Traditional or Progressive?
Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues
Alberta Public Opinion Study - October 2019
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Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair
faron.ellis@lethbridgecollege.ca
www.lethbridgecollege.ca
3000 College Drive, South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 1L6

Citizen Society Research Lab
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## Methodology

Population: The province of Alberta has a total population of $4,371,316$ residents (Statistics Canada, 2019) approximately $78 \%$ of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of 3,409,626.

Sample: Data were collected by Lethbridge College students in the fall of 2019. Students interviewed 953 adult Alberta residents by telephone from October 5 to 10, 2019 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline, hybrid and mobile telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories and supplemented by CSRL lists. We sincerely thank all participants who took time out of their day to respond to our inquiries. Further results from this study and results from past studies can be accessed by visiting the CSRL web pages at: www.lethbridgecollege.ca

Representativeness: Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the province of Alberta. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender, area of province and age).

Confidence: The weighted sample yields a margin of error $\pm 3.17$ percentage points, 19 times out of 20 . The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary $\pm 6.1$ percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area $\pm 6.5$ percentage points, North $\pm 6.6$ percentage points, South $\pm 6.2$ percentage points 19 times out of 20 ).

IB Commons Call Centre: Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre. We thank members of Lethbridge College's ITS and AV teams for their support in helping maintain the IB Commons Call Center.

Sponsorship: These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Alberta residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. These questions were derived from student and faculty interest in thetopics.

## Traditional or Progressive?

## Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues

Introduction: This report analyzes Albertans' opinions about six public policy issues, each of which can be conceptualized along a traditional versus progressive dimension. Most, if not all of these items can be conceptualized along an individual choice versus governmental restriction axis whereby the progressive position supports greater individual autonomy and choice and the traditional position supports greater government restrictions of individual choice in these matters. As is to be expected in an advanced liberal-pluralist political culture, a considerable amount of diversity exists within the overall Alberta public opinion structure with divisions often based on known causes such as religion and political partisanship, generational and gender differences, or economic and education differences.

Overall, Albertans are increasingly inclined to support individual choice on these issues. A majority of Albertans now take a progressive, individual choice position on five of the six items.

The six policy issues: Opinion was measured on the issues of abortion choice, medical cannabis, capital punishment, medical assistance in dying, same-sex marriage, and recreational cannabis. Over the past decade, opinion has remained relatively consistent on one of the items (capital punishment). However, Albertans are becoming increasingly progressive on the other five items (abortion choice, medical cannabis, medical assistance in dying, same-sex marriage, and recreational cannabis.)

- Albertans strongly support a woman's right to make abortion decisions for herself ( $86.4 \%$ ). Support has ranged from $77.6 \%$ in 2009 to its current high point this year.
- A majority of Albertans support reinstating capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder (58.7\%). Support has ranged from a low of 53.9 in 2011 to $62.8 \%$ in 2018.
- Albertans overwhelmingly support cannabis remaining legal for medical purposes (92.1\%). Support has steadily risen from $73.8 \%$ in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support legal access to medical assistance in dying for those suffering from terminal illnesses (86.4\%), a substantial increase from $64.3 \%$ in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support same-sex marriages having equal legal status with traditional marriages (82.8\%). Support has increased from 65.7\% in 2009.
- A majority of Albertans are now supportive of legal recreational cannabis. Nearly three of every five Albertans (58.1\%) are now supportive while $41.9 \%$ are opposed. Support has increased from only $36.5 \%$ in 2009.


## Six Policy Issues 2009-2019 - All Albertans (\% support)

As the graph and tabular data below indicate, although relatively stable over the past decade Albertans' support for abortion choice has increased marginally with more than four out of every five Albertans voicing support for choice. Support for reinstating capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder has remained relatively consistent at approximately three out of every five Albertans supporting a return to capital punishment under those conditions.
Support for individual choice in each of the remaining four policy areas has grown gradually over time.
Six Policy Issues 2009-2019 (\% support)


|  | Abortion Choice |  | Capital Punishment | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying | Same-sex Marriage |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Six Policy Issues 2009-2019 by Region (\% support) ( $\cdot$ sig $<0.05$ in 2018)

| Edmonton | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Cannabis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2019 (f) | 86.9 | 57.1 | 92.4 | 86.9 | 83.7 | 59.9 |
| 2019 (w) | 78.5 | 55.8 | 88.3 | 83.7 | 77.3 | 50.8 |
| 2018 | 85.7 | 55.2 | 93.1 | 84.9 | 85.1 | 52.9 |
| 2017 | 81.6 | 55.3 | 91.0 | 83.1 | 80.1 | 52.3 |
| 2016 | 87.5 | 54.9 | 87.5 | 86.3 | 85.2 | 45.6 |
| 2015 | 75.5 | 62.2 | 82.0 | 76.5 | 78.9 | 53.9 |
| 2014 | 85.5 | 57.8 | 75.4 | 78.6 | 83.3 | 52.8 |
| 2013 | 79.0 | 61.1 | 76.3 | 78.4 | 79.5 | 50.0 |
| 2012 | 80.9 | 60.3 | 75.5 | 72.4 | 73.3 | 42.5 |
| 2011 | 85.0 | 51.6 | 75.9 | 72.9 | 75.5 | 37.7 |
| 2010 | 81.2 | 55.0 | 79.4 | 73.4 | 72.3 | 45.8 |
| 2009 | 81.0 | 58.6 | 75.5 | 65.3 | 65.5 | 38.3 |


| Calgary | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Cannabis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2019 (f) | 89.7 | 48.1 | 91.4 | 88.1 | 86.6 | 60.6 |
| 2019 (w) | 82.2 | 59.5 | 92.7 | 85.4 | 82.8 | 57.4 |
| 2018 | 89.3 | 63.2 | 91.9 | 87.7 | 86.4 | 50.4 |
| 2017 | 86.0 | 56.8 | 86.8 | 85.9 | 84.5 | 52.6 |
| 2016 | 89.2 | 57.1 | 86.9 | 83.0 | 83.6 | 46.6 |
| 2015 | 86.9 | 54.0 | 87.1 | 82.6 | 86.3 | 51.5 |
| 2014 | 85.2 | 51.5 | 83.6 | 81.1 | 82.4 | 59.0 |
| 2013 | 83.3 | 56.6 | 79.0 | 79.5 | 81.0 | 52.3 |
| 2012 | 87.0 | 52.8 | 77.8 | 77.8 | 78.3 | 43.7 |
| 2011 | 84.8 | 49.6 | 77.2 | 72.8 | 72.4 | 41.1 |
| 2010 | 81.1 | 53.5 | 76.7 | 68.2 | 70.9 | 46.0 |
| 2009 | 79.1 | 50.9 | 77.0 | 66.0 | 73.7 | 39.7 |

Six Policy Issues 2009-2019 by Region (continued) (\% support) (• 'sig < 0.05 in 2018)

| North | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Cannabis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2019 (f) | 86.8 | 67.3 | 92.3 | 87.1 | 84.4 | 56.6 |
| 2019 (w) | 79.7 | 66.8 | 93.1 | 78.8 | 67.8 | 49.3 |
| 2018 | 80.5 | 66.5 | 91.6 | 83.1 | 77.1 | 43.6 |
| 2017 | 80.2 | 69.9 | 84.2 | 85.0 | 72.6 | 42.8 |
| 2016 | 84.2 | 62.0 | 87.6 | 85.7 | 80.3 | 41.2 |
| 2015 | 79.8 | 61.8 | 84.5 | 81.6 | 82.2 | 46.5 |
| 2014 | 78.8 | 67.4 | 83.9 | 77.2 | 77.0 | 51.9 |
| 2013 | 75.2 | 68.2 | 68.9 | 76.7 | 74.8 | 42.1 |
| 2012 | 72.7 | 64.7 | 71.4 | 71.7 | 67.9 | 46.8 |
| 2011 | 81.6 | 60.3 | 76.6 | 74.6 | 68.6 | 40.1 |
| 2010 | 80.7 | 64.7 | 72.8 | 61.6 | 67.8 | 34.5 |
| 2009 | 72.5 | 62.9 | 66.1 | 57.7 | 58.6 | 28.7 |


| South | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Cannabis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2019 (f) | 81.2 | 66.0 | 92.2 | 83.3 | 75.0 | 53.8 |
| 2019 (w) | 72.4 | 65.2 | 89.3 | 74.9 | 68.4 | 51.9 |
| 2018 | 79.9 | 67.9 | 92.4 | 81.7 | 78.9 | 49.7 |
| 2017 | 83.2 | 66.9 | 89.5 | 80.1 | 79.2 | 46.9 |
| 2016 | 80.8 | 62.8 | 87.3 | 84.8 | 81.2 | 52.0 |
| 2015 | 79.3 | 58.6 | 84.8 | 81.6 | 78.6 | 52.5 |
| 2014 | 74.8 | 59.4 | 75.8 | 73.9 | 72.4 | 47.9 |
| 2013 | 78.5 | 67.6 | 80.9 | 80.2 | 69.1 | 52.8 |
| 2012 | 81.1 | 68.5 | 78.7 | 81.8 | 75.6 | 48.2 |
| 2011 | 82.7 | 58.9 | 76.1 | 70.2 | 69.6 | 39.6 |
| 2010 | 79.1 | 62.7 | 69.9 | 65.8 | 68.3 | 29.6 |
| 2009 | 73.3 | 72.3 | 73.2 | 67.4 | 58.3 | 35.2 |

Policy Issues Index (2009-2019) (means)
Index of Opinion on Policy Issues:
An index of opinion structure was created by summing the responses to the six questions thereby allowing for easier regional and demographic comparisons. The index scores range from a possible " 0.0 " for the most traditional Albertans, to " 6.0 " for the most progressive Albertans.

The mean score for the province as a whole is 4.3, clearly on the progressive side of neutral and steadily increasing from only 3.4 in 2009.
As was partially indicated on the previous page, on a regional basis Calgary is consistently the most progressive area of the province, moving from 3.6 in 2009 to 4.6 in 2019. Edmonton ( 3.4 to 4.4), northern Alberta outside of Edmonton ( 3.0 to 4.3), and the south outside of Calgary (3.2 to 4.1 ) are somewhat less progressive but still considerably more progressive than traditional.



All Alberta

Policy Issues Index (2019) (means)
This graphical presentation below is based on the tabular data that appears on the following page and demonstrates where various groups of Albertans place themselves on the traditional-progressive index continuum.
The graph is organized with supporters of the federal political parties at the top, followed by supporters of the provincial political parties, regions of the province, and the average Alberta score all above the bar. A selection of various demographic groups is found below the bar.
Typical patterns of opinion divergence are measured between demographic sub-groups. For example, as expected, the very religious are the most traditional in their perspectives, followed by those with the least amount of formal education, seniors, and provincial and federal conservative voters. Alternatively, Liberal, NDP and Green voters can all be found at the more progressive end of the range along with the non-religious, higher educated Albertans, and upper income earners.


## Policy Issues Index

The tabular data upon which the preceding graphic is based are presented below.

| Region | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | All Residents |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2019* (f) | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| 2019 (w) | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| 2018 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| 2017 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| 2016 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| 2015 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| 2014 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| 2013 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| 2012 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| 2011 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| 2010 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
| 2009 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| $2019{ }_{(f)}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provincial Voters* | $\begin{gathered} \text { UCP } \\ 4.1 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { NDP } \\ 5.0 \end{gathered}$ | Liberal 4.6 | AB Party 4.2 | Undecided $4.6$ |
| Federal Voters* | $\begin{gathered} \text { CPC } \\ 4.1 \end{gathered}$ | Liberal $4.7$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { NDP } \\ 5.0 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Green } \\ 5.0 \end{gathered}$ | Undecided $4.8$ |
| Gender | Male $4.3$ | Female 4.4 |  |  |  |
| Income* | Under \$60,000 $4.1$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 60-\$ 120,000 \\ 4.6 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Over } \$ 120,000 \\ 4.6 \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 1-3 per month/more $3.6$ | Several per year $4.5$ | Rarely/never 4.8 |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{gathered} 18-29 \\ 4.2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 30-44 \\ 4.7 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 45-64 \\ 4.5 \end{gathered}$ | 65 and older 4.1 |  |
| Education* | High School or Less 4.0 | Some Post-secondary 4.4 | College-Tech-Trade 4.3 | University Grad 4.5 |  |

## Policy Items by Region of Province (2019 (f) (\%)

- Large majorities in all regions of the province support abortion choice for Canadian women.
- Majorities in most regions of Alberta, excluding Calgary, support a return to capital punishment for those convicted first degree murderer.
- Large majorities in all regions of the province support medical cannabis remaining legal.
- Large majorities of all regions of the province support legal medical assistance in dying.
- Large majorities in all regions of the province support same-sex marriage having equal legal status with traditionalmarriages.
- An increasing majority of Albertans support legal recreational cannabis.

| Abortion Choice | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 86.8 | 86.9 | 89.7 | 81.2 | 86.4 |
| Disagree | 13.2 | 13.1 | 10.3 | 18.8 | 13.6 |
| Capital Punishment | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 67.3 | 57.1 | 48.1 | 66.0 | 58.7 |
| Disagree | 32.7 | 42.9 | 51.9 | 34.0 | 41.3 |
| Medical Cannabis | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 92.3 | 92.4 | 91.4 | 92.2 | 92.1 |
| Disagree | 7.7 | 7.6 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 7.9 |
| Medical Assistance in Dying | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 87.1 | 86.9 | 88.1 | 83.3 | 86.4 |
| Disagree | 12.9 | 13.1 | 11.9 | 16.7 | 13.6 |
| Same-sex Marriage | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 84.4 | 83.7 | 86.6 | 75.0 | 82.8 |
| Disagree | 15.6 | 16.3 | 13.4 | 25.0 | 17.2 |
| Recreational Cannabis | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 56.6 | 59.9 | 60.6 | 53.8 | 58.1 |
| Disagree | 43.4 | 40.1 | 39.4 | 46.2 | 41.9 |

[^0]
## Abortion choice by demographic group (2019 (f) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that abortion is a matter of private choice. Although still the least supportive, a majority of the very religious are much more supportive ( $69.6 \%$ ) than opposed ( $30.4 \%$ ). Support climbs to $91.0 \%$ among the moderately religious, and peaks at $95.2 \%$ among the non-religious.

Women (87.0\%) are only slightly more supportive than are men (85.9\%). Middle-income (91.1\%) and upper-income earners (87.6\%) are more supportive than are lower-income earners ( $83.9 \%$ ). Age has no significant impact on opinion about abortion choice.

NDP voters ( $92.7 \%$ provincially and $93.5 \%$ federally) distinguish themselves as more supportive than any of their major party counterparts. Federal ( $80.7 \%$ ) and provincial ( $81.5 \%$ ) conservative voters are slightly less supportive than are other party supporters, but these differences are relatively small and substantial majorities of partisans of all parties' support choice in abortion decisions.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 85.9 | 87.0 | 86.4 |  |
| Disagree | 14.1 | 13.0 | 13.6 |  |
| Household Income | Under $\$ 60,000$ | $\$ 60,000$ to $\$ 120,000$ | Over $\$ 120,000$ |  |
| Agree | 83.9 | 91.1 | 87.6 |  |
| Disagree | 16.1 | 8.9 | 12.4 |  |
| Religious Participation |  |  |  |  |
| Agree | $2-3$ times $/$ month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |
| Disagree | 69.6 | 91.0 | 95.2 |  |
| Education | 30.4 | 9.0 | 4.8 |  |
| Agree | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |
| Disagree | 82.8 | 85.3 | 88.2 | 87.5 |
| Age | 17.2 | 14.7 | 11.8 | 12.5 |
| Agree | $18-29$ | $30-44$ | $45-64$ | 65 and older |
| Disagree | 81.3 | 93.0 | 83.6 | 87.6 |
| Provincial Vote $*$ | 18.7 | 7.0 | 16.4 | 12.4 |
| Agree | UCP | 81.5 | NDP | 92.7 |
| Disagree | 18.5 | 7.3 | Liberal |  |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | 80.7 | Liberal | 92.2 |
| AB Party |  |  |  |  |
| Agree | 19.3 | 92.1 | 7.8 | 87.5 |
| Disagree | 7.9 | NDP | 12.5 |  |

[^1]
## Capital punishment by demographic group (2019(1)) (\%)

Majorities in most demographic groups within Alberta agree that capital punishment should be reinstated for people convicted of first degree murder. Significant gender, age, educational level, income and partisan differences divide opinion on this issue.
Men (62.4\%) are significantly more supportive than are women ( $54.8 \%$ ). Lower-income Albertans ( $64.5 \%$ ) are more supportive than are upperincome ( $54.5 \%$ ) and middle-income ( $56.3 \%$ ) earners. Less well-educated Albertans ( $77.4 \%$ ) are more supportive than are post-secondary educated residents, with university grads (43.4\%) the least supportive.
Provincial NDP partisans (33.7\%) are significantly less supportive than are all other provincial party voters, while federal Liberal (47.1\%), NDP ( $45.5 \%$ ) and Green ( $40.0 \%$ ) voters are much less supportive than are federal Conservative voters ( $68.9 \%$ ).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 62.4 \\ 37.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54.8 \\ & 45.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58.7 \\ & 41.3 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 64.5 \\ 35.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 56.3 \\ 43.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 54.5 \\ 45.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 55.6 \\ 44.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.0 \\ & 37.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 59.3 \\ 40.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 77.4 \\ & 22.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64.2 \\ & 35.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.3 \\ & 36.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 43.4 \\ 56.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & 34.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 61.4 \\ 38.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52.0 \\ & 48.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 56.1 \\ & 43.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 69.3 \\ & 30.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 33.7 \\ & 66.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58.1 \\ & 41.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60.9 \\ & 39.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 54.4 \\ 45.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 68.9 \\ & 31.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.1 \\ 52.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 45.5 \\ 54.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 40.0 \\ & 60.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 46.5 \\ 53.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig < 0.05

## Medical cannabis by demographic group (2019 (f) (\%)

Overwhelming majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that cannabis should be legal for medical purposes. Only income and religiosity significantly divide opinion on this issue, but only slightly with nine out of every ten Albertans in most demographic groups supportive.
Non-religious Albertans ( $97.0 \%$ ) are more supportive than are the very religious ( $86.6 \%$ ), while upper-income ( $94.3 \%$ ) and middle-income ( $95.5 \%$ ) earners are more supportive than are lower-income earners ( $88.6 \%$ ). No significant differences are measured between different federal or provincial partisans.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 91.2 | 92.9 | 92.1 |  |  |
| Disagree | 8.8 | 7.1 | 7.9 |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 88.6 \\ & 11.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 95.5 \\ 4.5 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 94.3 \\ 5.7 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 86.6 \\ & 1344 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.4 \\ 8.6 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 97.0 \\ 3.0 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 91.9 \\ 8.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.2 \\ 6.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.8 \\ 8.2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.5 \\ 7.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{gathered} 87.8 \\ 12.2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 95.6 \\ 4.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.9 \\ 6.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.1 \\ 8.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 92.6 \\ 7.4 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 94.2 \\ 5.8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 89.2 \\ 10.8 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.3 \\ & 16.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.0 \\ 7.0 \end{array}$ |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 92.6 \\ 7.4 \end{array}$ | 92.8 7.2 | 91.0 9.0 | $\begin{gathered} 90.6 \\ 9.4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 94.4 \\ 5.6 \end{array}$ |

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig < 0.05

## Legal Medical Assistance in Dying by demographic group (2019(f) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta believe that people with terminal illnesses should have legal access to medical assistance in dying. Religiosity, income and federal and provincial partisanship are the only significant determinants of opinion differences on this issue.
Most significantly, although a substantial majority of very religious Albertans ( $66.7 \%$ ) support individual choice on this issue, their support is considerably less than is that of the moderately religious ( $92.9 \%$ ) and the non-religious ( $96.2 \%$ ). Upper-income Albertans ( $93.7 \%$ ) are more supportive than are lower-income earners ( $83.0 \%$ ). Federal and provincial conservative voters (approximately $83 \%$ ) are slightly less supportive than are their Liberal (approximately 85\%) and NDP (approximately 92\%) counterparts.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 86.1 \\ 13.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.9 \\ & 13.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 86.4 \\ 13.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 83.0 \\ & 17.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.6 \\ & 12.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.7 \\ 6.3 \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 66.7 \\ & 33.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 92.9 \\ 7.1 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 96.2 \\ 3.8 \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 82.8 \\ & 17.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.5 \\ 9.5 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.4 \\ & 11.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 84.6 \\ 15.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 84.6 \\ & 15.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.1 \\ 9.9 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.0 \\ & 13.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.3 \\ & 16.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 83.2 \\ & 16.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 91.5 \\ 8.5 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.0 \\ & 15.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.3 \\ & 16.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 92.9 \\ 7.1 \end{gathered}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 82.9 \\ & 17.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.6 \\ & 14.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 92.2 \\ 7.8 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.3 \\ 6.7 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 94.9 \\ 5.1 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

[^2]
## Same-sex Marriage Equality by demographic group (2019(f)) (\%)

Substantial majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that same-sex marriages should have equal legal standing with traditional marriages.
Significant differences of opinion are measured in all but the gender and age demographic clusters. Most significantly, a substantial majority of very religious Albertans ( $63.1 \%$ ) are supportive of same-sex marriage equality, but this is considerably less support than that of the moderatelyreligious ( $85.1 \%$ ) and the non-religious ( $93.9 \%$ ). NDP, Liberal and Green voters re slightly more supportive than are UCP and federal Conservative voters, although substantial majorities of all partisans agree with same-sex marriage equality.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 81.3 \\ & 18.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.4 \\ & 15.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.8 \\ & 17.2 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 74.1 \\ 25.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.8 \\ 9.2 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.6 \\ & 12.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 63.1 \\ & 36.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.1 \\ & 14.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.9 \\ 6.1 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 74.5 \\ 25.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 84.9 \\ 15.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.4 \\ & 16.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.1 \\ & 14.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 81.2 \\ & 18.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.4 \\ & 11.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 85.4 \\ 14.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 76.4 \\ 23.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 77.6 \\ & 22.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 94.8 \\ 5.2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 89.1 \\ & 10.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70.8 \\ & 29.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 91.8 \\ 8.2 \end{gathered}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 78.4 \\ & 21.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.3 \\ & 16.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 96.2 \\ 3.8 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.8 \\ 6.3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 92.6 \\ 7.4 \end{gathered}$ |

[^3]
## Recreational cannabis by demographic group (2019(f) (\%)

A clear majority of Albertans are now supportive of legal recreational cannabis with $58.1 \%$ supportive and $41.9 \%$ opposed. A substantial majority Alberta's youth ( $65.7 \%$ ), the non-religious ( $69.3 \%$ ), federal Liberal ( $66.9 \%$ ) and Green ( $78.1 \%$ ) voters are supportive. Men ( $63.37 \%$ ) are more supportive than are women ( $52.8 \%$ ). Most opposed are seniors ( $56.2 \%$ ), the highly religious ( $58.6 \%$ ), federal Conservative ( $49.2 \%$ ), and UCP voters (48.4\%).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 63.3 \\ & 36.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52.8 \\ & 47.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58.1 \\ & 41.9 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 55.3 \\ 44.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 62.5 \\ 37.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 62.0 \\ & 38.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 41.4 \\ 58.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 59.8 \\ & 40.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 69.3 \\ 30.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 56.0 \\ & 44.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 61.9 \\ 38.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 57.6 \\ 42.4 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57.7 \\ & 42.3 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & 34.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & 34.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 58.9 \\ 41.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 43.8 \\ & 56.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 51.6 \\ 48.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 68.6 \\ 31.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 73.0 \\ 27.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54.2 \\ & 45.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.1 \\ & 34.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 50.8 \\ 49.2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 66.9 \\ 33.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 75.3 \\ 24.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 78.1 \\ 21.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70.7 \\ & 29.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig < 0.05

## Demographics (\%)

| Area of Provin |  | Gender |  | Income |  | Education |  | Age |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Calgary | 28.1 | Male | 50.3 | Under \$60,000 | 35.2 | H-School/less | 17.2 | 18-29 | 23.4 |
| Edmonton | 28.2 | Female | 49.3 | \$60-\$120,000 | 40.0 | Some P-Sec. | 20.7 | 30-44 | 22.2 |
| North | 22.0 | Other | 0.4 | Over \$120,000 | 24.8 | Col-Tech-Grad | 24.8 | 45-64 | 30.7 |
| South | 21.7 |  |  |  |  | University Grad | 37.2 | 65 or older | 23.7 |


| Religious Participation |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| $2-3 /$ month-more | 30.1 |
| Several/year | 24.0 |
| Rarely-never | 45.8 |

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$

## Questions

Pease tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- The federal government should continue to recognize same sex marriages giving them equal legal standing with traditional marriages.
- Abortion is a matter of choice that should be decided between a woman and her doctor.
- Canada should re-introduce capital punishment for people convicted of first-degree murder.
- Cannabis should be legal for medical purposes.
- Cannabis should be legal for recreational purposes.
- People with terminal illnesses should be allowed legal access to medical assistance in dying.

Strongly Agree

- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- don't know (unprompted)
- refused (unprompted)


[^0]:    Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig $<0.05$

[^1]:    Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig $<0.05$

[^2]:    Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100\%; * sig < 0.05

[^3]:    Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly $100 \%$; * sig < 0.05

