

A Guide to Organizing a MANA de San Diego Forum Outline (Roe v. Wade)

1. The Issue at Hand

- The 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 the organization had not taken a formal Pro-Choice or ProLife stance.
- 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

- MANASD had never taken a formal stance on abortion. Past agendas going back to the early years of MANASD did not provide any evidence that MANASD was a pro-choice organization. We decided to poll our members to provide data on reproductive rights.
- 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 need to 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 recommended that the surveys be sent out in all social media platforms the organization uses.

3. Weighing the Evidence and Sharing Results

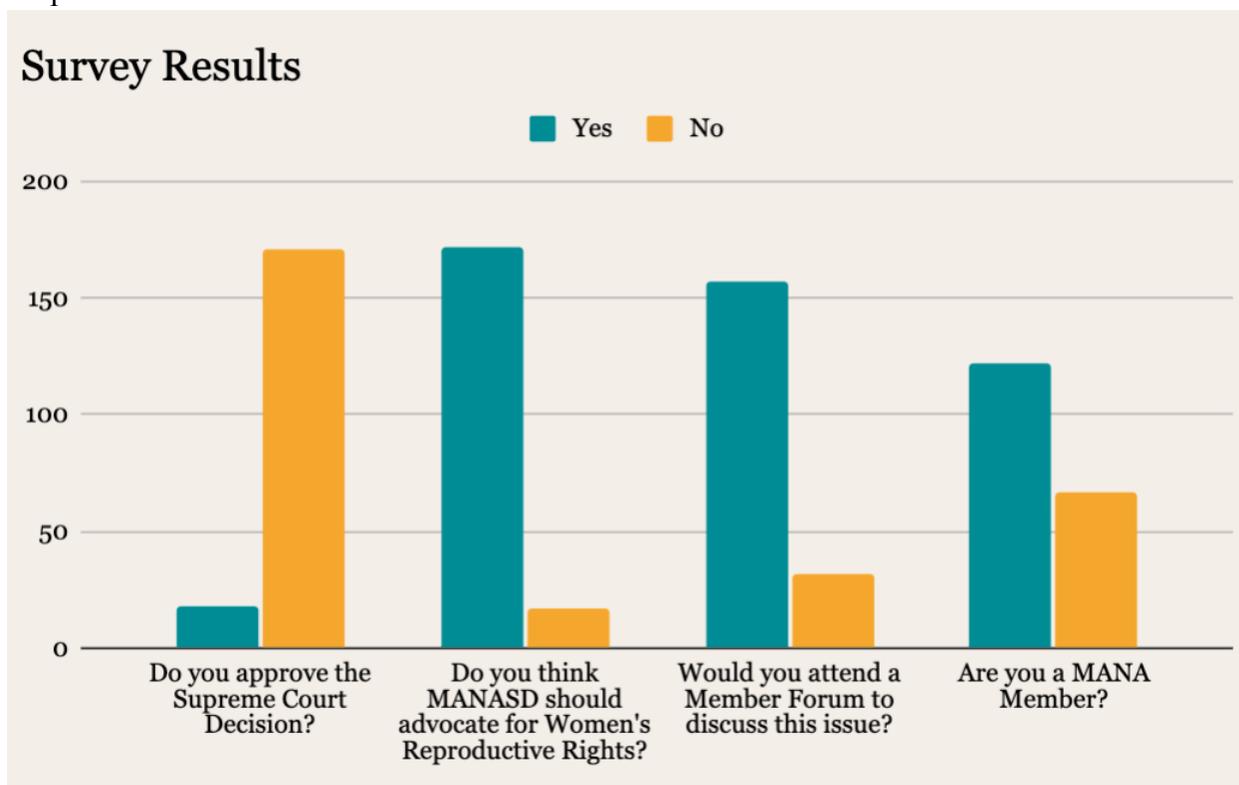
- Surveying our members and having hard data led the organization to move forward with holding a MANASD member forum on August 16, 2022, to allow our members to voice their opinions on this important issue.

We were not able to provide a virtual option at this location but will do so at future forums if able.

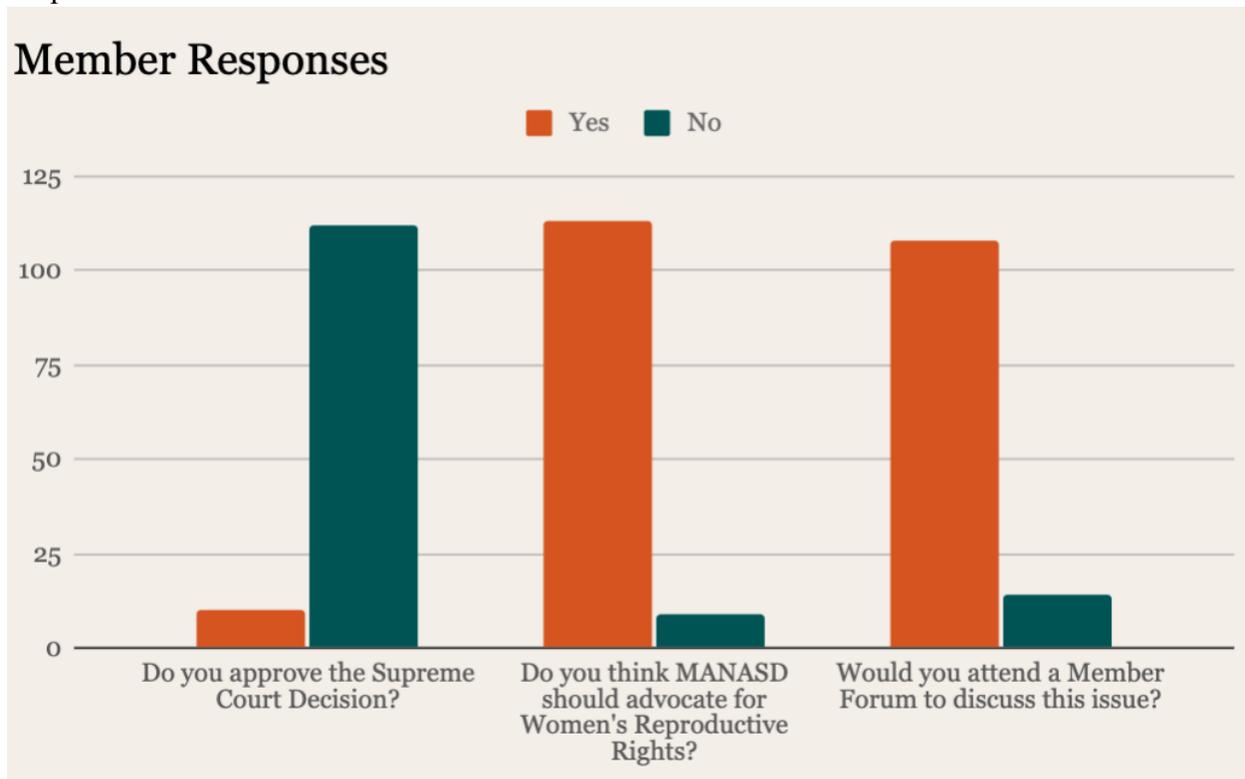
- MANASD has heard from members on both sides of the issue. Therefore, MANASD planned the forum to give members the opportunity to learn about this polarizing issue, and to discuss our next steps as a Latina organization whose mission is to advocate for Latinas and their families.

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 invite Leticia Cazares, MPH, a SDSU professor, who whose topic was "The Future of Healthcare is on the Line," and Norma Chavez Peterson, ACLU-SDIC Director who spoke on "Right to Abortion does not mean Access to Abortion." Both presenters provided data on the impact on Latina women.
- Members were assigned to groups and discussed whether we were a Pro-Choice or Pro-Life organization. After much discussion both with both pro or con comments, members present recommended that the MANASD Board take formal stand to be a Pro-Choice organization.
- Using group responses, we created a strategy of actions to support women's reproductive rights. The Advocacy Committee is tasked to do this work.
- Next steps for MANASD is to focus on promoting "Yes on California Proposition 1, the Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom" with our members and community.

5. Evaluating the Results

As well as partnering with organizations to protect women's reproductive rights. The hope is that this outline provides a guide for any organization that is looking to create change and take a stand.

- MANASD, the largest chapter of MANA, a National Latina Organization, was founded over 35 years ago on the premise of ensuring Latinas have a voice in order to advocate for a greater presence in vital conversations facing our communities,