

# Traditional or Progressive? Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues

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Alberta Public Opinion Study – February 2019

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## 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 winter of 2019. Students interviewed 1,055 adult Alberta residents by telephone from February 2 to 5, 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](http://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  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary  $\pm 5.6$  percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area  $\pm 5.8$  percentage points, North  $\pm 6.3$  percentage points, South  $\pm 6.3$  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 the topics.

## 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 cannabis.

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 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 cannabis, medical assistance in dying, same-sex marriage, and recreational cannabis.)

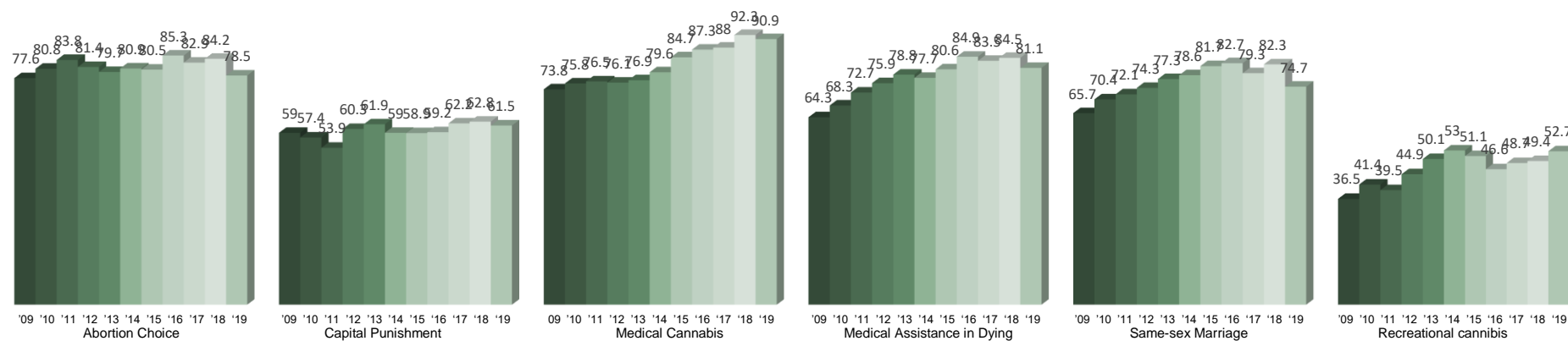
- Albertans strongly support a woman's right to make abortion decisions for herself (78.5%). Support has ranged from 77.6% in 2009 to as much as 85.3% in 2016.
- A majority of Albertans support reinstating capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder (61.5%). Support has ranged from a low of 53.9 in 2011 to 62.8% in 2018.
- Albertans overwhelmingly support cannabis remaining legal for medical purposes (90.9%). 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 (81.1%), a substantial increase from 64.3% in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support same-sex marriages having equal legal status with traditional marriages (74.7%). Support has increased from 65.7% in 2009.
- Albertans are evenly divided on the issue of legal recreational cannabis. Slightly more than half (52.7%) are supportive, while 47.3% 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, over the past decade 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 2009-2019 (% support)



|      | Abortion Choice | Capital Punishment | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assistance in Dying | Same-sex Marriage | Recreational Cannabis |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2019 | 78.5            | 61.5               | 90.9             | 81.1                        | 74.7              | 52.7                  |
| 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 2009-2019 by Region (% support) (\* sig < 0.05 in 2018)

| Edmonton | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Cannabis | Medical Assist Dying* | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Cannabis |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2019     | 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    | 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  | 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  | 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)

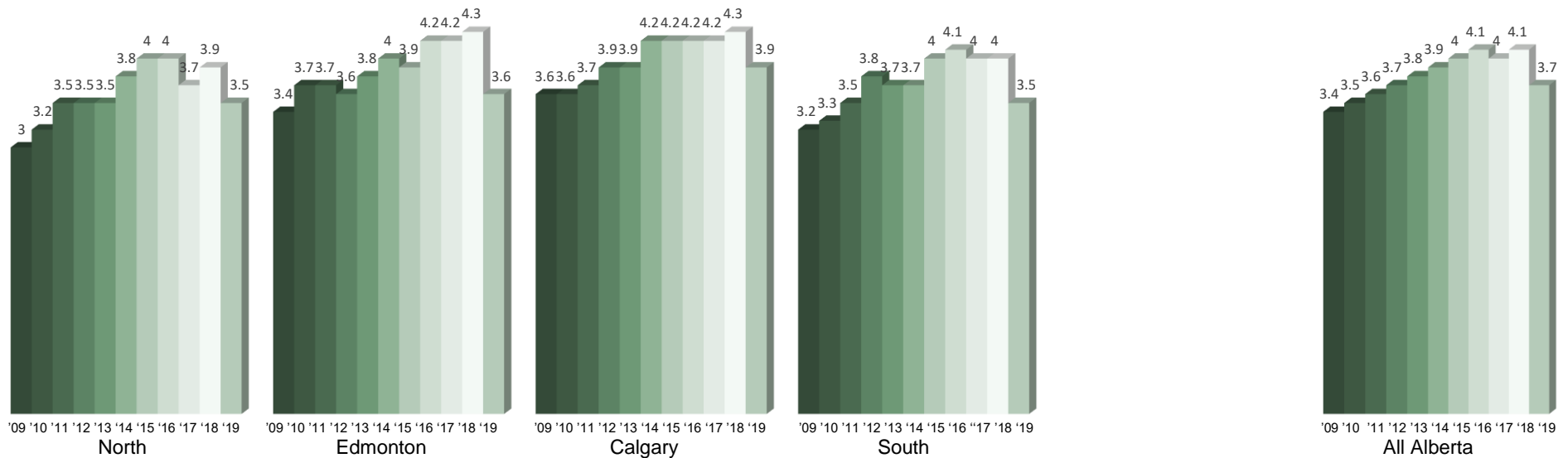
### Index of Opinion on Policy Issues:

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 4.1, 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 3.9 in 2019. Edmonton (3.4 to 3.6), northern Alberta outside of Edmonton (3.0 to 3.5), and the south outside of Calgary (3.2 to 3.5) 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.



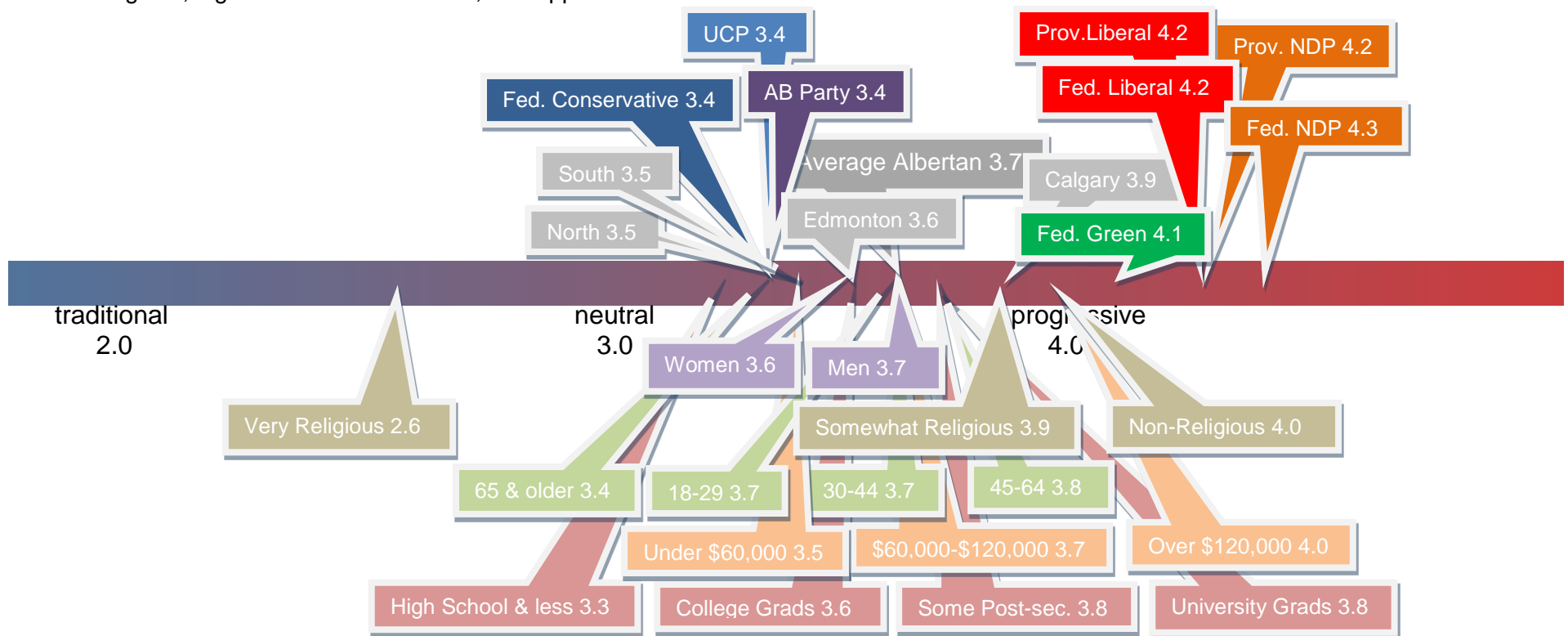


## Policy Issues Index (2019) (means)

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 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.

Index of Alberta Opinion Structure (mean scores)

| <i>Region</i>            | North               | Edmonton            | Calgary            | South           | All Residents |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2019                     | 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           |
| <i>2019</i>              |                     |                     |                    |                 |               |
| Provincial Voters*       | UCP                 | NDP                 | Liberal            | AB Party        | Undecided     |
|                          | 3.4                 | 4.2                 | 4.2                | 3.4             | 3.7           |
| Federal Voters*          | CPC                 | Liberal             | NDP                | Green           | Undecided     |
|                          | 3.4                 | 4.2                 | 4.3                | 4.1             | 3.8           |
| Gender                   | Male                | Female              |                    |                 |               |
|                          | 3.7                 | 3.6                 |                    |                 |               |
| Income*                  | Under \$60,000      | \$60-\$120,000      | Over \$120,000     |                 |               |
|                          | 3.5                 | 3.7                 | 4.0                |                 |               |
| Religious Participation* | 1-3 per month/more  | Several per year    | Rarely/never       |                 |               |
|                          | 2.6                 | 3.9                 | 4.2                |                 |               |
| Age*                     | 18-29               | 30-44               | 45-64              | 65 and older    |               |
|                          | 3.7                 | 3.7                 | 3.8                | 3.4             |               |
| Education                | High School or Less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |               |
|                          | 3.3                 | 3.8                 | 3.6                | 3.8             |               |

Range = 0 (most traditional) to 6 (most progressive)

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

- 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 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 traditional marriages.
- A slight majority of Albertans are supportive of legal recreational cannabis.

| Abortion Choice*             | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|---------|
| Agree                        | 79.7  | 78.5     | 82.2    | 72.4  | 78.5    |
| Disagree                     | 20.3  | 21.5     | 17.8    | 27.6  | 21.5    |
| Capital Punishment*          | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree                        | 66.8  | 55.8     | 59.5    | 65.2  | 61.5    |
| Disagree                     | 33.2  | 44.2     | 40.5    | 34.8  | 38.5    |
| Medical Cannabis             | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree                        | 93.1  | 88.3     | 92.7    | 89.3  | 90.9    |
| Disagree                     | 6.9   | 11.7     | 7.3     | 10.7  | 9.1     |
| Medical Assistance in Dying* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree                        | 78.8  | 83.7     | 85.4    | 74.9  | 81.1    |
| Disagree                     | 21.2  | 16.3     | 14.6    | 25.1  | 18.9    |
| Same-sex Marriage*           | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree                        | 67.8  | 77.3     | 82.8    | 68.4  | 74.7    |
| Disagree                     | 32.2  | 22.7     | 17.2    | 31.6  | 25.3    |
| Recreational Cannabis        | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree                        | 49.3  | 50.8     | 57.4    | 51.9  | 52.7    |
| Disagree                     | 50.7  | 49.2     | 42.6    | 48.1  | 47.3    |

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

## Abortion choice by demographic group (2019) (%)

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 more supportive (51.4%) than opposed (48.6%). Support climbs to 86.6% among the moderately religious, and peaks at 90.7% among the non-religious.

Women (80.1%) are only slightly more supportive than are men (76.7%). Upper-income earners (84.4%) are more supportive than are lower-income (75.2%) and middle-income earners (79.5%). Age has no significant impact on opinion about abortion choice.

NDP voters (90.5% provincially and 92.5% federally) distinguish themselves as more supportive than any of their major party counterparts. Federal (73.5%) and provincial (74.0%) 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                    | 76.7                 | 80.1                  | 78.5               |                 |           |
| Disagree                 | 23.3                 | 19.9                  | 21.5               |                 |           |
| Household Income*        | Under \$60,000       | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000     |                 |           |
| Agree                    | 75.2                 | 79.5                  | 84.4               |                 |           |
| Disagree                 | 24.8                 | 20.5                  | 15.6               |                 |           |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year    | Rarely-never       |                 |           |
| Agree                    | 51.4                 | 86.6                  | 90.7               |                 |           |
| Disagree                 | 48.6                 | 13.4                  | 9.3                |                 |           |
| Education                | High School or less  | Some Post-secondary   | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |           |
| Agree                    | 74.3                 | 82.8                  | 74.8               | 82.2            |           |
| Disagree                 | 25.7                 | 17.2                  | 25.2               | 17.8            |           |
| Age                      | 18-29                | 30-44                 | 45-64              | 65 and older    |           |
| Agree                    | 75.2                 | 76.9                  | 82.1               | 78.9            |           |
| Disagree                 | 24.8                 | 23.1                  | 17.9               | 21.1            |           |
| Provincial Vote*         | NDP                  | UCP                   | Liberal            | AB Party        | Undecided |
| Agree                    | 90.5                 | 74.0                  | 88.6               | 71.2            | 81.3      |
| Disagree                 | 9.5                  | 26.0                  | 11.4               | 28.8            | 18.8      |
| Federal Vote             | Conservative         | Liberal               | NDP                | Green           | Undecided |
| Agree                    | 73.5                 | 85.5                  | 92.5               | 92.9            | 84.4      |
| Disagree                 | 26.5                 | 14.5                  | 7.5                | 7.1             | 15.6      |

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

## Capital punishment by demographic group (2019) (%)

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 (66.8%) are significantly more supportive than are women (55.4%). Lower-income Albertans (66.5%) are more supportive than are upper-income earners (50.6%). Less well-educated Albertans (75.8%) are more supportive than are post-secondary educated residents, with university grads the least supportive (40.7%).

Provincial NDP partisans (34.9%) are significantly less supportive than are all other provincial party voters, while federal Liberal (30.5%) and NDP voters (44.7%) are much less supportive than are federal Conservative voters (71.3%).

| Gender*                 | Male                 | Female                | All Albertans      |                 |           |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Agree                   | 66.8                 | 55.4                  | 61.5               |                 |           |
| Disagree                | 33.2                 | 44.6                  | 38.5               |                 |           |
| Household Income*       | Under \$60,000       | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000     |                 |           |
| Agree                   | 65.5                 | 62.3                  | 50.6               |                 |           |
| Disagree                | 34.5                 | 37.7                  | 49.4               |                 |           |
| Religious Participation | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year    | Rarely-never       |                 |           |
| Agree                   | 57.6                 | 67.1                  | 62.2               |                 |           |
| Disagree                | 42.4                 | 32.9                  | 37.8               |                 |           |
| Education*              | High School or less  | Some Post-secondary   | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |           |
| Agree                   | 75.8                 | 68.5                  | 69.9               | 40.7            |           |
| Disagree                | 24.2                 | 31.5                  | 30.1               | 59.3            |           |
| Age                     | 18-29                | 30-44                 | 45-64              | 65 and older    |           |
| Agree                   | 68.2                 | 54.8                  | 60.9               | 61.6            |           |
| Disagree                | 31.8                 | 45.2                  | 39.1               | 38.4            |           |
| Provincial Vote*        | NDP                  | UCP                   | Liberal            | AB Party        | Undecided |
| Agree                   | 34.9                 | 72.3                  | 43.6               | 65.5            | 58.8      |
| Disagree                | 65.1                 | 27.7                  | 56.4               | 34.5            | 41.2      |
| Federal Vote*           | Conservative         | Liberal               | NDP                | Green           | Undecided |
| Agree                   | 71.3                 | 30.5                  | 44.7               | 41.2            | 52.8      |
| Disagree                | 28.7                 | 69.5                  | 55.3               | 58.8            | 47.2      |

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

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

Overwhelming majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that cannabis should be legal for medical purposes. Only income, religiosity and age significantly divide opinion on this issue, but only slightly with nine out of every ten Albertans in most demographic groups supportive.

Non-religious Albertans (94.7%) are more supportive than are the very religious (84.2%), while upper-income Albertans (94.7%) are more supportive than are lower-income earners (87.9%). No significant differences are measured between different federal or provincial partisans.

| Gender   | Male | Female | All Albertans |
|----------|------|--------|---------------|
| Agree    | 91.3 | 90.5   | 90.9          |
| Disagree | 8.7  | 9.5    | 9.1           |

| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Agree             | 87.9           | 92.4                  | 94.7           |
| Disagree          | 12.1           | 7.6                   | 5.3            |

| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Agree                    | 84.2                 | 92.4               | 94.7         |
| Disagree                 | 15.8                 | 7.6                | 5.3          |

| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agree     | 85.9                | 94.5                | 92.8               | 90.0            |
| Disagree  | 14.1                | 5.5                 | 7.2                | 10.0            |

| Age*     | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Agree    | 92.4  | 94.6  | 93.2  | 83.6         |
| Disagree | 7.6   | 5.4   | 6.8   | 16.4         |

| Provincial Vote | NDP  | UCP  | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
|-----------------|------|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Agree           | 94.1 | 90.0 | 88.6    | 83.3     | 94.5      |
| Disagree        | 5.9  | 10.0 | 11.4    | 16.7     | 5.5       |

| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP  | Green | Undecided |
|--------------|--------------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| Agree        | 90.7         | 92.9    | 91.3 | 94.1  | 93.1      |
| Disagree     | 9.3          | 7.1     | 8.8  | 5.9   | 6.9       |

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

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

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 partisanship are the only significant determinants of opinion differences on this issue.

Most significantly, although a majority of very religious Albertans (52.2%) support individual choice on this issue, their support is considerably less than is that of the moderately religious (87.3%) and the non-religious (95.1%). Upper-income Albertans (91.7%) are more supportive than are lower-income earners (78.8%). Federal Conservative voters (77.1%) are slightly less supportive than are their Liberal (90.0%) and NDP (92.3%) counterparts.

| Gender   | Male | Female | All Albertans |
|----------|------|--------|---------------|
| Agree    | 82.0 | 80.3   | 81.1          |
| Disagree | 18.0 | 19.7   | 18.9          |

| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Agree             | 78.4           | 77.9                  | 91.7           |
| Disagree          | 21.6           | 22.1                  | 8.3            |

| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Agree                    | 52.2                 | 87.3               | 95.1         |
| Disagree                 | 47.8                 | 12.7               | 4.9          |

| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agree     | 78.8                | 84.4                | 76.9               | 84.0            |
| Disagree  | 21.2                | 15.6                | 23.1               | 16.0            |

| Age      | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Agree    | 79.8  | 78.1  | 85.2  | 80.3         |
| Disagree | 20.2  | 21.9  | 14.8  | 19.7         |

| Provincial Vote | NDP  | UCP  | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
|-----------------|------|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Agree           | 91.3 | 75.5 | 84.1    | 67.2     | 91.0      |
| Disagree        | 8.7  | 24.5 | 15.9    | 32.8     | 9.0       |

| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP  | Green | Undecided |
|---------------|--------------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| Agree         | 77.1         | 90.0    | 92.3 | 82.4  | 90.2      |
| Disagree      | 22.9         | 10.0    | 7.7  | 17.6  | 9.8       |

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

## Same-sex Marriage Equality by demographic group (2019) (%)

Majorities in most 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 age demographic clusters. Most significantly, a slight majority of very religious Albertans (52.7%) are opposed to same-sex marriage equality, moderately-religious (87.5%) and non-religious (91.1%) Albertans are much more supportive. 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    | 70.4 | 78.9   | 74.7          |
| Disagree | 29.6 | 21.1   | 25.3          |

| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Agree             | 68.8           | 76.2                  | 85.6           |
| Disagree          | 31.2           | 23.8                  | 14.4           |

| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Agree                    | 47.3                 | 80.5               | 88.1         |
| Disagree                 | 52.7                 | 19.5               | 11.9         |

| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agree      | 60.0                | 78.5                | 73.1               | 82.2            |
| Disagree   | 40.0                | 21.5                | 26.9               | 17.8            |

| Age      | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Agree    | 73.1  | 75.0  | 77.9  | 72.1         |
| Disagree | 26.9  | 25.0  | 22.1  | 27.9         |

| Provincial Vote* | NDP  | UCP  | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
|------------------|------|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Agree            | 87.8 | 65.1 | 88.9    | 72.4     | 86.1      |
| Disagree         | 12.2 | 34.9 | 11.1    | 27.6     | 13.9      |

| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP  | Green | Undecided |
|---------------|--------------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| Agree         | 67.2         | 91.5    | 85.2 | 88.2  | 88.1      |
| Disagree      | 32.8         | 8.5     | 14.8 | 11.8  | 11.9      |

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



## Recreational cannabis by demographic group (2019) (%)

Albertans are evenly divided on the issue of legal recreational cannabis with 52.7% supportive and 47.3% opposed. However, substantial majority support exists among Alberta's youth (59.4%), the non-religious (64.7%), federal Liberal (78.1%) and Green (70.6%) voters. Men (57.7%) are more supportive than are women (47.2%). Most opposed are seniors (60.7%), the highly religious (68.9%), federal Conservative voters (55.2%), and UCP voters (54.5%).

| Gender*  | Male | Female | All Albertans |
|----------|------|--------|---------------|
| Agree    | 57.7 | 47.2   | 52.7          |
| Disagree | 42.3 | 52.8   | 47.3          |

| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Agree             | 50.0           | 56.6                  | 60.0           |
| Disagree          | 50.0           | 43.4                  | 40.0           |

| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Agree                    | 31.1                 | 56.8               | 64.7         |
| Disagree                 | 68.9                 | 43.2               | 35.3         |

| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agree     | 49.7                | 54.4                | 53.9               | 52.4            |
| Disagree  | 50.3                | 45.6                | 46.1               | 47.6            |

| Age*     | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Agree    | 59.4  | 52.0  | 58.2  | 39.3         |
| Disagree | 40.6  | 48.0  | 41.8  | 60.7         |

| Provincial Vote* | NDP  | UCP  | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
|------------------|------|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Agree            | 69.4 | 45.5 | 72.7    | 54.8     | 46.3      |
| Disagree         | 30.6 | 54.5 | 27.3    | 45.2     | 53.7      |

| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP  | Green | Undecided |
|---------------|--------------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| Agree         | 44.8         | 78.1    | 75.3 | 70.6  | 50.0      |
| Disagree      | 55.2         | 21.9    | 24.7 | 29.4  | 50.0      |

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

## Demographics (%)

| Area of Province |      | Gender |      | Income         |      | Education       |      | Age         |      |
|------------------|------|--------|------|----------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------|------|
| Calgary          | 28.5 | Male   | 50.0 | Under \$60,000 | 39.0 | H-School/less   | 19.0 | 18-29       | 23.7 |
| Edmonton         | 26.5 | Female | 48.8 | \$60-\$120,000 | 39.5 | Some P-Sec.     | 20.7 | 30-44       | 21.4 |
| North            | 22.6 | Other  | 1.2  | Over \$120,000 | 21.5 | Col-Tech-Grad   | 29.2 | 45-64       | 29.7 |
| South            | 22.4 |        |      |                |      | University Grad | 31.1 | 65 or older | 25.1 |

Mean age = 48.6 years old

### Religious Participation

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| 2-3/month-more | 30.9 |
| Several/year   | 22.8 |
| Rarely-never   | 46.4 |

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)