

A Most Important Election! RLM-PAC Endorsements President Trump, John James in Key Races

On November 3 Americans will decide who will occupy the White House for the next four years. Voters will also have a clear choice in the direction of the country. Republicans are advancing an aggressive, pro-growth campaign that would restore the economy devastated by COVID-19, a measured policy of reducing our military imprint in foreign wars, continued deregulation to jump-start the economy, continue to appoint conservative judges to the federal courts, secure our southern border from drugs and sex trafficking, and promote pro-life legislation. The Democratic party is advancing a more liberal and progressive program: increased taxes on high-income citizens, approve the Green New Deal, reimpose regulations on businesses, implement policies that promote racial or sexual preferences, secure citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants, and promote a pro-choice agenda which would restore funding for organizations that promote abortion in Third World Countries, codify *Roe v. Wade*, and repeal the Hyde amendment, thus forcing taxpayers to pay for abortions for those on Medicaid.

The following people are endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan Political Action Committee. For President and Vice-President the endorsed candidates are Republicans **Donald Trump** and **Mike Pence**. For U.S. Senate, Republican **John James** is the endorsed pro-life candidate. In the Michigan House, Republicans **Bronwyn Haltom** for the 61st District, incumbent **Matt Hall** for the 63rd District, and incumbent **Beth Griffin** for the 66th District are the endorsed pro-life candidates. In Kalamazoo County races, **Shannon Bagley** is the endorsed Republican candidate for County Sheriff, **Mona Lisa Watson** is the Republican candidate for County Clerk, incumbent **Mary Balkema** is the Republican candidate for County Treasurer, and **Joanna Croes** is the endorsed Republican candidate for County Drain Commissioner. For Kalamazoo County Commission races, **Jeff Heppler** is the endorsed Republican candidate for District 6, incumbent **Roger Tuinier** is the Republican for District 7, **Dale Shugars** is the endorsed Republican for District 9, and incumbent **Mike Quinn** is the endorsed Democrat for District 10. For the Michigan Supreme Court, the endorsed candidates are **Mary Kelly** and **Brock Swartzle**.

For a complete list including State Board of Education candidates or trustees for state universities see the Right to Life of Michigan **website: rtl.org**

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Visit our website **kazoortl.org** for pro-life information, recent newsletters, and timely videos. Let's make Kalamazoo Right to Life more visible in the community. Increased activity to our website can help make that happen. Our e mail address is **info@kazoortl.org**.



Another Incentive to Vote! Trump Nominates Judge Amy Barrett

The die is cast. On September 18 Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away of cancer and on September 26 President Trump nominated Appeals Court judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy. Activists and analysts on both side of the political spectrum have made predictions and prognostications about the direction of the Supreme Court. The two issues most discussed are abortion and the Affordable Care Act.

Before we get ahead of ourselves the Senate must do its work. The Judiciary Committee will hold hearing in mid-October and allow the nominee to answer questions about her judicial philosophy, her qualifications, her past writings and written opinions. No doubt GOP senators will attempt to show that Barrett is in the mainstream of conservative thought, and is an intelligent and measured jurist. Democrats, however, will paint her as a radical, an extremist who will roll back the clock on reproductive rights. She will ban abortion, they claim, and send millions of women back into dark alleys where many will die from “coat-hanger” abortions. They will try to pin Barrett down on *Roe v. Wade*. “Was the decision rightly decided?” “Is *Roe v. Wade* settled law?” She will be evasive but generally state that she will abide by judicial precedent. If Democrats attack her Catholicism and her deeply-held religious convictions that tactic could backfire with voters. Expect the Judiciary Committee to approve Barrett’s nomination along a party-line vote.

Debate in the full Senate will be as contentious. Despite the Democrats attempt to block the vote, Judge Barrett will be confirmed in a close vote. Though a few Republican senators have announced that they would vote only if taken after the election, the outcome (barring any unforeseen developments) is assured. I expect the final vote to confirm Judge Barrett will be 52 to 48 with possibly one coming from a Democrat. Tragically, the 48 nay votes will not be based on credentials or experience but on ideology or a desire to deny Trump another victory.

With Barrett on the Supreme Court conservatives will hold a 6 to 3 majority on many issues and a 5 to 4 majority on contentious ones. Abortion may fall into the latter category. Chief Justice Roberts has become a far less reliable pro-life vote in the past year. However, if he has been reluctant to move on pro-life cases because the vote would be 5 to 4 (with Justice Ginsburg on the Court), he now has a bit more freedom to forge a new, solid 6 to 3 majority to place greater restrictions on abortion. With Justice Barrett, expect to see more chipping away at *Roe v. Wade*.

Will *Roe* be over-turned? That has been the fifty-year old question. My short answer is NO. At least not soon. A credible case must work its way through the federal system before the court can impose more restrictions, perhaps ban the procedure before the 20 week period, perhaps scrap the “under burden” standard set in 1993, perhaps approve some form of heartbeat legislation. These are all possibilities that may take several years to be realized. Then maybe the court will be more willing to strike legal abortion down altogether. And remember, if Barrett joins other conservatives to reverse *Roe*, it will not be because of her moral convictions and her Catholic faith. She will reject *Roe* based on the law. She will reject *Roe* based on a more accurate and thorough reading of history. She will reject *Roe* based on the medical scientific fact that the unborn is human at conception. The other side wants Americans to think that abortion is a religious issue. That’s why they play up her Catholicism. If the justices approach the issue from biblical or religious foundations they will fail. No, *Roe* will be reversed because after 47 years of falsehoods and distortions, the truth will finally prevail. The baby is human based on science and the ever-expanding knowledge of prenatal life and no person can arbitrarily take the life of another human being for convenience.

Under the Tent! Focus on Life Dinner Draws Crowd

On September 10 Kalamazoo Right to Life hosted its annual Focus on Life dinner to raise money for the Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund. About 190 people attended and were treated with a moving presentation by Heritage Foundation Vice-President Dr. Charmaine Yoest. In fact, her speech was so well received that she gave it twice!

The original dinner scheduled for May 14 was rescheduled for the fall due to COVID-19. Even as the September date approached, Governor Whitmer's restrictions on indoor events forced us to make a bold decision. Rather than cancel the event we decided to rent two identical tents and hold the dinner in a field on the Kalamazoo First Assembly of God property.



We moved up the start of the program 30 minutes for two reasons: the fast approaching sunset and the arrival of those pesky mosquitoes. As it turned out, the darkness arrived sooner than expected but very cool weather kept the mosquitoes away.

Employing some social distancing between tables, just under 100 people filled each tent. EMA Catering served a boxed lunch and Boonzaaijer donated three cakes for dessert. We had to make some scheduling adjustments since our speaker could not make her presentation to everyone at one time. She graciously agreed to speak twice. So, while she addressed the people in one tent, the attendees in tent #2 were having their meal. The photo of Dr.



Yoest was taken between presentations as she walked the 80 feet on her journey to the second tent.

Randy Royston, Right to Life of Michigan's fundraiser at the event, was very appreciative of Kalamazoo hosting the dinner under these unusual conditions. He explained that several other affiliates had been forced to cancel their dinners due to the virus. In fact, we were one of the few groups having fundraising dinners this fall. Randy stated that in the over two decades of working with Right to Life of Michigan this was his first under a tent. By the way, Randy gave two presentations for RLM and high school student Leah Hayward gave her oratory speech twice.



We are expecting next year's dinner to be more normal, well-attended, and warmer.

Kalamazoo Right to Life Schedules Business Meeting for November 16.

Kalamazoo Right to Life will hold its annual Business Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Father Bart Hall at St. Mary Catholic Church at 939 Charlotte Ave just off Gull Road near Borgess Hospital. The Hall is located at the opposite side of the church parking lot. The one hour event begins at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served. All members are welcome. Come hear of plans for the future. The slate of officers for 2020-2021 is:

President: Rob Karrer

Vice-President: Geneva Crawford

Treasurer: Candy Courtney

Secretary: Preston Talanda-Fisher

All members of Kalamazoo Right to Life, Inc. are notified that the Board of Directors will be voting on amending portions of the Constitution and By-Laws at the monthly board meeting prior to the annual business meeting on November 16. The meeting will begin at 6 pm. The Resolution concerns updating administrative processes, including how the Board may operate given the lessons of Covid-19 and how documents are managed. The text of the Resolution is available in electronic or paper form to members upon request. Submit a request by email to info@kazoortl.org or phone 269-372-8123. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting and express their opinions on the introduced resolution.

Pro-Life News Round-Up

Judge Barrett's Nomination Brings Out Worst In Some

Back in 2017 when Law Professor Amy Barrett was being questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee for a seat on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, California senator Diane Feinstein challenged Barrett's strong Catholicism by remarking, "The dogma lives loudly within you...and that's a concern." Fast forward to 2020. Even though the US Constitution specifically states that "no religious test shall ever be required" (Article VI, Clause 3), expect some Democrats to interject religion in the Judiciary Committee proceedings. Barrett's Catholic faith was an issue then; it will be an issue now. These senators claim that a Justice Barrett will impose her Catholic beliefs on court decisions especially relating to abortion.

Just days after she was nominated, Judge Barrett was the target of another, even more vile attack. A Boston University history professor and author, Ibram X. Kendi, went after Barrett's family, stating that Amy and husband Jesse Barrett were "white colonizers" for adopting two children from Haiti. "Some White colonizers 'adopted' Black children. They 'civilized' these 'savage' children in the 'superior' ways of White people, while using them as props in their lifelong pictures of denial, while cutting the biological parents of these children out of the picture of humanity." Rather than respect parents who adopt children from other nations and cultures, Kendi turned it into a racial slur--a supposed example of white superiority.

Regrettably, expect Judge Barrett to receive plenty of negative attacks from liberal groups as well as from pro-choice organizations like Planned Parenthood and NARAL.

Media Even More Biased Than in 2016

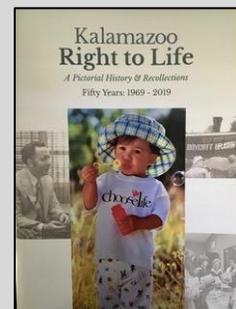
The Media Research Center reports that the mainstream network media (ABC, CBS, and NBC) is more biased in its coverage of the Trump v. Biden presidential race than it was in the Trump v. Clinton race four years ago. Back in 2016 (between August 1 through September 15, 2016) the networks devoted 409 minutes on Trump. There were 256 negative stories and only 30 positive ones for 90 percent negative reporting. Hillary Clinton received 262 minutes of coverage during the same time period. She faced 90 negative stories for a 34 percent negative

reporting. In 2020 the three networks devoted 379 minutes to President Trump. During the period in the study, the president received only 29 positive news reports for a 93 percent negative rating. Joe Biden was the subject of 148 minutes of news coverage yet only 15 negative stories (compared to Clinton's 90). The Media Research Center cites one disparity. During the time period under review, in 2016 the networks devoted 50 minutes and 25 seconds to Clinton's age (68) and her health. In 2020 the three networks have spent 5 minutes and 23 seconds on Biden's age (77) and his possible declining health. Americans should expect more balanced reporting of the news. It seems that liberal ideology has overtaken journalists' ability to be objective.

Time is running out for anyone interested in requesting an absentee ballot. The deadline to request a ballot is October 24. The process is more complicated this election year due to the large number of people desiring to vote by absentee ballot. The last date that the Kalamazoo County Clerk's office will mail out ballots is Friday, October 30. This gives voters only five calendar days to have their ballot processed and delivered by the Postal Service, have the voter fill it out, and hand-deliver the ballot to the clerk's office by Tuesday, November 3. Voters receiving ballots on Monday, November 2, or Tuesday will not have enough time to mail their ballots back in to be counted on time. They must hand-deliver them. In conclusion, do not wait to request a ballot. Sooner is better.

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President's Corner *Rob Karrer*

Sometimes people accidentally swerve into the truth. A case in point is Democratic candidate for Congress Hillary Scholten. She is the hard-core pro-choice attorney running in the 3rd congressional district that swings from Grand Rapids down to Battle Creek. A few weeks ago she made the statement: "My faith has always motivated me to action. The example of Christ was not just to read and internalize. It was an act of service...As Christians we're called to the same kind of action." So far so good Ms Scholten. In a follow-up email she elaborated. "Our faith teaches that every person and every other living thing has inherent worth and dignity. It also teaches that we are called to uphold that dignity and protect it through the work of our hands." AMEN!! Every person does indeed have inherent worth and dignity. Scholten expanded that natural right to "other living things" which may include animals. Yet, unfortunately and tragically, in her unbelievably disconnected opinion the human baby in the womb is not a person. Even worse, the unborn baby does not classify as an "other living thing" either. This is where her loyalty to the pro-abortion agenda is exposed. Her devotion to abortion over-rides her ability to see reality. Is not the baby in the womb alive? Is she not growing? Do not ultrasounds reveal little baby boys and girls? When the baby kicks is that not proof of life? What are fetal surgeries if not performed on living unborn babies? Based on what Scholten has stated she should be an avowed pro-lifer...one of us. But sadly, she does not really believe in what she says. Not all human life has inherent worth. To her, some human lives have absolutely no value. She is a prisoner to the pro-abortion mentality that believes women have 100 percent of the rights and the unborn have zero percent. Hillary Scholten is not the kind of candidate we want in the US Congress.

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