

## Los Angeles Times

danger. At the same time, more than two-thirds say that, regardless of their own feelings on the subject, the highly personal decision to obtain an abortion should be left to a woman and her doctor.



Even more striking, while 57% of respondents say they consider abortion to be murder, more than half of that group agree that a woman should have the right to choose an abortion.

These conflicting perspectives make abortion a particularly tricky issue for politicians. President Clinton attempted to straddle the ambivalence in his first presidential campaign by saying he wanted abortions to be “safe, legal and rare.” So far, neither Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush nor Democratic rival Al Gore have found a similarly deft formulation.

The issue could help--or hurt--both men. Nearly two-thirds of Americans say they have no clear sense of either candidate’s position on the issue at this point in the presidential race. But 34% of poll respondents say that if they learn that a candidate’s position on abortion disagrees with their own, it would be enough to change their vote.

The Times Poll, supervised by polling director Susan Pinkus, surveyed 2,071 Americans from June 8 through Tuesday. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 2 percentage points.

*(excerpt from Los Angeles Times polling, June 2000 By ALISSA J. RUBIN JUNE 18, 2000 TIMES STAFF WRITER)*