



To: Interested Parties
From: Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
Date: June 22, 2023
RE: **Abortion Remains Key Issue in Helping Dems Win Back the House**

Nowhere is the House GOP's extremism more on display than in their continued, obsessive attempts to roll back reproductive freedoms. We continue to see this as a potent issue in driving voters to the polls, as well as convincing swing voters of Republican extremism—not just on the issue of choice, but on vulnerable Republicans' inability to stand up to the extremes of their party on any issue. **Recent battleground polling conducted for the DCCC shows that, by more than a two-to-one margin, voters trust Democrats to protect abortion rights.** Additionally, as recent special elections show, we continue to see an opportunity to expand on our margins in urban areas and that the suburban swing towards Democrats has not lost momentum.

Every vulnerable House Republican is out of step with the majority of Americans when it comes to protecting reproductive freedoms. As House Republicans continue to bring this issue to the forefront, pushing for a national abortion ban and passing restrictions on these freedoms, they are keeping the issue top of mind for voters.

In competitive House races in New York and California, in particular, we see a unique opportunity to contrast two pro-choice voting electorates – where abortion is protected at the state level – with Republicans who are [actively working](#) to undermine a woman's right to choose and are undermining their state's protections with extreme restrictions at the federal level. As a reminder, there are 13 seats on the DCCC's target list in these two states, with 11 being districts that President Biden won in 2020, well more than is required to win back the majority.

States with Republican-controlled legislatures, where the situation is even more bleak for women, present an opportunity to highlight just how little extreme Republican incumbents care to stand up for voters' reproductive freedoms. In states like Nebraska and Florida, where legislatures have instituted draconian, unpopular bans, vulnerable Republicans like Don Bacon and Maria Elvira Salazar have failed to speak out.

With the one year anniversary of the disastrous Dobbs ruling approaching on June 24, the DCCC will continue to highlight the contrast between Democrats who fight to protect reproductive freedoms while Republicans work to strip them away.





THE DATA SHOWS ABORTION IS STILL A MOTIVATING ISSUE

- In the VA-04 February special election, Rep. Jennifer McClellan – who made abortion a top issue – overperformed the 2022 House results by 9 points.
 - McClellan flipped three rural counties that were carried by the Republican candidate in 2022, made gains in the urban-suburban portions of the district, and overperformed in every county in the district compared to 2022.
- In Wisconsin’s Supreme Court election, the pro-choice candidate – who largely ran on protecting reproductive rights – won a resounding victory, and overperformed the House 2022 results by 7 points in both of our targeted Republican seats: WI-01 and WI-03.
- The [primary elections](#) in Virginia showed that voters continue to favor candidates who stand up for reproductive freedom. In a primary that revolved around abortion, former Del. Lashrecse Aird won against anti-choice incumbent Sen. Joe Morrissey.
- According to a new USA Today [poll](#), by almost 4-1, those who have changed their mind about abortion in the last year have grown *more* supportive of legal abortion. In the same poll, 80% said they oppose a nationwide ban, thus indicating that vulnerable Republicans are out of step with the majority of Americans on this issue.

Bottom line: The DCCC will continue to highlight the issue of abortion in swing districts across the country, framing the issue as one between protecting women’s freedoms or ripping them away.

