Voters’ Priorities for Congress.
Insights from Recent Polling

Conducted for the National Women’s Law Center

April 9, 2019
Three online Remesh groups – December 10th and 11th, 2018
- Democrats, mix of race
- Democrats of color
- Republicans

National survey of n = 2,000 registered voters nationwide, including:
- n = 400 Black voters
- n = 400 Latinx voters
- n = 400 AAPI voters

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
Democrats: 90%

26% Satisfied
Republicans: 47%
Democrats: 8%

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**
- Dec. 2016: 30%
- Nov. 2017: 44% (+14)

**Has made me think more about sexism in our society**
- “The presidential campaign and election” Dec. 2016: 40%
- “News stories about sexual harassment and assault” Nov. 2017: 73% (+33)

**Agree that the country would be better off with more women in office**
- Dec. 2016: 52%
- Nov. 2017: 69% (+17)

**Talked with friend(s) or family member(s) about issues related to women’s equality in the past year**
- Dec. 2016: 49%
- Nov. 2017: 72% (+27)

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

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.
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%)
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?

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

December 2017
72% Do not overturn
26% Overturn

Source: PerryUndem
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

- Total: 67%
- Men: 60%
- Women: 73%
- White: 62%
- Black: 85%
- Latinx: 74%
- AAPI: 74%
- Democrats: 84%
- independents: 58%
- Republicans: 52%
- Republican women: 58%
- Republican men: 46%
- Independent women: 63%
- Suburban women: 72%
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

- Total: 66
- Men: 61
- Women: 70
- White: 62
- Black: 82
- Latinx: 74
- AAPI: 71
- Democrats: 83
- Independents: 58
- Republicans: 51
- Republican women: 52
- Republican men: 50
- Independent women: 65
- Suburban women: 70
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>% Oppose</th>
<th>% Support</th>
<th>% Strongly support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace and in schools</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to take steps to prevent harassment on the job</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure employers can't prevent a victim of harassment from talking about his or her experience</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers who have a medical need for temporary changes at work</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure women can't be fired or discriminated against because of their reproductive health decisions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent employers from changing work hours at the last minute and not giving workers their schedules in advance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure people who get tips, like servers, are paid at least the same minimum wage as other workers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>% Oppose</td>
<td>% Support</td>
<td>% Strongly Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to report salary and pay data to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission so that it can better enforce equal pay laws</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase funding for programs that help families meet their basic needs, such as food, health care, and shelter</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure women don't face discrimination in health care, like being refused care for an abortion</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the minimum wage</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majorities across race / ethnicity support policies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>AAPI</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make sure women can't be fired or discriminated against because of their reproductive health decisions</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace and in schools</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to take steps to prevent harassment on the job</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers who have a medical need for temporary changes at work</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
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<td>86</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
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<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Make sure employers can't prevent a victim of harassment from talking about his or her experience</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
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<td>83</td>
<td>79</td>
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<td>Prevent employers from changing work hours at the last minute and not giving workers their schedules in advance</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>83</td>
</tr>
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<td>Increase the minimum wage</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure women don't face discrimination in health care, like being refused care for an abortion</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suburban women and independent women also support policies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Suburban women</th>
<th>Independent women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>in the workplace and in schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Require employers to take steps to prevent harassment on the job</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure employers can't prevent a victim of harassment from</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talking about his or her experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require employers to make reasonable accommodations for</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pregnant workers who have a medical need for temporary changes at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent employers from changing work hours at the last minute and</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not giving workers their schedules in advance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure women can't be fired or discriminated against because</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of their use of birth control, abortion, in vitro fertilization, or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sex outside of marriage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
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<td>same minimum wage as other workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ban employers from setting salaries and pay based on how much a</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person was paid at their last job, so that pay discrimination doesn't</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>follow a person from job to job</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Require employers to report salary and pay data to the Equal</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Opportunity Commission so that it can better enforce</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equal pay laws</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase funding for programs that help families meet their basic</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>needs, such as food, health care, and shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majorities across geographic areas express support for policies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Rural area</th>
<th>Suburban women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace and in schools</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>86</td>
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</tr>
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<td>87</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make sure employers can't prevent a victim of harassment from talking about his or her experience</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent employers from changing work hours at the last minute and not giving workers their schedules in advance</td>
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<td>86</td>
</tr>
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<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>69</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majorities across party lines express support for every policy we tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen protections against sexual harassment and sexual violence in the workplace and in schools</td>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Area</th>
<th>Rights</th>
<th>Freedom</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Respect</th>
<th>Dignity</th>
<th>Rights</th>
<th>Equality</th>
<th>Control or power</th>
<th>Dignity</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting reproductive rights and access to care</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing sexual harassment and assault</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Improving economic opportunities for women</td>
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Women of color also connect the issue to respect. Democrats and Black voters are more likely than others to link reproductive rights to equality.

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

Voters of color are more likely than white voters to connect the issue to rights.
When you think of America, what are these three issues* really about? (Choose up to 3.) RANDOMIZE

- Protecting reproductive rights and access to care
- Preventing sexual harassment and assault
- Improving economic opportunities for women

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

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
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?
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.