MORALITY POLITICS

PUBLIC POLICY

- What government does, why it does it, and how it does it
- Most policies motivated by economic concerns
- Morality politics: public clash of private values
  - Motivated by normative concerns
MORALITY POLICY

• Government supports one set of societal values against another set of values
  • Arguments: moralistic, religious, stylized

• Issues:
  - Alcohol
  - Same-sex Marriage
  - Sex Education
  - Gambling
  - Creationism
  - Euthanasia
  - Abortion
  - Gay Adoption
  - Pornography
  - Domestic Partnerships
  - Animal Rights
  - Death Penalty
ISSUE EVOLUTION:
POLICY EQUILIBRIUM, & SHOCK

• **Issue Evolution**
  • Issues emerge on public agenda, develop, and recede

• **Policy Shock**
  • Disturbance → change in public opinion or policy
    • US Supreme Court ruling, Roe v. Wade (1973)
    • Hawaii State Supreme Court, Gay Marriage (1993)
    • Discovery of Embryonic Stem Cells (1997)

• **Policy Equilibrium**
  • “Convergence” of public opinion and public policy
### Table 13.1

**State Abortion Regulation Reforms before Roe v. Wade (1973)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year of Reform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1968</td>
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<td>1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 13.2

**Abortion Restrictions in the States, 2010**

Note: This map shows restrictiveness of abortion regulations in the states as of January 1, 2010. The policies included in this measure are parental notification or consent for minors; reporting all abortions to a state authority; pre-abortion counseling requirements; pre-abortion waiting period requirements; “Choose Life” automobile license plates available; blocking abortion clinic entries prohibited (coded as less restrictive); and pre-abortion ultrasound required or counseling.


Circumstances Under Which Abortion Should Be Legal

Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

GALLUP®
Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

Note: Trend shown for polls in which same-sex marriage question followed questions on gay/lesbian rights and relations
1996-2005 wording: "Do you think marriages between homosexuals ..."

GALLUP
25 states banned same-sex marriage following the Sep. 21, 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

34 States Where Same-Sex Marriage Is Banned
15 States Where Same-Sex Marriage Is Legal

Wisconsin banned same-sex marriage in 1979.
Figure 13.5
Public Support for Same-Sex Marriage

Note: These data represent the estimated support for the legalization of same-sex marriage in the states, based on 41 national surveys from the Roper Center’s Poll archive, dating from 1999 to 2008. The darker the state in this map, the more public support exists for same-sex marriage.
Generational Divides over Same-Sex Marriage

% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally

- Millennial
- Gen X
- Boomer
- Silent


20 23 32 42

40 49 51 50

59

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 22-Oct. 4, 2011, Q69b.
States that allow marriage between first cousins.

Map provided by the THE NEW YORK TIMES

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

State laws for marriages between first cousins.

- Prohibited
- Legal