

MANA de San Diego Forum Outline on Roe v. Wade

1. The Issue at Hand

- MANA de San Diego Advocacy Committee was tasked with leading a discussion with members on the future of Roe v. Wade and the impact on Latinas in San Diego. MANA had never taken a stand Roe v. Wade or if the organization was Pro-Choice or ProLife.
- On Friday, June 24, 2022, after nearly 50 years, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, declaring that the right to abortion no longer exists. This decision means that abortion rights will be rolled back in nearly half the states immediately, with more restrictions likely to follow in states.
- The MANASD Board bore the responsibility of providing our members the necessary information in order to take a public position on Latinas rights to reproductive health and justice. This was due to the May 22, 2022 Supreme Court leak of a draft ruling in favor of a Mississippi abortion case that would more than likely overturn Roe v. Wade and therefore, have implications at the state level.
- “The law at issue in this case, Mississippi's Gestational Age Act, see Miss. Code Ann. §41-41-191, contains this central provision: “Except in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality, a person shall not intentionally or knowingly perform or induce an abortion of an unborn human being if the probable gestational age of the unborn human being has been determined to be greater than fifteen (15) weeks.”
- Alito, Justice. “Supreme Court of the United States.”

2. Collecting Information

- A MANASD member who works with a local group that helps organizations achieve measurable results and strengthen nonprofit organizations helped us design the survey. Her expertise was invaluable. We were able to create a survey to poll our members asking 3 basic questions. (See graph 1.)
- While creating the survey, open communication and feedback with the board and executive director at any and all points were imperative, especially since the board would approve the final survey.
- The MANASD office was responsible for sending the survey to members and supporters via Facebook and Instagram with the timeline of one week. The Advocacy Committee recommends that the surveys be sent out in all social media platforms the organization uses.

3. Weighing the Evidence and Sharing Results

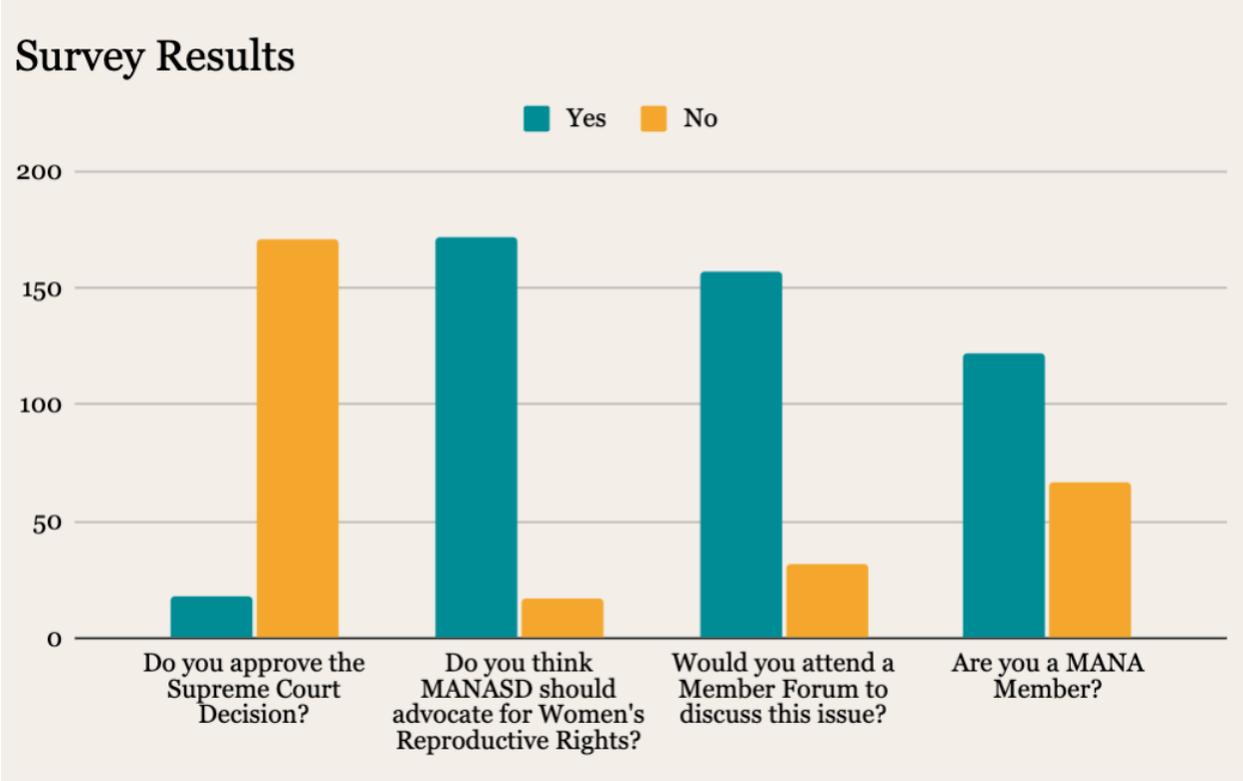
- Surveying our members and having hard data led the organization to move forward with holding a forum on August 16, 2022, that would allow our members

to voice their opinions on this important issue. We were not able to provide a virtual option at this location but will do so at future forums if able.

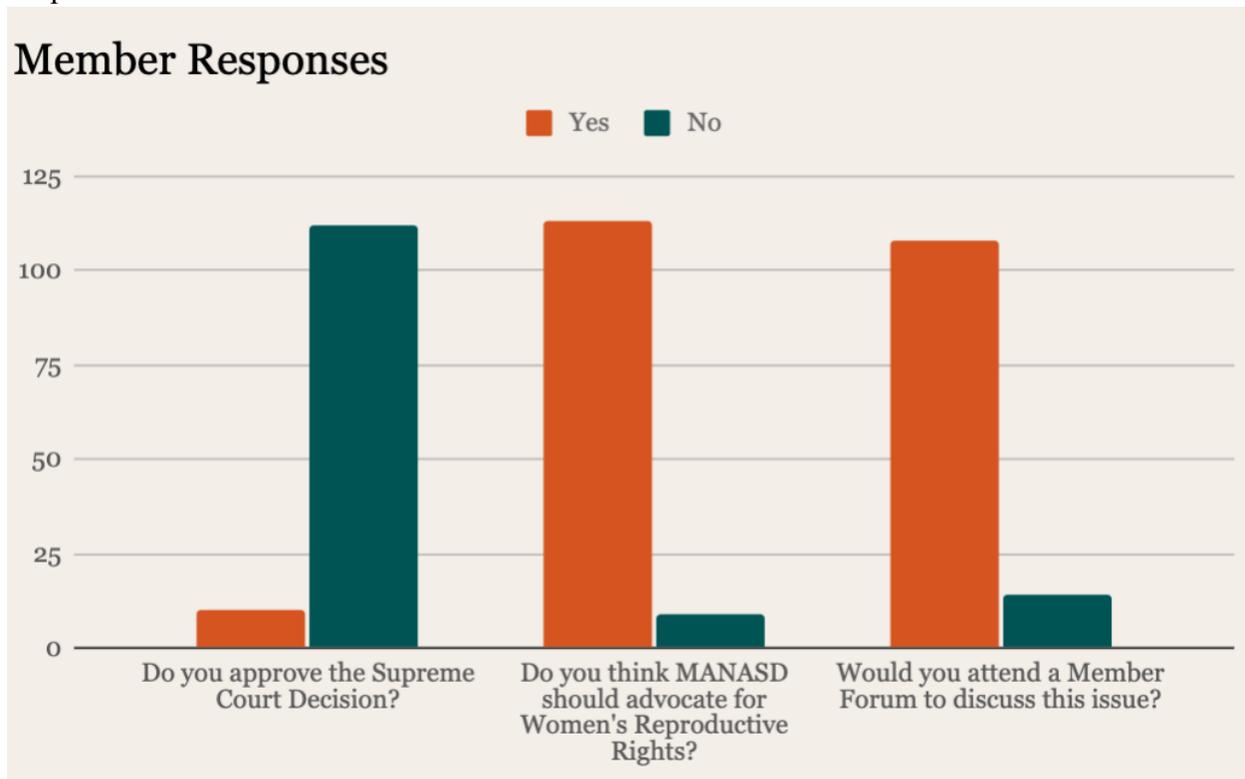
- MANASD has heard from members on both sides of the issue. Therefore, MANASD planned the forum to give members the opportunity to learn about this polarizing issue, and to discuss our next steps as a Latina organization that advocates for Latinas and their families.

Out of 394 members, 189 completed the survey, 122 were members and 67 were supporters. We shared the following data with members at the forum:

Graph one.



Graph two.



4. Implementing Action

- MANA de San Diego is a 501c3, acts independently and makes decisions in the best interest of our members and community. As the largest Latina organization in the county, we had a responsibility to address the issue of Latina Reproductive Health and safe access to abortion.
- After the results were processed and evaluated it was recommended by the Advocacy Committee that the board support a member forum regarding the issue at hand.
- In light of our limited window time, the advocacy committee began recruiting panelists. We were able to have Leticia Cazares, MPH, a SDSU professor present. Additionally we had Norma Chavez Peterson, ACLU-SDIC Director.
- Executive director tasked to address the community if Roe v. Wade is upheld this summer (end of month)
- Members were together to decide stand pro or con, it was decided that MANA was going to take a stand to be Pro Choice.
- Next steps share to focus on promoting Yes on California Proposition 1, among our members and community.

5. Evaluating the Results

- Using group responses we continue to develop a strategy to support women's reproductive rights. As well as partnering with organizations to protect women's

reproductive rights. The hope is that this outline provides a guide to any organization that is looking to create a change and take a stand.

- As the largest chapter of a national Latina organization, founded over 35 years ago on the premise of ensuring Latinas have a voice to advocate for a greater presence in vital conversations facing our communities,
- Creating a web page with access to resources and other pertinent information and our endorsement information.