



MEMO TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA
DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2014

UPDATE RE: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TRENDS IN 2014 ELECTION CYCLE

**“2014: The year anti-choice GOP ran like Democrats on choice.”
Anti-choice candidates ran like Democrats on reproductive rights, and it worked.**

Last week, we told you anti-choice Republicans were moving center on reproductive rights in order to pick up enough pro-choice voters to win their elections. Tonight, key exit polls show that this tactic worked: **a solid percentage of voters who support access to legal abortion care voted for candidates who are anti-choice.**

“So voters want a higher minimum wage, legal pot, abortion access and GOP representation. Ok then.”

--Ben Casselman, 538.com

<https://twitter.com/bencasselman>:

Colorado:

Udall won women by 9 points. Exit polls in CO on abortion show that among voters who feel abortion should be “always legal,” 16% voted for Cory Gardner. Among voters who feel abortion should be “mostly legal,” 43% voted for Gardner:

<http://www.cnn.com/election/2014/results/state/CO/senate>

Once again, voters rejected an extreme anti-choice ballot measure, proving that when confronted with the prospect of an abortion ban, they side with women. Candidates like Cory Gardner understand this and benefit from ambiguity that ballot measures don't allow.

<http://www.politico.com/2014-election/results/map/ballot-measures/>

Rachel Maddow on Election Night observed this trend:

“Cory Gardner was a sponsor of personhood when it has come up before in Colorado. He is still a sponsor of it federally...he’s running as if he thinks personhood is a terrible idea... so if Cory Gardner beats Mark Udall in Colorado today, it will be because he ran to the left of Mark Udall, criticizing Mark Udall for not being able to deliver on the stuff that Cory Gardner is opposed to. That tells you that Democrats win the argument, even if they lose the race.”

Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America remarked: “Given the fact that Gardner still co-sponsors a bill that would criminalize abortion in nearly all cases, it seems ironic that some seemed more bothered by Udall pointing this out than by Gardner shamelessly lying about it.”

Iowa:

Exit polls in IA reported that of those who said abortion should “always be legal,” 21% voted for Joni Ernst. Thirty-eight percent of those who said abortion should “mostly be legal” voted for Ernst: <http://www.cnn.com/election/2014/results/state/IA/senate>

Wisconsin:

Burke won women by 11 points. <http://www.cnn.com/election/2014/results/state/WI/governor>

And we can’t forget Scott Walker’s straight-to-camera ad claiming that he respects a woman’s right to choose: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyHAZVPEiL4&feature=youtu.be&list=UUEeJwPqSAkPNxIR-HZ89fvw>

Original memo:

Throughout the 2014 cycle, when issues of reproductive rights have been raised in races, we’ve seen a consistent response from anti-choice GOP candidates: **try to erase an unpopular history and run like a pro-choice Democrat.**

Public-opinion research for the last few years, including NARAL’s own [polling](#) from earlier this cycle, consistently finds that 7 in 10 likely voters support legal access to abortion, including a majority of both Independents and Republicans. Regardless of an

individual's personal feelings about abortion, voters don't believe that politicians should impose their personal views and restrict access to this procedure.

Yet, while voters have made clear that we want our elected officials to focus on creating economic opportunities and advancing personal freedoms, anti-choice politicians have made outlawing abortion a top priority. Pointing out these misplaced priorities has proven to be an effective charge against anti-choice incumbents.

Given this reality, it's no wonder that anti-choice politicians are on defense about their record in races. In race after race, we've seen these candidates run from, obfuscate, and flat-out lie about the energy they have put into trying to move their anti-choice agenda. Not recognizing and exposing these lies going into the homestretch risks more of the same – politicians that pursue their own ideological agenda at the expense of the critical work they are elected to do for all Americans.

Following are a few key examples:

Cory Gardner in 2010	Cory Gardner in 2014	Gardner's Anti-Choice Agenda
<p>Watch Cory Gardner tout his support and activism on the Personhood measure here.</p>	<p>"This was a bad idea driven by good intentions," he told The Denver Post. "I was not right. I can't support personhood now. I can't support personhood going forward. To do it again would be a mistake." (Source)</p>	<p>Cory Gardner remains listed as a co-sponsor on the federal personhood bill, "Life at Conception Act." (Source)</p> <p>See NARAL's Denver Post ad on Cory Gardner here.</p>
Scott Walker in 2012	Scott Walker in 2014	Walker's Anti-Choice Agenda
<p>Watch Scott Walker declare his firm anti-choice position here.</p>	<p>"I'm pro-life but there is no doubt in my mind, the decision of whether or not to end a pregnancy is an agonizing one. That's why I support legislation to increase safety and to provide more information for a woman considering her options. The bill leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor... Our priority is to protect the health and safety of all Wisconsin citizens." (Ad)</p>	<p>Five health clinics, none of which provided abortion services to begin with, closed due to restrictions that prohibit clinics even associated with abortion providers from receiving family-planning funds. (Source)</p> <p>Required Wisconsin women to undergo a medically unnecessary, invasive ultrasound procedure before they can have a legal abortion, even if against their will and against their doctor's advice. (Source)</p> <p>See NARAL's TV ad on Scott Walker here.</p>
Joni Ernst September 2014	Joni Ernst October 2014	Ernst's Anti-Choice Agenda
<p>Ernst declares her support for extreme policies such as personhood: "I will continue to stand by that. I am a pro-life candidate, and this has been shaped by my religious beliefs through the years," she said. "So I support that."(Source)</p>	<p>After public backlash, Ernst softens her stance on personhood: "That amendment is simply a statement that I support life," Ernst said at the debate, adding that it "was a statement on life." (Source)</p>	<p>The Iowa bill Ernst supported redefined person in the Constitution. (Source)</p> <p>See NARAL's ad on Ernst here.</p>

If you would like to interview NARAL Pro-Choice America President, Ilyse Hogue, to discuss these trends and any other hot topics around the 2014 election cycle, please reach us at: (202) 973-3032.