Compassion and Choices
April 2012
TOPLINE RESULTS
n = 600 Statewide Registered Voters

Hello, I'm _____ from Research & Polling, Inc., a market research company based here in New Mexico and we're conducting a public opinion survey today/this evening about issues that concern our residents. This is not a sales call – we are only interested in your views on important issues. May I speak to someone 18 years of age or older who lives in this household?

(VERIFY IF PERSON IS 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER. IF NO ONE AVAILABLE, TERMINATE.)

1. Pretend for a minute that the State of New Mexico was a car. Would you say it works fine as it is, it needs a minor tune up, or would you say it needs a major overhaul?

5% Works fine as it is
44% Needs a minor tune up
47% Needs major overhaul
4% Don't know/No Answer *(DO NOT READ)*

2. Next I want to ask you a few questions having to do with issues affecting people who are dying of a terminal disease or illness. In general, would you *strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose* or *strongly oppose* allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal disease with no hope of recovery, the choice to request and receive medication from his/her physician, which could bring about their own death, if there were appropriate safeguards in place to protect patients against abuse?

37% Strongly favor
28% Somewhat favor
10% Somewhat oppose
19% Strongly oppose
6% Not sure *(DO NOT READ)*
1% Refused *(DO NOT READ)*

3. Next, people express different views about issues having to do with people who are dying of a terminal disease. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view. (*READ AND ROTATE RESPONSES 1 AND 2*)

54% If I am terminally ill with no hope of recovery, the decision about when I end my suffering is my own to make.

OR

39% Human life is sacred. Only God should decide when my life ends.
4% Neither *(DO NOT READ)*
2% Don't know/No answer *(DO NOT READ)*

4. Please tell me whether you *strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree* or *strongly disagree* with the following statement: In the event I am diagnosed with a terminal illness, I want to be able to control my suffering and preserve my dignity and be in control of my own pain management as I see fit, including being able to receive physician assistance to end my own life.

44% Strongly agree
23% Somewhat agree
12% Somewhat disagree
17% Strongly disagree
4% Not sure *(DO NOT READ)*
* Refused *(DO NOT READ)*

** Less than 1% reported.*

Next, please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK) "Is that strongly or somewhat?"

(*RANDOMIZE*)	*Strongly Agree*	*Somewhat Agree*	*Somewhat Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Don't Know/ Won't Say*
5. How a terminally ill person chooses to end his/her life should be an individual decision and not a government decision	72%	16%	2%	6%	3%
6. People in their final stages of a terminal disease should have the right to end their suffering and bring about their peaceful death, if they so choose	55%	19%	7%	16%	3%
7. The medical community, and not the government, should establish proper guidelines and safeguards to prevent potential abuse in writing prescriptions for possible life-ending medication	54%	24%	6%	9%	7%
8. The decision of a terminally ill patient to receive medication to bring about his/her own death is a personal decision between the patient and his/her own doctor	53%	27%	7%	10%	3%
9. Doctor-assisted suicide is morally wrong and should not be allowed in any situation	27%	14%	20%	32%	6%

10. Which of the following concerns you more: (*READ AND ROTATE RESPONSES 1 AND 2*)

66% Too much government involvement in the decisions terminally ill people make about whether or not to end their life

OR

18% Not enough government involvement to protect the terminally ill from abuse or ending their life against their will

6% Neither *(DO NOT READ)*

3% Both equally *(DO NOT READ)*

7% Don't know/no answer *(DO NOT READ)*

11. When you are deciding how to vote in a particular election, which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel?

10% A candidate's position on a single issue can cause me to vote for or against that candidate

OR

86% I look at a candidate's position on a variety of issues and then make my voting decision

4% Don't know/varies with election and candidates *(VOLUNTEERED)*

12. Which of the following best describes you?
(ALTERNATE READING LIST FROM BOTTOM TO TOP AND FROM TOP TO BOTTOM)

Would you say ...

21% Strong Democrat
18% Leaning Democrat
23% Independent
14% Leaning Republican
21% Strong Republican
1% Other
3% Don't know/None/Refused *(DO NOT READ)*

13. How long have you lived in New Mexico? Would you say less than five years, five years but less than 10 years, 10 years but less than 20 years, or 20 years or more?

4% Less than five years
7% Five but less than ten years
16% Ten but less than 20 years
73% 20 years or more
* Don't know/won't say

** Less than 1% reported.*

14. May I ask your religious preference? Do you consider yourself to be Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Buddhist, or of some other faith? *(TAKE ONE RESPONSE ONLY)*

(IF PROTESTANT, ASK:) What particular denomination is that?
(IF NO DENOMINATION OF PROTESTANT, CODE "494. Protestant/Christian (non-denominational)"

(TOP 6 RESPONSES)

40% Protestant/Christian (non-denominational)
34% Catholic
6% Other non-Protestant
3% Refused
3% Mormon
7% None

15. Do you consider yourself to be a born-again Christian, or do you describe your faith in some other way?
(Among Protestant/Christians/Catholics n=469)

34% Born again
59% Other way
8% Don't know/Refused *(DO NOT READ)*