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Pro-life Events Around Ohio

We want to keep you informed!

Find out what you need to know about pro-life activities in your area.

[Click Here](#) to see what's happening and where to find it!

FIND EVENTS HERE!

~1~



Barry Sheets has worked tirelessly to promote Christian values and principled policy.

He is a pro-life, pro-family lobbyist in Columbus, Ohio. He championed the Ohio Heartbeat bill for more than a decade from start to finish and was instrumental in the passage of the 2004 Ohio Marriage Amendment (marriage shall only be between one man and one woman). Now Barry has Stage 4 Renal Cell Carcinoma in his spine and hip and he needs our support. Details on what he and his family need, and a link to donate are below. He has been a friend of life and we have the opportunity to be a friend in return.

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The Pro-Life Movement Needs to Be More Realistic

For nearly 50 years, those of us who favor legal protection for children in the womb have asked the US Supreme Court to allow abortion policy to be set through democratic debate. Now we're having that debate, and strategists in both parties say we're losing it. Midterm elections **typically go poorly** for the party that holds the White House, likely in part because its supporters are complacent and its opponents aggrieved. On abortion, it's the party out of power that is making controversial changes.

Passionate pro-lifers, in their impatience at what they recognize to be a grave injustice, are forgetting the need for patient persuasion of the public.

Republicans who consider themselves pragmatists, on the other hand, are making a practical mistake in assuming that by not talking about their view of abortion, they can make the issue go away.

That's not an abandonment of the goal of broader protections. It's a step toward it — one that acknowledges the public isn't there yet.

Pro-lifers should also refrain from self-defeating rhetoric. Some pro-lifers have made a point of claiming that abortion is never medically necessary. That's because they don't consider ending an ectopic pregnancy, for example, as a "direct abortion" — an intentional taking of human life. That's needlessly confusing, and pro-lifers should simply say they're for an exception in such cases. They should also broaden their agenda to include measures to **aid parents of small children** — such as the proposals of various Republican senators to expand the child tax credit and to finance paid leave. Promoting a culture of life includes fostering the economic conditions that help it thrive.

For pro-lifers, the post-Roe debate is not going as well as it could. But it's also just beginning.

American Enterprise Institute Article
Here



Where Abortion Will Be on the Ballot in 2024

The abortion-rights issue was a political lifesaver for Democrats this year.

The issue helped to fend off a red wave by both motivating the base and persuading undecided voters. Restrictive abortion laws are out of touch with public opinion, which was made resoundingly clear the six out of six times voters were asked about the issue in Vermont, California, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana and Kansas. Now abortion activists are asking which other states are ripe for initiatives to protect reproductive rights.

As the fight over abortion rights plays out, keep an eye on two states in particular — Missouri and Ohio — where efforts are further along.

In Ohio, the stakes are high for three-term Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown, who is up for re-election in 2024. The state is solidly red, but nearly 60% of registered voters would support codifying abortion rights in the state's constitution. On the ground, abortion access is mired in litigation.

After the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, the state legislature enacted a law banning abortion after six weeks. In October, a state court blocked that ban. That ruling is being appealed. And after November's elections, says Jessie Hill, a professor at Case Western University who has been fighting the law, the Ohio Supreme Court has an anti-abortion majority.

If the court reinstates the ban, Hill says, "the only response to that would be a ballot initiative." One complicating factor, she notes, is that Ohio's Republican secretary of state has proposed a bill that would make it more difficult for citizen-led initiatives to get on the ballot.

In red states, Hill says, the data suggest that it's easier to get people to vote against an abortion ban than it is to get them to vote in favor of an abortion-rights amendment. Abortion-rights activists began looking into state ballot initiatives even before November's midterms.

Kelly Hall, the Fairness Project's executive director, acknowledges that there may be "coattail effects" from ballot measures that benefit Democratic candidates in 2024. But she also makes clear that the priority is protecting abortion rights: "Our view is let's not let the tail wag the dog," she says.

Washington Post Read
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~4~



Life Lost in Michigan: The Sad Saga of Proposal 3

Regardless of *Roe v. Wade*, Michigan is one of those states with a law banning abortion except for the life of the mother that's still on the books—a law that stretches all the way back to 1846.

However, this "draconian" statute managed to survive a previous referendum—

and this at the height of the sexual revolution and the early growth of radical feminism. The Right to Life of Michigan website explains:

As abortion supporters began their campaign in the 1960s to legalize abortion, they came to Michigan. They were unsuccessful in the Legislature. In the November 1972 election, there was a ballot proposal to legalize abortion in some cases in Michigan. It failed!

A super-majority of 60% [of] Michigan voters elected to keep our complete abortion ban intact.

This enormous pro-life victory was short-lived however. Two months later, the United States Supreme Court handed down *Roe v. Wade*, rendering such state laws unenforceable. Thus, in Michigan, abortion on demand through the 24th week of pregnancy has been legal for decades.

Pro-abortion forces were mobilized in Michigan, as they anticipated the possibility that a majority of Supreme Court Justices would rule to overturn *Roe* in *Dobbs v. Jackson*.

With just over three months to go, there was hope that the RFFA initiative would not meet the July 11 deadline.

In a matter of weeks, RFFA raised over ten million dollars. With money to spend and a newfound motivation to defend “a woman’s right to choose,” circulators fanned out all across the state—exploiting every advantage to gain signatures at numerous public events. By the July deadline, they had 773,000 signatures, well over the needed minimum. The RFFA referendum, given the designation “Proposal 3,” would be placed on the midterm election ballot.

Proposal 3 is an amendment to the Michigan State Constitution that enshrines a right to abortion—among a whole boatload of other reproductive “rights.” It is not an exaggeration to say that Proposal 3 represents the broadest, most extreme abortion-related “reproductive rights” liberties in America.

Finally, in the end, Proposal 3 succeeded because our culture has become used to the violence of abortion. Fifty years of killing under *Roe v. Wade* is part of what we expect—a killing to which we believe we are entitled.

The pro-life movement must convince this culture that abortion is violence against others—against other members of the human family. We must work not only to make abortion illegal but to make it unthinkable. In a state like Michigan, in which the night has fallen, God must show us the path in the darkness. Three words suffice: “Never give up.”

[Read Crisis Magazine Article Here](#)



Learning from Lincoln on Abortion

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has returned the issue of abortion to our political branches.

Unfortunately, they don't seem entirely prepared to deal with it. Eight score years ago, a great American led the political debate on another highly contentious moral issue. It may seem surprising that from the vantage point of 2022 Abraham Lincoln can speak to the issues confronting us, but on the issue of abortion the Great Emancipator can teach us a lot.

In an exceptional [essay](#) published in the middle of the *Roe* era, Maureen Condic looked to Lincoln for his example. She recognized that the belief an embryo doesn't merit legal protection relies on a trio of claims about the embryo's human status, or lack thereof: that the embryo lacks sufficient human form; that it lacks sufficient human ability; and that the convenience afforded by abortion overrides any consideration of the embryo's humanity. As Condic insightfully [observed](#), such arguments based on form, ability, and convenience mirror the arguments made in the 19th century over slavery.

The always clear-thinking and honest Camille Paglia [echoes](#) the notion that it is power that's in play when it comes to abortion.

Paglia favors "unrestricted access to abortion," yet she [says](#), "I profoundly respect the pro-life viewpoint, which I think has the moral high ground." She writes, "We career women are arguing from expedience; it is personally and professionally inconvenient or onerous to bear an unwanted child. The pro-life movement, in contrast, is arguing that every conception is sacred and that society has a responsibility to protect the defenseless."

It is this responsibility to protect the weak and defenseless that invites a potential government role on abortion. In another note apparently written on the same day as the one cited above, Lincoln [writes](#), "The legitimate object of government is 'to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they can not, by individual effort, do at all, or do so well, for themselves.'" He asserts that there is a role for government in providing positive goods—he lists "roads," "bridges," "common schools," "disposing of deceased men's property," and "providing for the helpless young and afflicted."

Rather than pushing unpopular legislation that bars abortion altogether, or very nearly so, in states where opinions about abortion are roughly evenly divided—or where public opinion is in favor of allowing abortion—those who oppose abortion would be better off recognizing the importance of shaping public opinion by exposing the weaknesses in the pro-abortion position. Pro-lifers should push for limits on abortion that are tied to a developing child's heartbeat or capacity for pain; for requirements that mothers view ultrasounds before choosing whether to end their developing child's life; and for stopping the unjustifiable attacks on crisis pregnancy centers.

Great political battles require powerful reasoning, persuasive arguments, and careful strategizing. That potent combination led to *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's*

Health Organization, perhaps the finest Supreme Court ruling in nearly 200 years. Now that same combination is needed for the ensuing political battles. Thankfully, Lincoln has already charted a path that wise pro-lifers can travel.

Read American Greatness Article
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