Traditional or Progressive?
Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues
Alberta Public Opinion Study - October 2018
© 2018 Lethbridge College

Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair
faron.ellis@lethbridgecollege.ca
www.lethbridgecollege.ca
3000 College Drive, South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 1L6

Citizen Society Research Lab
Traditional or Progressive?
Albertans' Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues
Alberta Public Opinion Study - October 2018
Contents
Methodology ..... 2
Traditional or Progressive? Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues ..... 3
Introduction ..... 3
The Six Policy Issues ..... 3
Six Policy Issues 2009-2018 ..... 4
Alberta ..... 4
Region of Province ..... 5
Policy Issues Index 2009-2018 ..... 6
Alberta and Region of Province ..... 6
Index by Demographic Group - Graphic ..... 7
Index by Region and Demographic Group - Tabular Data ..... 8
Policy Items 2018 ..... 9
Policy Items by Region of Province ..... 9
Abortion Choice by Demographic Group ..... 10
Capital Punishment by Demographic Group ..... 11
Medical Marijuana by Demographic Group ..... 12
Legal Doctor-Assisted Suicide by Demographic Group ..... 13
Same-Sex Marriage by Demographic Group ..... 14
Recreational Marijuana by Demographic Group ..... 15
Demographics ..... 16
Questions ..... 16

## Methodology

Population: The province of Alberta has a total population of $4,334,025$ residents (Statistics Canada, 2018) approximately $78 \%$ of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of $3,380,540$.

Sample: Data were collected by Lethbridge College students in the fall of 2018. Students interviewed 1,364 adult Alberta residents by telephone from September 29 to October 4, 2018 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline/hybrid telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories and supplemented with a selection of mobile numbers from 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 $\pm 2.65$ percentage points, 19 times out of 20 . The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary $\pm 5.1$ percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area $\pm 5.1$ percentage points, North $\pm 5.6$ percentage points, South $\pm 5.6$ 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 four of the six items and is evenly split on a fifth, legal recreational marijuana.

The six policy issues: Opinion was measured on the issues of abortion choice, medical marijuana, capital punishment, doctor assisted suicide, same-sex marriage, and recreational marijuana. Over the past 10 years opinion has remained relatively consistent on two of the items (abortion choice and capital punishment). However, Albertans are becoming increasingly progressive on the other four items (medical marijuana, doctor assisted suicide, same-sex marriage, and recreational marijuana.)

- Albertans strongly support a woman's right to make abortion decisions for herself ( $84.2 \%$ ). Support has ranged from $77.6 \%$ in 2009 to as much as 85.3\% in 2016.
- A majority of Albertans support reinstating capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder (62.8\%). Support has ranged from a low of 53.9 in 2011 to its current peak.
- Albertans overwhelmingly support marijuana remaining legal for medical purposes (92.3\%). Support has steadily risen from $73.8 \%$ in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support legal access to doctor-assisted suicide for those suffering from terminal illnesses (84.5\%), a substantial increase from 64.3\% in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support same-sex marriages having equal legal status with traditional marriages (82.3\%). Support has increased from 65.7\% in 2009.
- Albertans are evenly divided on the issue of legal recreational marijuana. Nearly half ( $49.4 \%$ ) are supportive, while a similar number are opposed ( $50.6 \%$ ). Support has increased from only $36.5 \%$ in 2009, but still slightly below its peak of $53.0 \%$ support in 2014.


## Six Policy Issues 2009-2018 - All Albertans (\% support)

As the graph and tabular data below indicate, over the past eight years Albertans' opinion on abortion choice has remained relatively constant at approximately 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 2009-2018 (\% support)

'09'10'11'12 '13'14'15'16'17' 18 Abortion Choice

'09'10'11 '12 '13' 14 ' 15 '16'17 ' 18 Medical Marijuana

'09'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15'16'17 '18 Doctor Assisted Suicide

'09'10'11'12 '13'14'15'16'17' Same-sex Marriage

'09'10'11' 12 '13 '14' 15 ' 16 ' 16 Recreational Marijuana

|  | Abortion Choice | Capital Punishment | Medical Marijuana | Doctor Assisted Suicide | Same-sex Marriage | Recreational Marijuana |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2018 | 84.2 | 62.8 | 92.3 | 84.5 | 82.3 | 49.4 |
| 2017 | 82.9 | 62.2 | 88.0 | 83.5 | 79.3 | 48.7 |
| 2016 | 85.3 | 59.2 | 87.3 | 84.9 | 82.7 | 46.6 |
| 2015 | 80.5 | 58.9 | 84.7 | 80.6 | 81.7 | 51.1 |
| 2014 | 80.9 | 59.0 | 79.6 | 77.7 | 78.6 | 53.0 |
| 2013 | 79.7 | 61.9 | 76.9 | 78.8 | 77.3 | 50.1 |
| 2012 | 81.4 | 60.3 | 76.1 | 75.9 | 74.3 | 44.9 |
| 2011 | 83.8 | 53.9 | 76.5 | 72.7 | 72.1 | 39.5 |
| 2010 | 80.8 | 57.4 | 75.8 | 68.3 | 70.4 | 41.4 |
| 2009 | 77.6 | 59.0 | 73.8 | 64.3 | 65.7 | 36.5 |

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

| North | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishme | Medical Marijuana | Doctor Assisted Suicide* | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Marijuana |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |
| Edmon |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| South |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 (2009-2018) (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 4.1 , 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 4.3 in 2018. Edmonton (3.4 to 4.3), northern Alberta outside of Edmonton (3.0 to 3.9), and the south outside of Calgary ( 3.2 to 4.0) are somewhat less progressive but still considerably more progressive than traditional.
Although all areas of the province have become more progressive over the past eight years, areas outside of the major metropolitan areas have experienced the greatest amount of opinion change during this period.
 North


09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14'15 '16 '17 '18 All Alberta

Policy Issues Index (2018) (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 seniors, those with the least amount of formal education, 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. For those interested in further explanation concerning the construction of the index or for a more extensive analysis, please contact the author of the study.

| Region | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | All Residents |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |
| 2018 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provincial Voters* | UCP | NDP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
|  | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Federal Voters* | CPC | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
|  | 3.9 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| Gender | Male | Female |  |  |  |
|  | 4.2 | 4.2 |  |  |  |
| Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60-\$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
|  | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.5 |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 1-3 per month/more $3.4$ | Several per year 4.3 | Rarely/never $4.6$ |  |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
|  | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 3.8 |  |
| Education | High School or Less 3.8 | Some Post-secondary 4.1 | $\begin{gathered} \text { College-Tech-Trade } \\ 4.2 \end{gathered}$ | University Grad 4.7 |  |

## Policy Items by Region of Province (2018) (\%)

- Large majorities in all regions of the province support abortion choice for Canadian women.
- Majorities in all regions of the province support a return to capital punishment for offenders convicted first degree murderer.
- Large majorities in all regions of the province support medical marijuana remaining legal.
- Large majorities of all regions of the province support legal doctor assisted suicide.
- Large majorities in all regions of the province support same-sex marriage having equal legal status with traditionalmarriages.
- Albertans are evenly split on the issue of legal recreational marijuana. A slight majority is supportive in Edmonton, while a slight majority is opposed in northern Alberta. Calgary and the south are evenly split on the issue

| Abortion Choice* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 80.5 | 85.7 | 89.3 | 79.9 | 84.2 |
| Disagree | 19.5 | 14.3 | 10.7 | 20.1 | 15.8 |
| Capital Punishment* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 66.5 \\ & 33.5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55.2 \\ & 44.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & 36.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67.9 \\ & 32.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 62.8 \\ & 37.2 \end{aligned}$ |
| Medical Marijuana | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 91.6 \\ 8.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.1 \\ 6.9 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.9 \\ 8.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.4 \\ 7.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.3 \\ 7.7 \end{array}$ |
| Doctor Assisted Suicide* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 83.1 \\ 16.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.9 \\ & 15.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.7 \\ & 12.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.7 \\ & 18.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.5 \\ & 15.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Same-sex Marriage* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 77.1 \\ & 22.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.1 \\ & 14.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.4 \\ & 13.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 78.9 \\ & 21.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.3 \\ & 17.7 \end{aligned}$ |
| Recreational Marijuana | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 43.6 \\ & 56.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52.9 \\ & 47.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 50.4 \\ 49.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49.7 \\ & 50.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49.4 \\ & 50.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |

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

## Abortion choice by demographic group (2018) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that abortion is a matter of private choice. Although still the least supportive, a clear majority of the very religious are more supportive ( $69.2 \%$ ) than opposed ( $30.8 \%$ ). Support climbs to $85.2 \%$ among the moderately religious, and peaks at $92.5 \%$ among the non-religious.
Women ( $85.6 \%$ ) are only slightly more supportive than are men ( $83.4 \%$ ). Upper-income earners ( $91.5 \%$ ) are more supportive than are lowerincome ( $79.7 \%$ ) and middle-income earners ( $83.1 \%$ ), while middle-aged Albertans are slightly more supportive than are seniors ( $82.3 \%$ ) or the youth ( $80.8 \%$ ).

Provincial NDP voters ( $91.6 \%$ ) distinguish themselves as more supportive than any of their partisan counterparts. Federal (81.3\%) and provincial Conservative voters ( $80.2 \%$ ) 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 Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 83.4 \\ & 16.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.6 \\ & 14.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.2 \\ & 15.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 79.7 \\ & 20.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.1 \\ & 16.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.5 \\ 8.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 69.2 \\ & 30.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.2 \\ & 14.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.3 \\ 7.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 79.5 \\ 20.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.6 \\ & 18.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.2 \\ & 12.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.3 \\ & 13.7 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 80.8 \\ & 19.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.4 \\ & 13.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.0 \\ & 13.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.8 \\ & 17.2 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 91.6 \\ 8.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.2 \\ & 19.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 79.7 \\ & 20.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 77.3 \\ 22.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.0 \\ & 12.0 \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 81.3 \\ & 18.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.0 \\ & 13.0 \end{aligned}$ | 86.9 13.1 | $\begin{array}{r} 90.9 \\ 9.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.7 \\ & 13.3 \end{aligned}$ |

[^0]
## Capital punishment by demographic group (2018) (\%)

Majorities in most demographic groups within Alberta agree that capital punishment should be reinstated for people convicted of first degree murder. Significant gender, educational level, income and partisan differences divide opinion on this issue.
Men ( $66.5 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are women ( $58.5 \%$ ). Lower-income Albertans ( $68.0 \%$ ) are more supportive than are upperincome earners (54.6\%). Less well-educated Albertans (79.2\%) are more supportive than are post-secondary educated residents, with university grads the least supportive (46.4\%). Seniors (63.0\%) are slightly more supportive than are middle-aged Albertans, while younger residents (67.0\%) are most supportive.
Provincial NDP partisans ( $43.7 \%$ ) are significantly less supportive than are all other provincial party voters, while federal Liberal (45.9\%) and NDP voters (54.1\%) are much less supportive than are federal Conservative voters (70.9\%).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 66.5 | 58.5 | 62.8 |
| Disagree | 33.5 | 41.5 | 37.2 |
|  | Under $\$ 60,000$ | $\$ 60,000$ to $\$ 120,000$ | Over $\$ 120,000$ |
| Agree | 68.0 | 62.1 | 54.6 |
| Disagree | 32.0 | 37.9 | 45.4 |
| Religious Participation | $2-3$ times $/$ month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
| Agree | 64.3 | 61.9 | 63.9 |
| Disagree | 35.7 | 38.1 | 36.1 |


| Education* |
| :--- |
| High School or less |
| Agree |
| Disagree |

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

Medical marijuana by demographic group (2018)(\%)
Overwhelming majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that marijuana 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 all demographic groups supportive.

Non-religious Albertans ( $94.1 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are the very religious ( $90.0 \%$ ), while upper-income Albertans ( $97.0 \%$ ) are more supportive than are lower-income earners ( $89.2 \%$ ). No significant differences are measured between different federal or provincial partisans.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 92.9 \\ 7.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.9 \\ 8.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.3 \\ 7.7 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 89.2 \\ & 10.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.0 \\ 7.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 97.0 \\ 3.0 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 90.0 \\ & 10.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.7 \\ 8.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 94.1 \\ 5.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 90.1 \\ 9.9 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.7 \\ 8.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 94.5 \\ 5.5 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.8 \\ 7.2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 91.0 \\ 9.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.1 \\ 6.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.9 \\ 6.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.5 \\ 8.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 94.6 \\ 5.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92.0 \\ 8.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 90.2 \\ 9.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 89.0 \\ & 11.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.2 \\ 6.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 92.0 \\ 8.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 93.4 \\ 6.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.1 \\ 8.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.8 \\ & 18.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 95.5 \\ 4.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

[^1]
## Legal doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (2018) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta believe that people with terminal illnesses should have legal access to doctor-assisted suicide. Religiosity, income and education are the only significant determinants of opinion differences on this issue.

Most significantly, although a substantial majority of very religious Albertans ( $65.5 \%$ ) support individual choice on this issue, their support is considerably less than is that of the moderately religious ( $86.9 \%$ ) and the non-religious ( $95.3 \%$ ). Upper-income Albertans ( $91.9 \%$ ) are more supportive than are lower-income earners ( $79.1 \%$ ). Albertans with post-secondary education are more supportive than are those without postsecondary exposure, with university grads most supportive (86.8\%).

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 85.7 | 83.1 | 84.5 |
| Disagree | 14.3 | 16.9 | 15.5 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under $\$ 60,000$ | $\$ 60,000$ to $\$ 120,000$ | Over $\$ 120,000$ |
| Agree | 79.1 | 85.8 | 91.9 |
| Disagree | 20.9 | 14.2 | 8.1 |
| Religious Participation* | $2-3$ times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
| Agree | 65.6 | 86.9 | 95.3 |
| Disagree | 34.4 | 13.1 | 4.7 |


| Education* |
| :--- |
| High School or less |
| Agree |
| Disagree |

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

## Same-sex Marriage Equality by demographic group (2018) (\%)

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 partisan demographic clusters. Most significantly, although a clear majority of very religious Albertans (65.3\%) now support individual choice on this issue, they are less supportive than are moderately-religious (87.5\%) and non-religious ( $91.1 \%$ ) Albertans. Although strongly supportive, seniors ( $73.2 \%$ ) are less supportive than are other age groups. NDP, Liberal and Green voters are 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 | $\begin{aligned} & 79.6 \\ & 20.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.6 \\ & 14.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.3 \\ & 17.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 78.5 \\ & 21.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.6 \\ & 14.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.3 \\ & 13.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 65.3 \\ 34.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87.5 \\ & 12.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 91.1 \\ 8.9 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 75.2 \\ & 24.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.0 \\ & 18.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.7 \\ & 18.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.0 \\ & 12.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 86.1 \\ & 13.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.8 \\ & 13.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.8 \\ & 14.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73.2 \\ & 26.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 86.5 \\ 13.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 78.9 \\ & 21.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.8 \\ & 15.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 84.4 \\ 15.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.1 \\ & 17.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 79.7 \\ & 20.3 \end{aligned}$ | 89.1 10.9 | 88.0 12.0 | $\begin{gathered} 90.6 \\ 9.4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.3 \\ & 19.7 \end{aligned}$ |

[^2]
## Recreational marijuana by demographic group (2018)(\%)

Albertans are evenly divided on the issue of legal recreational marijuana with $50.6 \%$ opposed and $49.4 \%$ supportive.
However, substantial majority support exists among Alberta's youth ( $65.0 \%$ ), the non-religious ( $61.1 \%$ ), federal Liberal ( $68.5 \%$ ) and Green ( $65.6 \%$ ) voters. Men ( $54.7 \%$ ) are more supportive than are women ( $44.2 \%$ ). Most opposed are seniors ( $64.9 \%$ ), the highly religious ( $66.6 \%$ ), federal Conservative voters (61.0\%), and UCP voters (61.8\%).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 54.7 \\ & 45.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 44.2 \\ 55.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 49.4 \\ 50.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Household Income | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 52.7 \\ & 47.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.6 \\ 52.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 57.6 \\ 42.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 33.4 \\ & 66.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49.4 \\ & 50.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 61.1 \\ & 38.9 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 45.7 \\ & 54.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55.8 \\ & 44.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.1 \\ 52.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 51.2 \\ 48.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 65.0 \\ & 35.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 53.2 \\ 46.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.1 \\ 52.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 35.1 \\ 64.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 63.1 \\ 36.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 38.2 \\ 61.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 64.7 \\ 35.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 56.1 \\ 43.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 48.3 \\ 51.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 39.0 \\ 61.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 68.5 \\ & 31.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 58.2 41.8 | $\begin{aligned} & 65.6 \\ & 34.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52.7 \\ & 47.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |

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

## Demographics (\%)

| Area of Province |  | Gender |  | Income |  | Education |  | Age |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Calgary | 27.6 | Male | 49.8 | Under \$60,000 | 39.0 | H-School/less | 20.8 | 18-29 | 24.7 |
| Edmonton | 27.2 | Female | 49.5 | \$60-\$120,000 | 35.7 | Some P-Sec. | 19.2 | 30-44 | 23.3 |
| North | 22.4 | Other | 0.7 | Over \$120,000 | 25.3 | Col-Tech-Grad | 25.2 | 45-64 | 26.5 |
| South | 22.8 |  |  |  |  | University Grad | 34.8 | 65 or older | 25.5 |


| Religious Participation |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2-3/month-more | 33.4 |
| Several/year | 21.9 |
| Rarely-never | 44.8 |

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.
- Marijuana should be legal for medical purposes.
- Marijuana should be legal for recreational purposes.
- People with terminal illnesses should be allowed to legally access doctor assisted suicides.

```
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

