

# Impact of Abortion Rights on US Midterm Elections 2022

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## ABSTRACT

Abortion has always been a controversy around the world. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court determined the verdict of the case of *Roe vs. Wade*. This decision proved to be a landmark one for the nation. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the decision whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy depends on the individual, not the government. However, in June 2022, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of *Roe vs. Wade* and declared that there is no longer a federal constitutional right to an abortion. In the light of these recent events, it seems that this issue will have a high impact on the midterm elections of the United States.

In this project, we intend to gain an overview of the general public and their thoughts on this particular issue and how it will affect the midterm elections being held in November of this year. Social media is the best option to gather data for this. We will collect data from various forms of social media such as Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube to analyze the impact of abortion rights on the midterm elections being held.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Abortion is one of the top issues among voters for the upcoming 2022 midterm elections. A few months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the decision of *Roe v. Wade* and “sent the question of abortion back to the states – making state legislators and governors extremely important in determining the laws and policies that regulate the procedure.” The political races with mixed party control will be vital.

Republicans “are primarily focusing on voters’ concerns about the economy, inflation, and crime. In some cases, they’re attempting to distance themselves from some of the most severe abortion restrictions that have taken effect since this” summer. On the other hand, Democrats are concerned with inflation, the economy, and are questioning “what degree the energy unleashed by this summer’s U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* can be harnessed at the polls, and to what extent that energy can overcome voters’ economic worries.”

We decided it would be interesting to see how abortion rights will impact the 2022 midterms. We have collected data for one week prior to election day and will be collecting for another week after. From the data collected, we will try to analyze it and determine how abortion rights will correlate with the outcome of the elections.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

An article "Here are the places where abortion is on the ballot (in one way or another) this week" from NPR talks about the 2022 midterms and the stance of a few states on abortion rights. According to the article, since each state can decide its stance on abortion, it is extremely important in electing state legislators and governors since they determine laws and policies. Using the data collected, we try to corroborate the reasons mentioned in the article that might have impacted the elections. Therefore, this research of ours tries to answer the following questions:

1. As the title of this paper suggests the main objective of the research is to investigate the impact of abortion rights on the outcome of the US midterm elections.
2. How conclusive is the sentiment of people on social media towards abortion rights, when it comes to the elections?
3. Is abortion actually a major issue that influences the public on who to vote for?

## 3 METHODOLOGY

Data will be collected and filtered using keywords related to abortion, pro-choice, pro-life, and roevwade. Irrelevant data will not be stored in our data-set. This data-set is filtered down further into two more data-sets:

- pro-life data-set: consists of data related to anti-abortion
- pro-choice data-set: consists of data that support abortion

We shall analyze the sentiment of people on social-media using these two data-sets. A polarity score is assigned to each tweet/comment in the data-set using libraries such as TextBlob. Using the overall polarity score of the two data-sets we will conclude whether the comments/tweets on social-media truly reflect the sentiment of the people and therefore the outcome of the US Midterm Elections 2022.

## 4 DATA POSSIBILITIES

As of now we have a sufficient number of tweets, Reddit, and YouTube comments that are related to our topic of research. This data-set is enough to draw conclusions. However, when it comes to large social media networks like Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube, it is always better to have a large and extensive data-set to support our research.

## REFERENCES

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