

THE ROCKY Mountaineer

March 2022, Issue 8

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY BELIEVE ALL COLORADO WOMEN SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ABORTION CARE**
- **OVER TWO-TO-ONE SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSAL TO GUARANTEE A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO AN ABORTION**
- **A HIGH-PROFILE FIGHT OVER CHOICE COULD PAY BIG DIVIDENDS FOR DEMOCRATS**

Welcome Back to The Mountaineer

Welcome to *The Mountaineer*, a resource for progressives and a guide for advocates across the state of Colorado, published by Global Strategy Group and ProgressNow Colorado. Research presented in this publication is the result of a survey conducted between February 11 and February 15, 2022 among 800 registered voters in Colorado. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

This eighth publication will focus on the debate around abortion access in Colorado as the conservative U.S. Supreme Court prepares to consider a case that could result in overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

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**COLORADANS SUPPORT
THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT
TO ABORTION**



A strong majority of Colorado voters, including nearly three-quarters of swing voters, agree that all women in Colorado should have access to abortion care.

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**BY A TWO-TO-ONE MARGIN,
VOTERS BACK A PROPOSAL
TO GUARANTEE IT**



Voters overwhelmingly back a constitutional amendment that would guarantee the fundamental right to an abortion, with even less-conservative Republicans joining Democrats and unaffiliateds in support.

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**ABORTION IS A BIG
POLITICAL WINNER FOR
CO DEMOCRATS**



When the generic legislative ballot is reframed as a contest between a Democrat who supports the proposal to guarantee a woman's right to an abortion versus a Republican who opposes it, the Democratic margin expands by 15 points.

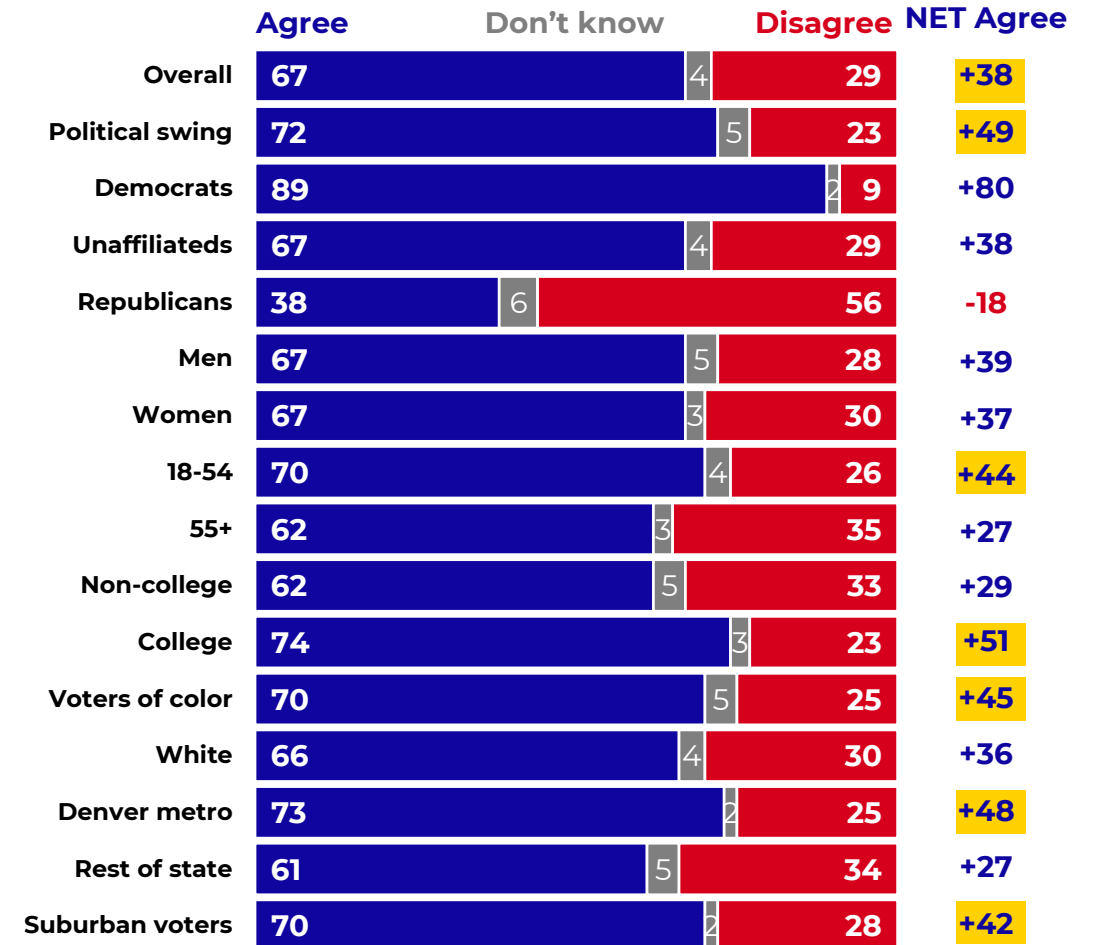
Colorado voters overwhelmingly believe all Colorado women should have access to abortion care

Two-thirds of Colorado voters agree that all women in the state should have access to abortion care. While a sizeable majority of every demographic and geographic group agrees, agreement is highest among college-educated voters, voters of color, younger voters, suburban voters, and those in the Denver metro. **Importantly, political swing voters* are even more strongly in agreement.**

**Political swing voters are those voters not locked into choosing one Party in the 2022 legislative and governor ballots and in their 2020 presidential vote.*

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

All women in Colorado should have access to abortion care.



More than two-to-one support for a constitutional amendment that guarantees the right to an abortion in CO

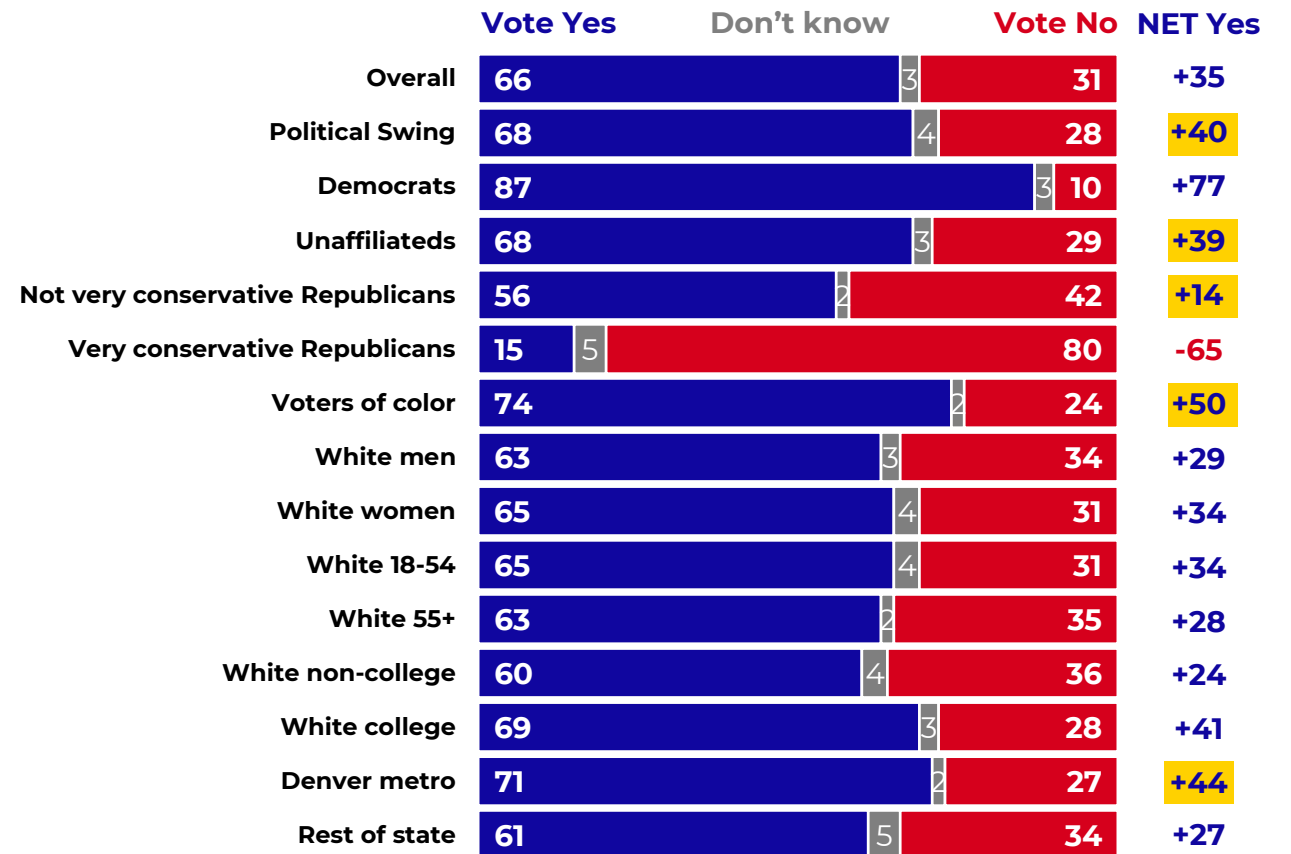
Similarly, about two-thirds of Colorado voters would back a constitutional amendment establishing a fundamental right to an abortion, both when presented using potential ballot language and in a simpler, plain English description. **Not only do political swing voters and unaffiliateds join Democrats in backing the measure, but so do less-conservative Republicans** – leaving only the 10% of the electorate who are very conservative Republicans in opposition.

You will now read about a proposed measure that may be on the ballot in Colorado in a future election:
Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution establishing a fundamental right of every woman to make and carry out decisions in all matters relating to her pregnancy, including decisions concerning abortion, birth control, prenatal care, and childbirth?



The text of ballot measures can sometimes be confusing, so here is a similar question asked in a different way:

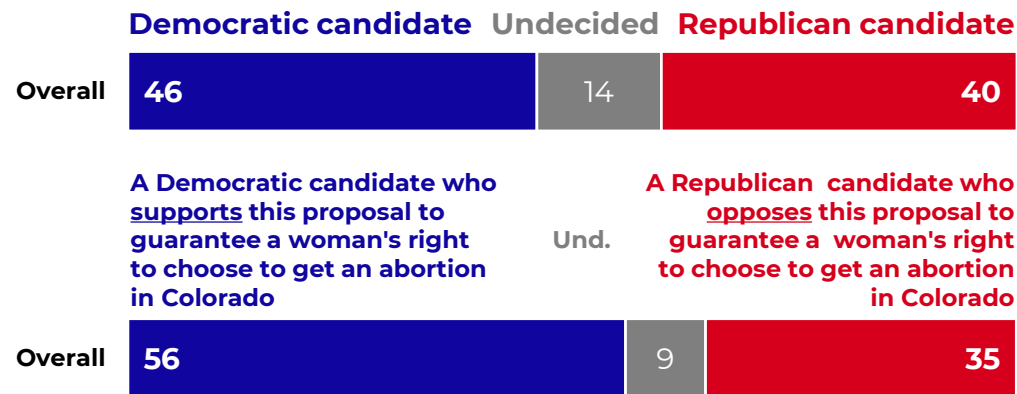
Would you vote yes or no on a proposal that guarantees a woman's right to choose to get an abortion in Colorado?



Running on the fundamental right to an abortion could be a big winner for Democrats

Voters start the survey leaning toward Democrats on the generic ballot by six points. However, when the ballot is re-framed as a contest between a Democrat who supports the proposal to guarantee a woman’s right to choose to get an abortion in Colorado versus a Republican who opposes it, **the Democratic margin expands by 15 points**, to a +21 margin. This includes gains of double digits across nearly every demographic and geographic groups with particularly **massive gains with unaffiliated voters and less-conservative Republicans**. It is important to note that the gains are actually larger outside of the Denver metro area than within it – and are also particularly large with white non-college voters – mainly because Democrats have more room to grow with these groups.

If the general election for state legislature were held today, for whom would you vote?

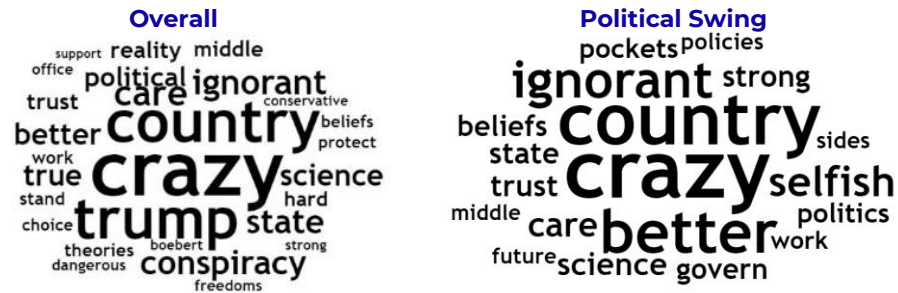


	Generic Legislative Ballot	Generic Ballot Framed Around Choice Measure	Change
Democratic candidate	46	56	+10
Republican candidate	40	35	-5
NET Democrat	+6	+21	+15
Democrats	+74	+75	+1
Unaffiliateds	+8	+30	+22
Not very conservative Republicans	-61	-33	+28
Very conservative Republicans	-96	-86	+10
Denver metro	+22	+35	+13
Rest of state	-11	+8	+19
Suburban voters	+8	+25	+17
Voters of color	+34	+45	+11
White men	-8	+7	+15
White women	+3	+21	+18
White 18-54	-2	+17	+19
White 55+	-2	+12	+14
White non-college	-14	+7	+21
White college	+12	+23	+11

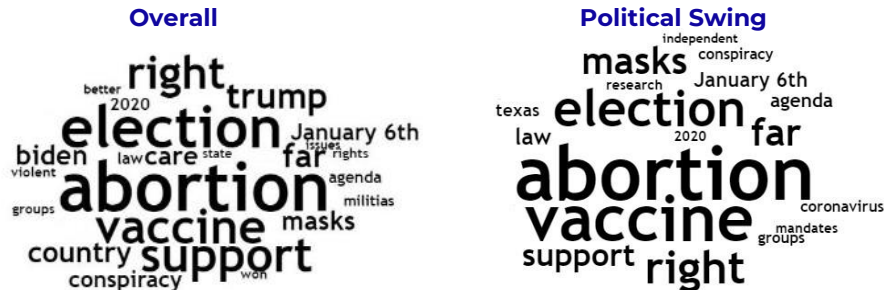
GOP support for anti-abortion measures are also big liabilities for Republicans up and down the ballot

With Republicans pushing a trio of bills to criminalize abortion and create an abortion registry in the state legislature last week, we also wanted to refer back to our October survey which tested a series of critiques against Republicans. **The top-testing negative focused on Kristi Burton Brown’s support of the Texas abortion ban** and gave 52% of Colorado voters major doubts about voting for Republicans “up and down the ballot.” For context, any negative that scores above 40% on this scale is considered powerful, making 52% off the charts. **After hearing these critiques, voters described Colorado Republicans as “crazy” and “ignorant.”**

How would you describe Colorado Republicans in your own words?



What gives you the most doubts about voting for Colorado Republicans in 2022?



Please indicate how much doubt each statement gives you about voting for Colorado Republicans up and down the ballot in 2022.

	% Major doubts Overall	% Total doubts Overall	% Major doubts Unaf.
The chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party, Kristi Burton Brown, has endorsed the new Texas law that bans abortion after six weeks with no exception for rape or incest and encourages vigilante justice by giving untrained citizens \$10,000 if they successfully sue anyone who helps a woman get an abortion – including nurses or even Uber drivers who take women to their clinic appointment.	52	65	52
Lauren Boebers has embraced violent far-right militias like the Three Percenters and helped incite the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. The GOP's leading U.S. Senate candidate was part of insurrectionist crowd that attacked the Capitol on January 6th. And the chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party was the president of a far-right militia that has threatened violence and sought to overturn the results of the 2020 election.	47	62	46
Colorado Republicans like Lauren Boebers have called mask requirements "anti-science bullshit" and called public health officials who are trying to encourage more people to get the vaccine "needle Nazis." And the chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party led a group that has incited violence and organized protests against school districts trying to implement mask requirements to protect kids, prevent outbreaks, and keep schools open.	46	61	45
Dozens of Republican officials continue to deny that Joe Biden won the election and to push efforts to overturn the election results. The GOP frontrunner for governor refuses to say if the 2020 election was legitimate. And a Republican County clerk is under investigation after allowing a conspiracy group to copy the hard drives of the county's voting machines and share that private data with other conspiracy theorists like Mike Lindell, the MyPillow guy.	45	60	44

Data from Mountaineer November 2021, Issue 6 (fielded October 19 - October 24, 2021)

About The Mountaineer

Colorado has a long history as a leader in developing and implementing ground-breaking progressive policy, but as the state's leaders continue to build on this progressive tradition, they also face unique challenges that range from the state's TABOR amendment to its rapid growth.

The Mountaineer is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, and responsive tool to help inform the unique political and policy debates in Colorado. By conducting methodologically sound research and providing reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press, *The Mountaineer* will help progressive leaders and communicators shape the debate on the issues that matter most to Coloradans.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 800 registered voters in Colorado between February 11 and February 15, 2022 . The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater. The survey was conducted over the phone and online, with online respondents recruited from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file, and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of Colorado's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including party registration, race, gender, age, education, region, and population density.

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