

Voters Prefer Pro-Woman/Pro-Life

“There is significant and growing support for severe restrictions on abortion rights.”

Fay Wattleton, Former Planned Parenthood President

Those Who've “Been There, Done That,” Hate It

A *Los Angeles Times* poll found that 74% of the women who admitted having had an abortion describe abortion as “morally wrong,” and 81% agreed that women feel guilt after their abortions.

Women who've had an abortion want you to spare other women, like themselves, from dangerous, unwanted abortions—as long as it's done in a way that doesn't blame them or other women.

While most women don't discuss post-abortion grief and pain, the word is getting out.

- **Most believe that abortion hurts women.**
A 2002 national opinion poll found that only 16% of adults believe abortion generally makes women's lives better. The majority believe it is more likely to make women's lives worse.
- **Most believe that women aren't fully informed.**
74% to 90% believe abortionists don't fully disclose the emotional risks to their patients.

Voters Prefer Pro-Woman/Pro-Life Candidates

A majority of those polled said they'd be more likely to vote for candidates who support grief counseling after abortion.

- 63% of voters identifying with the “pro-choice” label would prefer such a candidate.
- 74% to 81% consider researching women's emotional reactions to abortion a priority.

Silence Implies Judgment

Downplaying the abortion issue only implies judgment and widens the gap. Voters consistently respond to compassionate pro-life leaders who offer solutions, not blame.

The Real Pro-Woman Candidate

The pro-life movement has *always* helped both babies and women. Yet pro-abortionists frame the issue as a choice between women or “blobs of tissue.”

Don't accept this spin! Always insist that the welfare of women and their children are intertwined. Anything that hurts one, hurts both. Abortion hurts *both*. Pro-woman/pro-life candidates help *both*.

Substitute “Poor-Choice” for “Pro-Choice”

Don't let your opponent hide behind “pro-choice” rhetoric that disguises that fact that abortion is a poor choice at best—one that causes women needless suffering.

Call Your Opponent the Poor-Choice Candidate

Call your opponent a “*poor-choice*” advocate who protects abortion industry profits at the expense of women. Abortion is a poor choice and women deserve better. Learn more at www.poorchoice.org.

Get the Candidates' Guidebook

For more details about the pro-woman/pro-life strategy, order the comprehensive pocket guide: *Reversing the Gender Gap: Touch the Hearts, Win the Trust, Earn the Votes of 30 Million Post-Abortive Women*.

To order the printed booklet call 1-888-412-2676, or download a free e-booklet at www.afterabortion.info/reports.

For updates on research, talking points and model legislation, sign up for our politicians' email list by sending a blank email to: politics@afterabortion.info.

Sources for the statistics in this brochure are listed in our *Reversing the Gender Gap* pocket guide.

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HOW TO REVERSE THE GENDER GAP

An Important Breakthrough For Pro-Life Candidates

- REACH 30 MILLION WOMEN
- CONVERT THE FENCE-SITTERS
- WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR
- WHY THEY NEED TO HEAR IT
- IMPORTANT NEW RESEARCH

For 30 Million Women, it's Personal

At least *one of every four* women has had an abortion. Many were coerced into unwanted abortions. Many were injured by ill-advised abortions. Some were physically forced to abort. For most, abortion is a deeply painful memory.

Reverse the Gap

Candidates who understand sensitive post-abortion issues can quickly convert millions of “pro-choice” voters.

Studies show that women who have had abortions don't support the radical pro-abortion agenda and they don't like abortion. Many who suffer guilt, grief and pain resent any perceived judgment or indifference from pro-life candidates. They're drawn to leaders who understand the pressures women face and the need for better alternatives.

In short, they want you to help women, not judge them.

Pro-Life and Pro-Woman

As an internationally known leader in post-abortion research, education and outreach, the Elliot Institute understands abortion's impact on women, men and society. The political strategy outlined here stems from new research, personal testimonies, opinion polls, and the unique insights of post-abortion counselors.

All of these factors point toward a strategic and compassionate approach that can:

- convert the fence-sitters,
- energize grassroots pro-lifers,
- end legal and illegal abortion, and
- unite voters *without* moral or political compromise.

Americans Want Solutions, Not Blame

Women are increasingly anti-abortion and America is, too. Voters understand that abortion kills a child, but they also want to address the challenges faced by women—especially those who suffer from post-abortion pain, which is often the aftermath of coerced, unwanted abortions.

When pro-woman/pro-life candidates advocate for both the unborn *and* women, everybody—except the billion-dollar abortion industry—wins.

Unwanted Abortions: A Pivotal Issue

Up to 60% of abortions are coerced . . . pushed by boyfriends, husbands, parents, and others.

In most cases, abortion is not freely chosen—70% of women who abort do so against their own values and desires. Significantly, most said they *would have given birth if they'd had support* from the father, their families, and friends.

Legal Abortion's Link to Pregnancy-Related Violence

Easier access to abortion has made it easier for others to insist that a woman end her pregnancy, often because it affects *them*. Many women are pressured by threats of abandonment or abuse if they refuse to have an abortion.

- Men have literally forced abortions to avoid the cost or “inconvenience” of a child. Women have had their wombs stabbed, shot or beaten.
- Women risk murder if they refuse abortion. Homicide is the *number one cause of death* during pregnancy.
- Young incest victims risk being forced to abort so their rapists can hide and repeat the sexual abuse.

Women Rank Domestic Violence as a Higher Priority

A recent poll by the Center for the Advancement of Women reveals that preventing domestic violence—not protecting legal abortion—is the number one “women's issue.”

- 92% of women surveyed ranked preventing domestic violence as their *top concern*.
- Most opposed abortion on demand. Keeping abortion legal was their *next to last* priority.

Abortion Is a Domestic Violence Issue

Nearly half of voters polled consider coerced abortions a *common* or *very common* problem. They're also highly concerned about domestic violence.

Voters favor candidates who will work to put an end to coerced, unwanted abortions, as well as pregnancy-related violence against women who refuse to abort.

The Abortion Experiment Has Failed

The 1960s abortion advocates claimed abortion would improve women's lives. It was supposed to help reduce domestic violence, poverty, child abuse, single-parent homes, and the number of children born with handicaps.

Domestic Abuse

None of these ends has been achieved. Research shows that abortion has only made things worse, not better.

- Pregnant women are more likely to be abused, not less.
- Women who abort typically remain on welfare longer than those who give birth.
- Couples with a history of abortion are more likely to abuse their later “wanted children.”
- Abortion more than doubles the risk of premature deliveries—the leading cause of birth defects.

Women's Health Is Hurt by Abortion

Women who have abortions report lower overall health and require an 80% increase in doctor visits. Compared to delivering women, they are:

- 160% more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric illness.
- 5 times more likely to start abusing drugs and alcohol.
- 7 times more likely to commit suicide.

Abortion Kills Women, Too

Studies show abortion is not safer than childbirth. Compared to women who give birth, women who abort are *3.5 times more likely to die* in the following year.

When studied for eight years after a pregnancy, women who aborted were more than 5 times more likely to die from cerebrovascular disease. Strokes and heart disease are related to depression and anxiety, both of which are linked to abortion.

Advocate for Both

Americans know that abortion has failed women. They will support pro-life candidates who are also pro-woman.