

Survey about the trial of Scott Roeder, charged with the murder of Wichita abortionist George Tiller

On May 31, Scott Roeder killed Wichita abortionist George Tiller.

1. How do you feel about what Scott Roeder allegedly did?
 Strongly approve Approve Mixed feelings Disapprove Strongly disapprove
2. How do you feel about what George Tiller did?
 Strongly approve Approve Mixed feelings Disapprove Strongly disapprove
3. Scott Roeder has petitioned for a trial by jury. Do you believe he should be given that right? Yes
 No Uncertain
4. Do you believe he *will* be given that right? Yes No Uncertain
5. Assuming Scott Roeder receives a trial by jury, do you believe he should be allowed to present his defense to the jury? Yes No Uncertain
6. Do you believe he *will* be allowed to present his defense to the jury? Yes No Uncertain
7. Do you expect Scott Roeder's defense will be:
 - a. "I did not shoot George Tiller", or
 - b. "I shot him to stop his abortions" a b Uncertain
8. Do you expect the judge will:
 - a. allow Roeder to present his defense to the jury;
 - b. rule on Roeder's defense by himself, but explain his ruling to the jury;
 - c. rule on Roeder's defense by himself, without the jury's knowledge, and order Roeder not to say a word about his defense to the jury. a b c Uncertain
9. In which of the same three scenarios would you feel most satisfied that the judge had provided Scott Roeder his constitutional right to trial by jury?
 - a. The judge allows Scott Roeder to present his defense to the jury;
 - b. The judge rules on Roeder's defense by himself, but explains his ruling to the jury;
 - c. The judge rules on Roeder's defense by himself, without the jury's knowledge, and orders Roeder not to say a word about his defense to the jury. a b c Uncertain
10. (Only for those who selected 7b above) If Scott Roeder's defense is that he shot George Tiller to stop his abortions, would you expect:
 - a. Roeder will probably also dispute that he shot George Tiller
 - b. If Roeder says he shot Tiller to stop his abortions, he would not seriously dispute that he shot Tiller a b Uncertain
11. (Only for those who selected 10b) If Roeder says he shot Tiller to stop his abortions, and does not seriously dispute that he shot Tiller, then:
 - a. Roeder would probably still raise other defenses
 - b. Roeder's defense, that he shot Tiller to stop his abortions, would be his sole defense, and the only seriously contested issue of the case. a b Uncertain
12. (Only for those who selected 11b) If Roeder's sole defense is that he shot Tiller to stop his abortions, and there is no other seriously contested issue for the jury to judge, then I would be most satisfied that Roeder is given his right to trial by jury if:
 - a. The judge allows Roeder to present his sole defense to the jury;
 - b. The judge rules on Roeder's sole defense by himself, but explains his ruling to the jury;
 - c. The judge rules on Roeder's sole defense by himself, without the jury's knowledge, and orders Roeder not to say a word about his defense to the jury. a b c Uncertain