Abortion support conditional

Louisianians share opinions on abortion

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Although a majority of Louisiana residents polled by The Advocate's state-wide survey found that the abortion would be legal under circumstances, they also believe that a majority of the state's voters would allow an abortion when the mother does not want the child and 74 percent would support it. Another 8 percent did not know. There was a very little difference between last year's and this year's results.

Greatest support for abortion on demand came in Orleans Parish (24 percent), among poor whites (22 percent), among blacks (23 percent), among those with an annual income of $10,000 to $24,999 (23 percent), among working females (24 percent), and among political independents (23 percent).

Rayburn said 16 percent of the Catholics would allow abortion on demand.

The poll showed that 18 percent of those Louisiana's surveyed would allow abortion under any circumstances. A New York Times poll reported on Nov. 19, 1969 showed 15 percent of Americans said abortion should not be permitted at all.

Support for the use of government funds was lower than support for allowing abortions, the poll found.

Seventy-four percent of the voters would allow government funds to be spent to perform abortions to save the life of a mother, less than the 63 percent that would allow an abortion to save the life of a mother.

In a case of rape or incest, 86 percent of the voters would allow abortion to save the life of a mother.

Based on the poll, people who agree for an abortion to be performed under certain circumstances would allow government funds to be used for that abortion, Rayburn said.

People's feelings on abortion would not clash their political choices, the poll showed.

Nearly two out of three — 67 percent — said they would not base their vote for a candidate on that candidate's stance on abortion. Twenty-seven percent said they would and 8 percent said they didn't know.

The group most likely to vote based on an abortion position were those under 30 years of age (34 percent), blacks (34 percent compared to 22 percent among whites), females who do not work outside the home (21 percent), union members (21 percent), and Protestants (26 percent), compared to 30 percent among Baptists and 33 percent among Catholics.

In the case of saving another's life, 75 percent of those who would base their vote on a candidate's abortion position would allow for such an abortion, and that totals about 15 percent of all voters.