

Patient Choices Vermont 2011 Zogby International Poll

1. *Would you support or oppose legislation to give a mentally competent adult, dying of a terminal disease with a prognosis of less than 6 months to live, the right to request and take medication to peacefully hasten death?*

Support	64%
Oppose	26
Not sure	10

Vermont voters support legislation to give a mentally competent adult dying of a terminal disease the right to request and take medication to hasten their death by a wide margin 64% support vs. 26% opposed. One in ten are not sure.

2. *Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supported such legislation, or would the candidate's position not have an effect on your vote?*

More likely	35%
Less likely	22
No effect	38
Not sure	5

By a narrow margin, a plurality (38%) of voters say that it would make no difference in their vote for or against a candidate because of his or her support for such legislation, while 35% say they would be more likely to support a candidate who supported such legislation. Just over one in five say they would be less likely to support such a candidate and 5% are not sure.

3. *Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement: I should be able to make my own choices about what happens to me at the end of my life without the government, doctors, or the church telling me what to do?*

Strongly agree	68%	Agree	85%
Somewhat agree	18	Disagree	12
Somewhat disagree	4		
Strongly disagree	8		
Not sure	3		

By nearly seven to one (85% to 12%), Vermont's voters agree that they should be able to make their own end of life choices without interference from the government, doctors, or the church telling them what to do. Of the 85% who say they should be able to make these choices, nearly seven in ten (68%) *strongly agree* with the statement.

Methodology

Zogby International was commissioned by Patient Choices Vermont to conduct a telephone survey of Vermont Likely Voters. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, NY. All calls were made on Friday, February 11, 2011.

The target sample is 600 interviews. Samples are randomly drawn from telephone cd's of national listed sample. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies¹ and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.² Weighting by [party, age, gender] is used to adjust for non-response. The margin of error is +/- 4.1 percentage points.

¹ See COOP4 (p.36) in *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys*. The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (revised 2008).

² *Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update*, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).