

Mid-Term Election Is Fast Approaching

Kalamazoo RTL Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, October 11, 2018 (6 - 8 PM)
Lower level, Alternatives of Kalamazoo building

Everyone is invited to our annual business meeting. Your attendance is critical in helping to elect Pro-life candidates. This year the format will be different. While we will elect our officers for the next year, briefly talk about our financial status, and present a vision for the year, the focus of the evening will be on making phone calls for the RLM-PAC endorsed candidates. In particular, we need to help our local candidates Margaret O'Brien for State Senate and Brandt Iden for State Representative. At the state level, pro-life Bill Schuette needs our full support for governor. At the national level, our endorsed candidate for the Senate is John James who is challenging pro-abortion Senator Debbie Stabenow.

KRTL officers for 2018-2019

President: Rob Karrer

Vice President: Geneva Crawford

Secretary: Ann Brissette

Treasurer: Bob Plotz (interim)

Bring your phones!!! We have the pizza!!! Make it a fun and exciting night. Let's help our candidates. This is one of the most pivotal elections in modern times. Pro-lifers need to maintain control of the U.S. Senate. If we want conservative, pro-life judges in the federal courts we need a pro-life Senate.

We understand that making phone calls is not everyone's favorite activity. However, when we do it together as a group, it lessens the pain. For this one night, **let's do it together!**

RSVP the office if you plan on attending (269)-372-8123 or info@kazoortl.org

Will *Roe v. Wade* be reversed?

By: Rob Karrer

NOTE: Apologies if this is "too much information."

Will *Roe v. Wade* be overturned by the Supreme Court? That is the \$10,000,000 question and has been for decades. With Justice Gorsuch on the bench and the likelihood that Judge Brett Kavanaugh will soon join him, speculation had soared. Among fearful liberals, Democrats, and pro-choice zealots, the response has been predictably unhinged. *Roe* will be reversed. Same-sex marriage will be reversed. Affirmative action will be outlawed. All gun safety laws will be gutted. Companies like Hobby Lobby or Chick-fil-A will routinely discriminate against gays and lesbians and the court will give them a wink and a nod. For pro-choicers, Kavanaugh will usher in the Apocalypse.

Let me just say upfront that none of those things will happen with a Justice Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court. While it is true that he is more conservative than the man he replaced-- Justice Anthony Kennedy, he is still a principled judge who respects both the original intent of the framers but adheres to judicial precedence. The Court very rarely reverses itself. What usually happens is that it makes mid-course corrections, it modifies rulings, it trims previous decisions in small but deliberate steps. Those incremental steps may take years, some-times decades.

For example, let's look at the issue of racial segregation. In 1896, the Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that "separate but equal" facilities for blacks and whites was constitutional, thus validating Jim Crow laws in the South. Homer Ferguson was a New Orleans resident and one-eighth black. In 1892 he was ejected off a train for riding in the "white section," in violation of the state's law mandating separate accommodations for blacks and whites. He appealed to the Supreme Court and lost. In 1954, in *Brown v. Board of*

Education, the Court reversed *Plessy* and ruled that separate but equal school facilities was unconstitutional. The Court demanded that public schools integrate. However, that 58-year gap between *Plessy* and *Brown* does not tell the whole story. The Court had already begun to chip away at *Plessy* in smaller wins.

In 1938, in *Missouri ex el Gaines v. Canada*, the Court ruled that Missouri could not provide equal protection by sending a black resident to an out-of-state law school. The Court stated that Lionel Gaines must be admitted to the all-white University of Missouri Law School. This case began the NAACP's strategy to reverse *Plessy*.

In 1948, in *Shelley v. Kraemer*, the Court ruled that a racially restrictive property covenant violated the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

In 1949, in *Sweatt v. Painter*, the Court ruled that a hastily established law school for blacks did not meet the standard of equality as white schools.

In 1950, in *Laurin v. Oklahoma*, the Court ruled that although a black student had been admitted to the University of Oklahoma, he did not enjoy equality since he still was segregated in the classroom, the cafeteria, and the library.

Finally, in 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* completely reversed *Plessy*.

So we come to *Roe*. The crack began in 1977 and again in 1980 (*Harris v. McRae*) when the Court decided that states (or the federal government) could prefer childbirth over abortion and allocate funds accordingly. Thus the Court permitted states to deny funds to pay for abortions for women on public assistance.

In 1989, in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, the Court permitted the state of Missouri to enact certain abortion restrictions or policies.

In 1992, in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Court permitted informed consent, parental consent, and

more stringent reporting requirements. However, in upholding *Roe's* core holdings it eliminated the original three-trimester plan in favor of a new "undue burden" standard. A pro-life law may be considered constitutional as long as it does not impose an undue burden on a woman's right to reproductive choice. In 2007, in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, the Court ruled that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban was constitutional.

What a more conservative court might decide:

1. A state version of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks gestation might be ruled constitutional, thus reversing *Roe's* core tenant that a woman has a fundamental right to abortion prior to viability.
2. The Court may decide that a fetal dismemberment ban is constitutional.
3. The Court may rule that states can ban 2nd and 3rd trimester abortions.
4. The Court might rule that a "heartbeat" bill is constitutional, thus chipping away at the 20- week threshold just decided.
5. The Court may rule that the "undue burden" standard is constitutionally vague, and thus replaced by a more stringent policy--perhaps that abortion may be prohibited by state law if a fetal heartbeat or brainwave is detected.
6. The Court may ban sex selection abortions, procedures due to fetal handicaps, or in cases of rape or incest.

These and many more are possibilities that a conservative Supreme Court might consider BEFORE it even considers reversing *Roe*. Do I think *Roe* will be overturned? I am cautiously hopeful. Over the past 30 years I have been sorely disappointed in the high court. When I thought we had that chance in 1992 we were betrayed in the *Casey* decision. But I do not give up hope. What did Jesus say in the Garden, "Watch and pray." That's what we do. We keep our eyes and ears open. And we pray.

Ultrasound Bill Defended by 17 State Attorneys General

A 2016 Indiana law required that abortion clinics offer a woman the choice of seeing an ultrasound of her baby at least 18 hours prior to an abortion. Planned Parenthood challenged the law in federal court. In 2017 a district court judge blocked the bill. In July, 2018, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals of the Seventh Circuit upheld the lower court's ruling. However, attorneys general from 17 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia) filed a friend-of-the-court brief on August 30 to the full 7th Circuit contending that the ultrasound provision had been upheld by previous courts, including the Supreme Court. Ironically, though Planned Parenthood considers the use of ultrasounds an intrusive measure to hinder a woman's choice and imposes an undue burden, it employs ultrasounds twice in every abortion--first to determine the gestational age of the fetus as well as life-threatening conditions, and then after the abortion is completed when the abortionist makes sure that he has removed of the fetal body parts. Though the 7th Circuit has not heard the case, it will be appealed no matter who wins. If there is an appeal AND if the Supreme Court agrees settle the issue, look to see how Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh decide. If they vote on the side of life then we have a good indication how they will rule on other pro-life bills being challenged by pro-choice ideologues.

Life Chain

Sunday, October 7, 2018
2:30 - 3:30 pm

Those planning on participating should contact their church or pro-life liaison to find out where their group will be standing along South Westnedge.

President's Corner

by: Rob Karrer

By the time this newsletter reaches either your mailbox or your email in-box, the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings will be over. Hopefully, we will have a new conservative justice on the Court. That the overwhelming majority of Democrats opposed the nomination even before President Trump made his announcement says a lot of the modern Democratic party. They oppose everything that has the president's name on it. The problem is that they have been bruised and are hurt and upset because of what Republicans did in 2016 when President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy when Antonin Scalia died. Then GOP senators decided not to hold hearings during a presidential election year and wait for the incoming chief to make the call. Democrats figured that would be Hillary Clinton. However, Donald Trump made the pick, nominating Neil Gorsuch, sending Democrats into wild hysteria. Now it's happening all over again with Kavanaugh. The problem is, Democrats cannot stop or delay the hearings. There will be a vote. Kavanaugh will be confirmed by a razor-thin majority or lose the same.

I would remind my Democratic friends that back in 1987 their senators brutalized, smeared, attacked, and lied about the career, philosophy, and opinions of one Robert Heron Bork, a brilliant professor and later federal judge. They rejected his nomination and he was denied a place on the Supreme Court. The way I see this political game--Democrats cheated on the Bork nomination. The GOP probably cheated on the Garland nomination. I think that's call a "tie." Now that both sides are even, it's time to move on and confirm Judge Kavanaugh.

If you thought the Gorsuch hearings were combative, and the Kavanaugh hearings were toxic, just wait until Trump makes a third pick, probably to replace pro-choice Justice Ginsburg. Doctors will have to be called in as Democratic blood vessels will be bursting. Sweet!

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