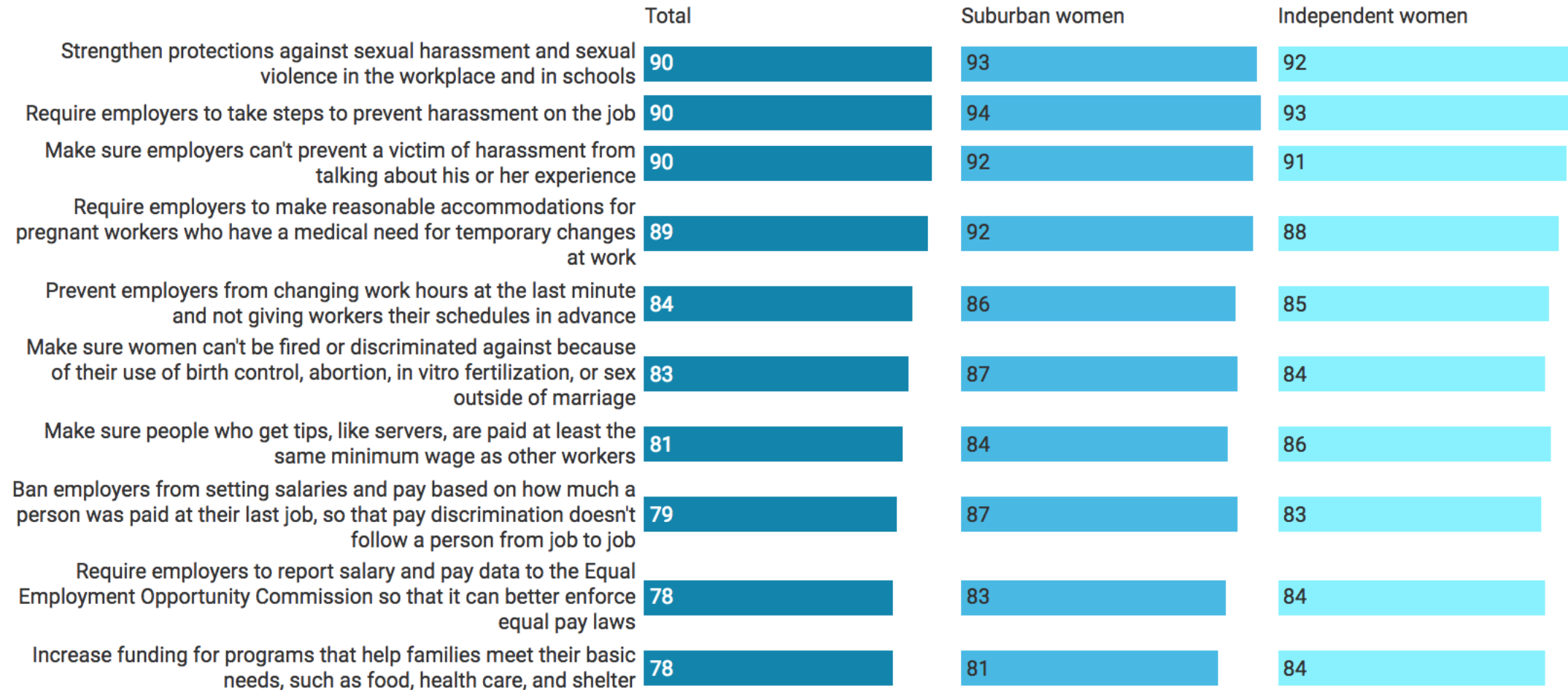
Majorities across race / ethnicity support policies.

% Strongly or somewhat support



Suburban women and independent women also support policies.

% Strongly or somewhat support



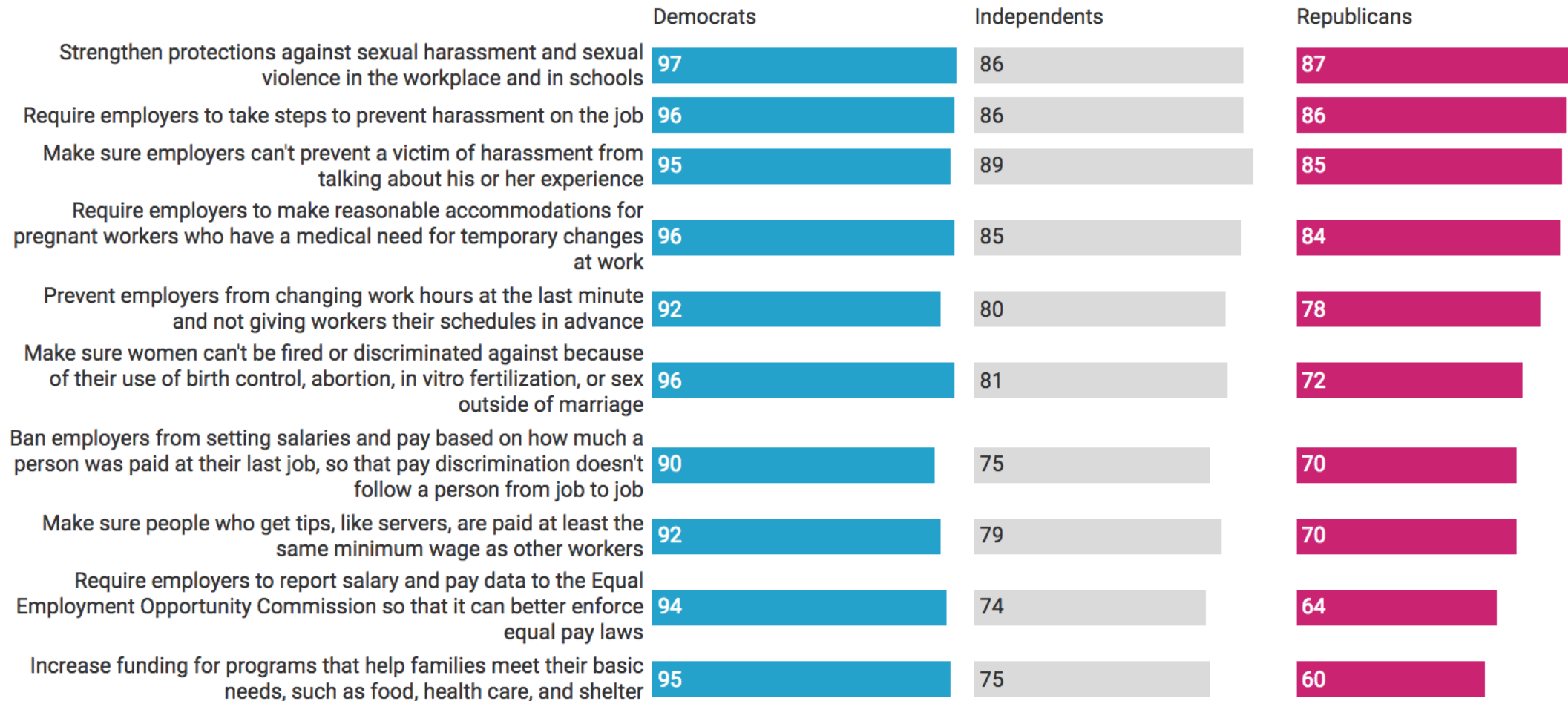
Majorities across geographic areas express support for policies.

% Strongly or somewhat support

	City	Suburb	Town	Rural area	Suburban women
Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace and in schools	94	90	91	86	93
Make sure women can't be fired or discriminated against because of their reproductive health decisions	93	84	83	88	89
Require employers to take steps to prevent harassment on the job	92	90	92	85	94
Require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers who have a medical need for temporary changes at work	91	90	87	85	92
Make sure employers can't prevent a victim of harassment from talking about his or her experience	91	91	91	87	92
Prevent employers from changing work hours at the last minute and not giving workers their schedules in advance	88	82	83	82	86
Make sure women can't be fired or discriminated against because of their use of birth control, abortion, in vitro fertilization, or sex outside of marriage	87	86	84	72	87
Require employers to report salary and pay data to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission so that it can better enforce equal pay laws	86	76	80	71	83
Make sure people who get tips, like servers, are paid at least the same minimum wage as other workers	86	76	86	77	84
Increase funding for programs that help families meet their basic needs, such as food, health care, and shelter	86	76	78	70	81
Ban employers from setting salaries and pay based on how much a person was paid at their last job, so that pay discrimination doesn't follow a person from job to job	82	78	77	76	87
Make sure women don't face discrimination in health care, like being refused care for an abortion	82	69	67	61	75
Increase the minimum wage	81	69	67	65	75

Majorities across party lines express support for every policy we tested.

% Strongly or somewhat support



5 Insights into values and messaging.

Values such as equality, rights, and respect offer a shared framework to advocate for gender equality issues.

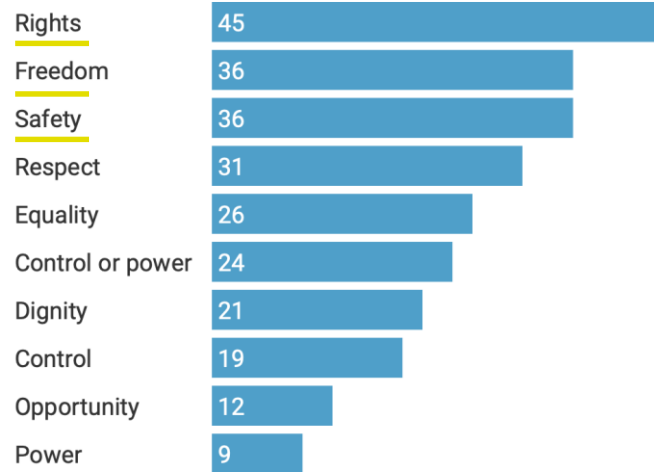
We also examined what values people associate with the three areas of reproductive rights, sexual harassment, and economic opportunity.

We found “rights” and “equality” to be common associations, while other values – like “safety,” “respect,” and “dignity” also come to mind.

Top values by issue area.

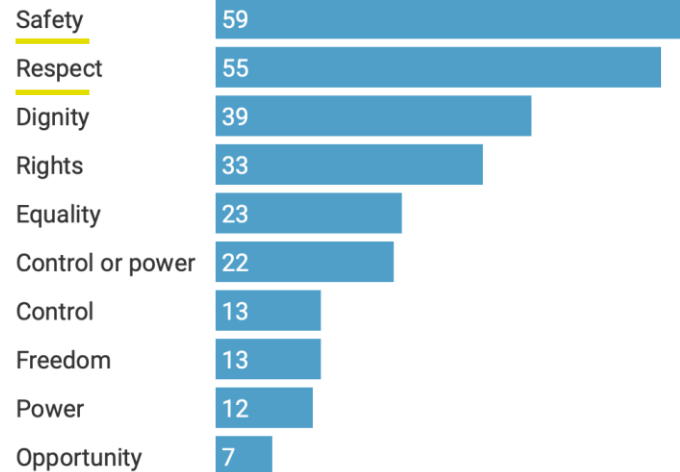
Now you'll see some words people have used to describe some of the issues we've discussed. For each of the following issues, please tell me what each is about for you personally?

Protecting reproductive rights and access to care



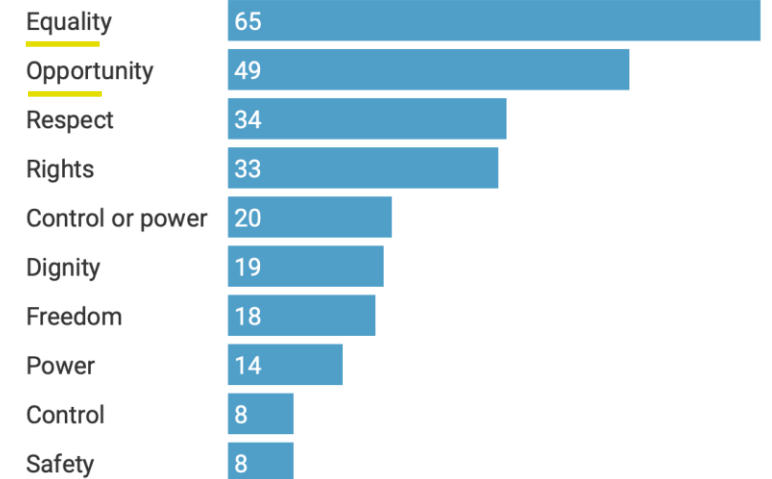
Women of color also connect the issue to respect. Democrats and Black voters are more likely than others to link reproductive rights to equality.

Preventing sexual harassment and assault



Women are more likely than men to connect the issue to safety.

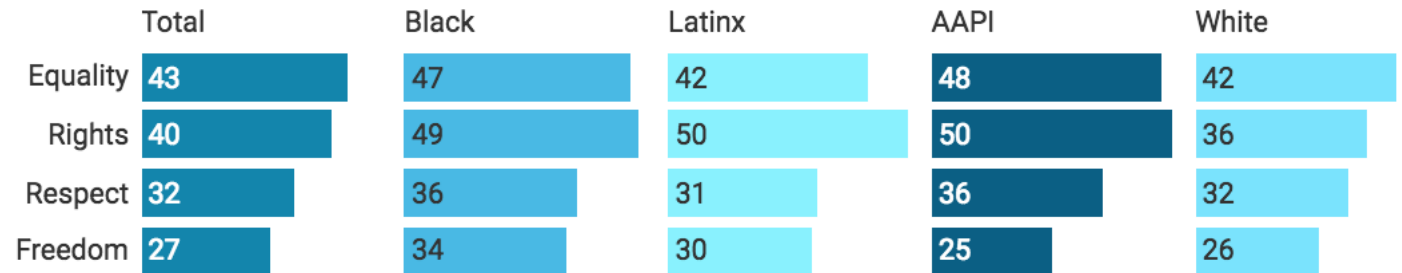
Improving economic opportunities for women



Voters of color are more likely than white voters to connect the issue to rights.

Overall, the connective threads on political values are equality and rights, followed by respect and freedom.

When you think of America, what are these three issues* really about? (Choose up to 3.) RANDOMIZE



Voters of color are more likely than white voters to connect all three issues to rights.

- * Now, thinking about these three issues together...
- Protecting reproductive rights and access to care
 - Preventing sexual harassment and assault
 - Improving economic opportunities for women

A narrative around core values tests well.

"Our country is based on ideas of equality, freedom, individual rights, and opportunity. These are our basic principles and what set us apart.

When our rights to control our own bodies and lives are restricted, we lose what makes our country special. When some people have freedom and opportunity and others do not, our society becomes even more divided.

We pride ourselves on equal rights, freedom, and opportunity and it's time to back it up. That means equal rights for women under the law. It means each of us has the freedom to make our own decisions, including on abortion. It means being safe in our own bodies and free from harassment and violence. It means equal opportunities to be economically secure and live a good, quality life.

When women have full equality, we can provide for our families with dignity and give our children a better chance to succeed. Equality means safer workplaces and schools, healthier families, stronger communities, and a better economy. By joining together to work toward full equality, we all benefit and can strive toward a more peaceful and prosperous society."

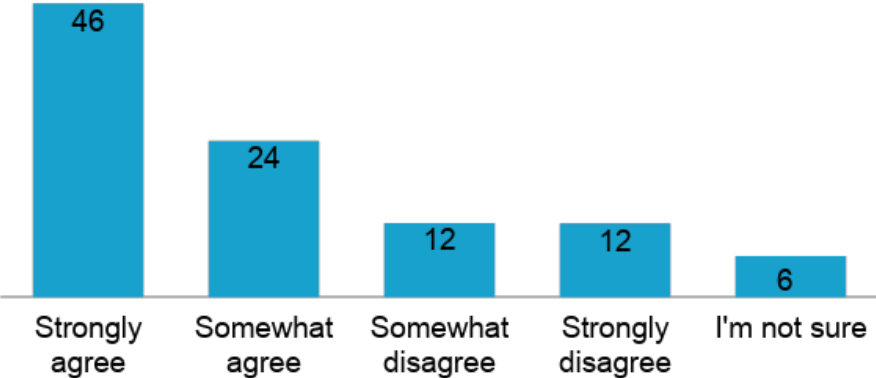
Note: Respondents were asked to highlight any phrases they strongly agree with. The highlighted phrases above stand out most.

Seven in ten agree with the narrative.

Voters of color and Democrats are most likely to agree.

Overall, do you agree or disagree with this statement?

70% agree

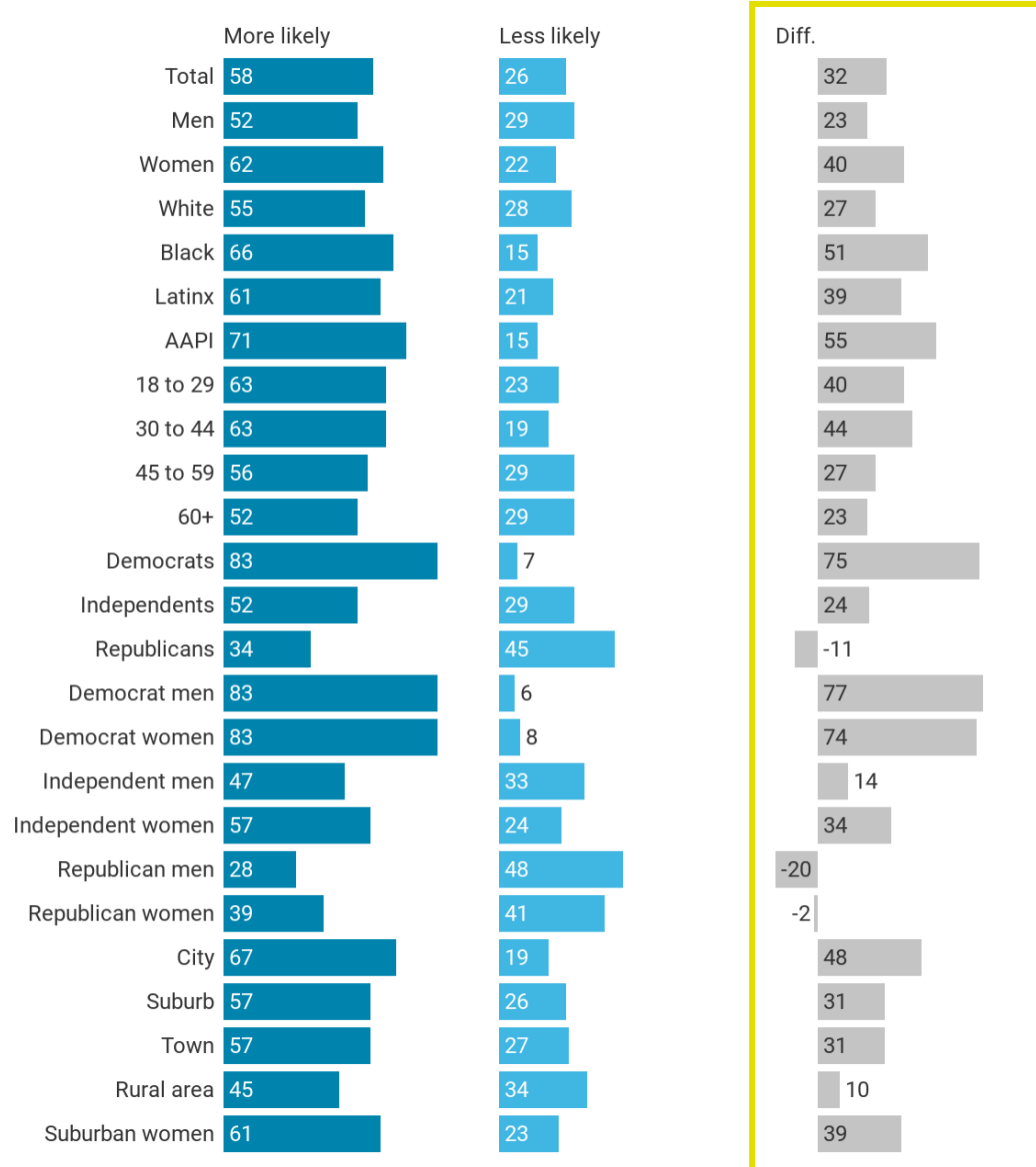


	Agree	Disagree
Total	70	23
Men	67	26
Women	73	21
White	68	26
Black	81	10
Latinx	73	19
AAPI	82	12
18 to 29	72	21
30 to 44	74	18
45 to 59	68	26
60+	68	26
White women	71	23
White men	64	30
Black women	80	11
Black men	81	9
Latinx women	73	20
Latinx men	73	19
AAPI women	86	11
AAPI men	77	14
Democrats	91	5
Independents	66	26
Republicans	51	41
Democrat men	92	4
Democrat women	91	6
Independent men	61	30
Independent women	71	22
Republican men	51	43
Republican women	52	39
Suburban women	72	21

How would voters feel if their state or federal lawmaker made this statement?

Aside from self-identified Republicans, voters across segments are more likely to support than oppose a lawmaker making this statement. One-third of Republicans say they would be more likely to support their lawmaker making this statement.

Let's say this statement came from your state or federal lawmaker. Would you be more or less likely to support him or her, or would it not make a difference?



Conclusions.

Voters want Congress to protect core women's issues:

- More than seven in ten support the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling - and want Congress to work on protecting reproductive rights.
- Voters support strengthening economic opportunities for women.
- Voters also prioritize preventing sexual harassment and assault.

Specific policy proposals that would protect women's reproductive rights, improve economic opportunities for women, and prevent sexual harassment and assault are widely popular, further solidifying bipartisan support for proactive legislative action.

We examined the interconnectivity among the issues and found that voters are most likely to associate the value of "equality" with the women's issues examined here (protecting reproductive rights and access to care, improving economic opportunity for women, and preventing sexual harassment and assault). "Rights, "respect" and "dignity" are also salient values across these issues.