Traditional or Progressive?
Albertans' Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues
Alberta Public Opinion Study - October 2017
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Citizen Society Research Lab
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Contents
Methodology ..... 2
Traditional or Progressive? Alberta Opinion Structure on Six Policy Issues ..... 3
Introduction ..... 3
The Six Policy Issues ..... 3
Six Policy Issues 2009-2017 ..... 4
Alberta ..... 4
Region of Province ..... 5
Policy Issues Index 2009-2017 ..... 6
Alberta and Region of Province ..... 6
Index by Demographic Group - Graphic ..... 7
Index by Region and Demographic Group - Tabular Data ..... 8
Policy Items 2017 ..... 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 $4,286,134$ residents (Alberta Economic Dashboard) approximately 78\% of which are 18 years of age or older for an adult population of 3,343,200.
- Sample Data were collected by Lethbridge College students in the fall of 2017. Students interviewed 1,481 adult Alberta residents by telephone from September 30 to October 5, 2017 under the supervision of principal investigator Dr. Faron Ellis, Research Chair, Citizen Society Research Lab. Landline 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/go/csrl
- 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 and age).
- Confidence The weighted sample yields a margin of error $\pm 2.55$ percentage points, 19 times out of 20 . The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data (Calgary $\pm 4.9$ percentage points, Edmonton and immediate area $\pm 5.1$ percentage points, North $\pm 5.2$ percentage points, South $\pm 4.9$ 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. 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 educational 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.

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 nine 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 (82.9\%). Support has ranged from $77.6 \%$ in 2009 to $85.3 \%$ as recently as 2016.
- A majority of Albertans support reinstating capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder (62.2\%). Support has ranged from a low of 53.9 in 2011 to its current peak.
- Albertans strongly support marijuana remaining legal for medical purposes (88.0\%). Support has steadily risen from 73.8\% in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support legalize access to doctor-assisted suicide for those suffering from terminal illnesses (83.5\%), an increase from 64.3\% in 2009.
- Albertans strongly support same-sex marriages having equal legal status with traditional marriages (79.3\%). Support has increased from 65.7\% in 2009.


## Six Policy Issues 2009-2016 - 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 2009-2017 (\% support)

'09'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15

'09'10 '11 '12 '13'14 '15'16'17
Capital Punishment




Same-sex Marriage


|  | Abortion Choice | Capital Punishment | Medical Marijuana | Doctor Assisted Suicide | Same-sex Marriage | Recreational Marijuana |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 2009-2017 by Region (\% support)

| North | Abortion Choice* | Capital Punishment* | Medical Marijuana | Doctor Assisted Suicide | Same-sex Marriage* | Recreational Marijuana* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |
| Edmonton |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |

Note; * sig < 0.05 in 2016

Policy Issues Index (2009-2017) (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 4.0, 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 4.2 in 2017. Edmonton ( 3.4 to 4.2), northern Alberta outside of Edmonton ( 3.0 to 3.07), 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.


## Policy Issues Index (2016) (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 Wildrose and federal Conservative voters. Alternatively, federal Liberal voters, their NDP compatriots and Green voters are Alberta's most progressive sub-groups, followed by federal and provincial NDP supporters, provincial Liberals, the non-religious, higher educated Albertans, and upper income earners.


## Policy Issues Index

The tabular data upon which the preceding graphics are 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 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |
| 2017 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provincial Voters | $\begin{gathered} \text { UCP } \\ 3.8 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { NDP } \\ 4.9 \end{gathered}$ | Liberal 4.3 | AB Party 4.0 | Undecided $4.0$ |
| Federal Voters | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{CPC} \\ 3.7 \end{gathered}$ | Liberal 4.7 | $\begin{gathered} \text { NDP } \\ 4.6 \end{gathered}$ | Green <br> 4.7 | Undecided 4.0 |
| Gender | $\begin{gathered} \text { Male } \\ 4.0 \end{gathered}$ | Female 4.1 |  |  |  |
| Income | Under \$60,000 $4.1$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 60-\$ 120,000 \\ 3.9 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Over } \$ 120,000 \\ 4.3 \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation | 1-3 per month/more 3.1 | Several per year $4.0$ | Rarely/never $4.5$ |  |  |
| Age | $\begin{gathered} 18-29 \\ 4.4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 30-44 \\ 4.1 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 45-64 \\ 4.2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 65 \text { and older } \\ 3.6 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Education | High School or Less 3.5 | Some Post-secondary 4.2 | College-Tech-Trade 4.2 | University Grad 4.2 |  |

[^0]
## Policy Items by Region of Province (2017) (\%)

- 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 convicted first degree murderers.
- 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 traditional marriages.
- A slim majority of Albertans are opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana. Slim majorities are supportive in Calgary and Edmonton, while slim majorities are opposed in areas outside the province's two major metropolitan centers.

| Abortion Choice* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 80.2 | 81.6 | 86.0 | 83.2 | 82.9 |
| Disagree | 19.8 | 18.4 | 14.0 | 16.8 | 17.1 |
| Capital Punishment* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 69.9 | 55.3 | 56.8 | 66.9 | 62.2 |
| Disagree | 30.1 | 44.7 | 43.2 | 33.1 | 37.8 |
| Medical Marijuana | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 84.2 | 91.0 | 86.8 | 89.5 | 88.0 |
| Disagree | 15.8 | 9.0 | 13.2 | 10.5 | 12.0 |
| Doctor Assisted Suicide | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 85.0 | 83.1 | 85.9 | 80.1 | 83.5 |
| Disagree | 15.0 | 16.9 | 14.1 | 19.9 | 16.5 |
| Same-sex Marriage* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 72.6 | 80.1 | 84.5 | 79.2 | 79.3 |
| Disagree | 27.4 | 19.9 | 15.5 | 20.8 | 20.7 |
| Recreational Marijuana* | North | Edmonton | Calgary | South | Alberta |
| Agree | 42.8 | 52.3 | 52.6 | 46.9 | 48.7 |
| Disagree | 57.2 | 47.7 | 47.4 | 53.1 | 51.3 |

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

## Abortion choice by demographic group (2017) (\%)

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 even the very religious are more supportive (62.0\%) than opposed (38.0\%). Support climbs to $89.9 \%$ among those with moderate amounts of religious participation and peaks at $91.6 \%$ among the non-religious.
Women ( $85.5 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are men ( $80.4 \%$ ), upper-income earners ( $88.9 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are lower ( $81.9 \%$ ) and middle-income earners ( $80.5 \%$ ), while middle-aged Albertans ( $86.8 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are seniors ( $80.2 \%$ ) and the youth (81.6\%).
Provincial NDP voters (91.3\%) distinguish themselves as more supportive than any of their partisan counterparts, while federal Conservative voters ( $79.4 \%$ ) are slightly less supportive than are their federal counterparts, but these differences are relatively small and substantial majorities of partisans of all parties' support abortion choice.

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 80.4 \\ 19.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.5 \\ & 14.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 82.9 \\ 17.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 81.9 \\ & 18.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.5 \\ & 19.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.9 \\ & 11.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 62.0 \\ & 38.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.7 \\ & 13.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 91.6 \\ 8.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 75.3 \\ 24.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 84.4 \\ 15.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.8 \\ & 13.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.2 \\ & 16.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 81.6 \\ & 18.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.2 \\ & 16.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.3 \\ & 13.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.5 \\ & 19.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 91.3 \\ 8.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.0 \\ & 20.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.8 \\ & 18.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 81.7 \\ & 18.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.2 \\ & 16.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | 79.4 20.6 | 90.0 10.0 | 85.8 14.2 | 95.5 4.5 | $\begin{aligned} & 85.7 \\ & 14.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |

[^1]
## Capital punishment by demographic group (2017) (\%)

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, age and partisan differences divide opinion on this issue.
Men (66.2\%) are slightly more supportive than are women (58.3\%). Less well-educated Albertans are more supportive (76.2\%) than are residents with post-secondary education, with university grads the least supportive (50.5\%). Seniors (65.7\%) are slightly more supportive than are middle-aged Albertans, with younger residents (59.2\%) least supportive.
Provincial NDP partisans (35.8\%) are significantly less supportive than are all other provincial party voters, while federal Liberal (42.3\%) and NDP voters (40.0\%) are much less supportive than are federal Conservative voters (71.7\%).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 66.2 | 58.3 | 62.2 |  |  |
| Disagree | 33.8 | 41.7 | 37.8 |  |  |
| Household Income | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & 36.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.3 \\ & 36.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57.5 \\ & 42.5 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 60.8 \\ & 39.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 62.9 \\ 37.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & 36.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Education* | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 76.2 \\ & 23.8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 59.5 \\ 40.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 66.3 \\ 33.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 50.5 \\ 49.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 59.2 \\ 40.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 63.0 \\ 37.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 61.4 \\ 38.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & 34.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | 35.8 64.2 | $\begin{array}{r} 70.5 \\ 29.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 60.8 \\ 39.2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 67.1 \\ 32.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 57.0 \\ 43.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 71.7 \\ & 28.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 42.3 \\ 57.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 40.0 \\ & 60.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 60.5 \\ 39.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 57.0 \\ 43.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

[^2]
## Medical marijuana by demographic group (2017) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that marijuana should be legal for medical purposes. Only gender, religiosity and age significantly divide opinion on this issue.
Women ( $89.5 \%$ ) are slightly more supportive than are men ( $86.4 \%$ ). Non-religious Albertans ( $90.7 \%$ ) are more supportive than are the very religious ( $78.8 \%$ ), while younger Albertans ( $91.4 \%$ ) are more supportive than are seniors ( $82.4 \%$ ). Liberal, New Democrat and Green voters are only slightly more supportive than are UCP and federal Conservative voters, with overwhelming majorities of all partisans supportive.

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 86.4 \\ 13.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 89.5 \\ & 10.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.0 \\ & 12.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 87.1 \\ 12.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.5 \\ & 13.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.7 \\ 9.3 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 78.8 \\ & 21.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 86.1 \\ 13.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.2 \\ 6.8 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 84.0 \\ & 16.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 89.0 \\ & 11.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 92.3 \\ 7.7 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 86.4 \\ 13.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{gathered} \hline 91.4 \\ 8.6 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 89.9 \\ & 10.1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.6 \\ & 11.4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 82.4 \\ & 17.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{gathered} 92.1 \\ 7.9 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.1 \\ & 13.9 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.3 \\ & 11.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.3 \\ 9.7 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.3 \\ & 11.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | 85.8 14.2 | $\begin{gathered} 93.5 \\ 6.5 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.5 \\ & 11.5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 93.2 \\ 6.8 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90.4 \\ 9.6 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

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

## Legal doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (2017) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta believe that people with terminal illnesses should have legal access to doctor-assisted suicide. Religiosity and federal partisanship are the only significant determinants of opinion differences on this issue.
Most significantly, a substantial majority of very religious Albertans (59.7\%) support individual choice on this issue. Moderately religious ( $85.2 \%$ ) and non-religious ( $93.9 \%$ ) Albertans are much more supportive. Provincial NDP voters are more supportive than are other Albertans, while federal Liberal and Green voters (88.6\%) are slightly more supportive than are federal NDP (83.2\%) and Conservative (81.1\%) voters.

| Gender | Male | Female | All Albertans |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 82.8 | 84.2 | 83.5 |
| Disagree | 17.2 | 15.8 | 16.5 |


| Household Income | Under $\$ 60,000$ | $\$ 60,000$ to $\$ 120,000$ | Over $\$ 120,000$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | 82.3 | 82.4 | 86.3 |
| Disagree | 17.7 | 17.6 | 13.7 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | $2-3$ times $/$ month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |
| Agree | 59.7 | 85.2 | 93.9 |
| Disagree | 40.3 | 14.8 | 6.1 |


| 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 (2017) (\%)

Majorities in all demographic groups within Alberta agree that same-sex marriages should have equal legal standing with traditional marriages.
Significant differences in opinion are measured in all demographic clusters. Most significantly, although a majority of very religious Albertans (54.7\%) now support individual choice on this issue, they are less supportive than are the moderately-religious ( $79.2 \%$ ) and non-religious ( $91.3 \%$ ) Albertans. Seniors ( $67.7 \%$ ) 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 |
| Agree |
| Disagree |

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

## Recreational marijuana by demographic group (2017) (\%)

A slim majority of Albertans are opposed to legal recreational marijuana (51.3\%).
However, substantial majority support exists among Alberta's youth ( $62.3 \%$ ), the least religious ( $58.4 \%$ ), federal Liberal ( $71.3 \%$ ) and Green $(72.1 \%)$ voters. Men ( $55.5 \%$ ) are more supportive than are women ( $41.4 \%$ ). Most opposed are seniors ( $67.7 \%$ ), the highly religious ( $69.7 \%$ ), federal Conservative voters (61.1\%), and UCP voters 61.6\%).

| Gender* | Male | Female | All Albertans |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 55.5 \\ 44.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 41.4 \\ & 58.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 48.7 \\ & 51.3 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Household Income* | Under \$60,000 | \$60,000 to \$120,000 | Over \$120,000 |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 55.0 \\ & 45.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 44.5 \\ 55.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.7 \\ 52.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |
| Religious Participation* | 2-3 times/month-more | Several times/year | Rarely-never |  |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 30.3 \\ & 69.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 47.5 \\ 52.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58.4 \\ & 41.6 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| Education | High School or less | Some Post-secondary | College-Tech-Trade | University Grad |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 44.4 \\ & 55.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55.0 \\ & 45.0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 51.0 \\ & 49.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45.2 \\ & 54.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Age* | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65 and older |  |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 62.8 \\ & 37.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 52.1 \\ 47.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 49.0 \\ 51.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 32.3 \\ 67.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| Provincial Vote* | NDP | UCP | Liberal | AB Party | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 66.1 \\ & 33.9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 38.4 \\ & 61.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64.8 \\ & 35.2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50.0 \\ & 50.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49.4 \\ & 50.6 \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal Vote* | Conservative | Liberal | NDP | Green | Undecided |
| Agree Disagree | $\begin{array}{r} 38.9 \\ 61.1 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 71.4 \\ 28.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 61.3 \\ & 38.7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 72.1 \\ 27.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 46.5 \\ 53.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

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

Demographics (\%)

| Area of Province |  | Gender |  | Income |  | Education |  | Age |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Calgary | 26.2 | Male | 49.8 | Under \$60,000 | 37.5 | H-School/less | 19.8 | 18-29 | 22.9 |
| Edmonton | 24.1 | Female | 49.5 | \$60-\$120,000 | 39.1 | Some P-Sec. | 21.1 | 30-44 | 23.2 |
| North | 23.4 | Other | 0.7 | Over \$120,000 | 23.5 | Col-Tech-Grad | 28.8 | 45-64 | 31.0 |
| South | 26.4 |  |  |  |  | University Grad | 30.3 | 65 or older | 22.9 |


| Religious Participation |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| $2-3 /$ month-more | 26.1 |
| Several/year | 19.4 |
| Rarely-never | 54.5 |

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]:    Range $=0$ (most traditional) to 6 (most progressive)

[^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

