

## **POLL ON ABORTION FINDS THE NATION IS SHARPLY DIVIDED**

*By E. J. Dionne Jr.*

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Overall, the poll found that 49 percent of Americans favored keeping abortion legal as it is now, while 39 percent said it should be legal only in cases involving rape, incest or when the mother's life is in danger. An additional 9 percent said abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus three percentage points.



Yet a similar plurality, 48 percent, agreed with the statement, "Abortion is the same thing as murdering a child," while 40 percent said, "Abortion is not murder because the fetus is not really a child." The rest were undecided. The question did not distinguish at what point in a pregnancy an abortion might take place. Nuances of Opinion on Issue

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