

## **How to Respond to Tough Questions and Anti-Abortion Talking Points**

When talking about abortion, it is crucial to use values-based messaging that is grounded in the latest data and research. Leaders must speak out with powerful, proactive messaging that engages the vast majority of Americans who support legal abortion and pushes back against rampant disinformation from anti-abortion extremists and politicians. The freedom to decide, especially as a direct contrast to controlling politicians, provides a powerful and uniquely effective framework for conversations around accessing the full range of reproductive health care in the U.S.

It's also key to be specific and clear – when we are talking about abortion, we need to name it.

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### **1. *The American people want common sense solutions and compromise, so why won't you support 15-week limits on abortion, especially if it has exceptions?***

There is nothing moderate about banning abortion, and there are no compromises to be made when it comes to our fundamental freedoms. There is a consensus among Americans when it comes to abortion: people, not politicians, should be the ones making decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion.

The bottom line is that a ban is a ban, no matter whether it has exceptions or not. We have seen time and time again that these so-called “exceptions” don't work and leave patients in difficult and life-threatening situations—and anti-abortion Republicans have made clear that *they never intended them to work in the first place*. All restrictions and abortion bans put politicians in control of personal medical decisions that should be made by a pregnant person with those they love and trust. Anti-abortion extremists are not interested in compromise. Further, we know there is no compromising with extremists: time and time again, Republicans have said a national ban on abortion is their ultimate goal.

### **2. *Why haven't you taken a position against partial-birth abortion/abortion until the moment of birth?***

This does not happen, and these terms are not based in medical science. Anti-abortion politicians and bad actors purposefully use inflammatory, medically inaccurate language as a means to manipulate and confuse voters. When it comes to abortion later in pregnancy, one-size-fits-all bans and restrictions cause real harm because they cannot account for the full spectrum of care a person might need throughout pregnancy. These incredibly personal decisions about abortion and pregnancy should be made by the pregnant person, with the support of their doctors and the people they love and trust—not by the politicians trying to control them.

### **3. *Why don't you support policies that protect women and fund maternal health centers?***

Fake health centers—often referred to as “crisis pregnancy centers”—are run by anti-abortion organizations that intentionally mislead and shame pregnant people seeking an abortion in order to block them from accessing care. These centers use deceptive websites and advertisements to make people believe that they provide information about their full range of options, but in reality, these websites and ads hide their real ideology and motivations. Decisions about a pregnancy are time-sensitive. It is critical that women, pregnant people, and their families can get timely and accurate information and consider their full range of options related to pregnancy and family planning.

Everybody deserves to have access to the medically accurate, comprehensive, and unbiased information they need in order to make personal decisions about their lives, their bodies, and their futures—not disinformation pushed by fake health centers that aim to stop or delay abortion care.

#### ***4. Parents deserve to be involved in decisions affecting their children, so why do you support policies that would open the door to kids getting surgery or having abortions without parental involvement?***

Of course, every parent wants to be informed—and in the overwhelming majority of cases, that's what happens. The thing is, not all teens live in homes where open communication is possible. In the real world, some teens fear being kicked out of their homes, beaten, or worse. This is not an area where we need politicians interfering. I don't care how many laws you pass, you can't force every family to communicate. Good family communication can't be imposed by the government.

#### ***5. How can you support dangerous chemical abortions that allow women to use abortion as a form of birth control?***

Medication abortion care has long been deemed a safe and effective option for ending an early pregnancy. It has been approved by the FDA for use for more than 20 years and is now used to provide [more than half](#) of all abortion care nationwide. It has a [safety record](#) of over 99%, making medication abortion care [safer than Tylenol](#). Mifepristone is also recommended by medical experts for use in miscarriage management, which, if left untreated, can put women at risk for severe infection, infertility, or even death. Attacks on medication abortion care are not based in science—they are politically motivated.

#### ***6. Roe v. Wade ended under Joe Biden: Do you really think Trump would be that extreme when it comes to abortion?***

Trump's record speaks for itself. And what he did was deliver the Supreme Court that took away our constitutional right to abortion, plunging the entire nation into a deadly, chaotic crisis. During his presidency, Trump [stacked](#) the federal judiciary with conservative [ideologues](#) and built the anti-abortion supermajority on the Supreme Court that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended the federal right to abortion.

Trump [bragged](#) that “I was able to kill *Roe v. Wade*” and said that people who seek abortion care should be subject to “[some sort of punishment](#).” Another Trump presidency would only compound the harm he has already caused.

HEAR THIS	SAY THIS
Abortion restrictions and limits	Abortion bans
Late-term abortion	Abortion later in pregnancy
Chemical abortion	Medication abortion
Maternal health centers, pregnancy care centers, crisis pregnancy centers	Fake health centers

## WHY IT MATTERS THAT YOU TALK ABOUT ABORTION

### **1. My opponent doesn't have a record when it comes to abortion and/or is hiding their views on the issue.**

The only reason Republicans are trying to hide their anti-abortion positions is because they know the GOP's anti-abortion platform is a losing issue. We can't let them get away with it, and their attempts to deflect and hide their anti-abortion views should be called out. **Abortion is not just salient to voters, it's a mobilizer.** There is no doubt abortion is a salient issue that will strengthen support amongst our supporters and moderates, while also engaging and mobilizing younger voters.

### **2. I represent a blue state, why is the conversation about abortion bans and restrictions relevant to my constituents?**

Despite anti-abortion politicians' lies that abortion should be left to the states, the GOP has made clear their ultimate aim is to pass a nationwide ban on abortion. Without *Roe v. Wade*, blue states could also be affected by a federal ban, regardless of any state-level constitutional or legal protections – even those enacted by ballot initiatives. Even with Congress as a potential backstop, if Trump wins in 2024, incredible harm can still be done by changing rules and regulations.