

Save the Date! November 8, 2023 March for Life comes to Michigan

Mark your calendars. Put in for the day off if you have to. On Wednesday, November 8, thousands of pro-lifers from all across Michigan will descend on Lansing to hold a large rally at the state capitol building to mark the one year anniversary of the tragic loss of Proposal 3. Right to Life of Michigan is working with the national March for Life to bring our own March for Life to Lansing. Each affiliate has pledged to bring many of its members, interested and committed activists, and students to the March.

On November 8, 2022, we suffered a major defeat in Prop 3. Actually, as we all know, unborn babies suffered the most. After the *Dobbs* decision in June, 2022, our 1931 pro-life should should have taken effect again...immediately. We know what happened. Pro-abortion groups were able to fool enough citizens to sign a deceptively-worded and very confusing petition to put the issue before the voters. Then, well-oiled millionaires and billionaires from New York and California donated millions to the pro-abortion campaign. We were unable to match their huge war chest. Consequently, the pro-abortionists bombarded the airwaves, TV, and social media to mislead voters. The rest is history. Instead of saving lives and protecting babies, Michigan has seen a rise in the number of abortions, much of the increase coming from neighboring states where newly-enacted pro-life laws made

procuring an abortion next to impossible (or at least very difficult).

Kalamazoo Right to Life is planning the logistics of getting people to Lansing for the March for Life. We have secured four charter buses to take us to our destination. There would be a per-person fee to defray the cost of renting, but we are trying to keep that expense to the \$15-20 per person range. Rather than drive your own vehicle and find out that there may not be a convenient place to park, it might actually be an enjoyable experience riding to Lansing with like-minded friends. We need to send a loud message to our governor, the pro-abortion lawmakers, and pro-abortion activists that we have not gone away. We have not stayed home. We will work. We will pray. We will educate. We will organize. We will vote. And will will make this November's March for Life the largest pro-life gathering in state history.

We will send out more details as they develop. Watch for updates in your personal emails. If anyone wants to sign up please contact Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954 or at rckarrer@sbcglobal.net.

Now more than ever, we need your participation!

The Perils of *Dobbs* in a post-*Roe* America

Let us all acknowledge seven important facts:

1. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* was truly a gift from God, a miracle, something (perhaps) we did not envision in our lifetimes.
2. This reversal was due in large measure, to Donald Trump's ability to nominate three excellent, pro-life justices to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett.
3. The *Dobbs* opinion was not perfect. It was not the pro-life ruling that we would have preferred. It did not ban abortions. It did not declare that the unborn baby was a person based on the Fourteenth Amendment. It returned the issue to the states...the situation that existed in all 50 states prior to the 1973 *Roe* decision. This was not the end of the battle to protect life. It just moved the goalposts. Now we have a 50-state battleground.
4. The pro-abortion forces are working 24/7 to block, defeat, and challenge every pro-life law in every state.
5. Abortion became a major campaign issue in the November, 2022 mid-term elections. This was tragically evident in Michigan when Proposal 3 passed. We were heavily out-spent by the pro-abortion referendum coalition. They used deception and lies to confuse the voters. They convinced the majority of Michigan's citizens that abortion protections needed to be included in the state constitution.
6. Democrats WILL make abortion a major issue in the 2024 election. They saw how it galvanized many young voters in 2022 and believe that they can replicate this again next year. The GOP must become more adept in handling this issue and challenge the pro-abortion arguments with solid pro-life answers.
7. Pro-abortion groups will use petition drives and ballot referendums to circumvent state legislative action that approved new pro-life laws in the post-*Dobbs* era. They were successful in four states in November, 2022. They see this as a winning strategy. The pro-life movement must not let this success to continue.

On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court handed down its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision. It overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned the issue of abortion regulation to state governments. Liberal states would (and did) continue to keep abortion legal. Some states even passed new laws that permitted abortion in the final trimester. In more conservative states, lawmakers introduced a flood of new laws to severely restrict

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Annual Business Meeting: September 18, 2023

All members are invited to attend KRTL's annual business meeting. It will be held in St. Joseph Catholic Church's Bennett Gym. The address is 936 Lake St. Kalamazoo, 49001. The Bennett Building is the two-story structure in the back of the parking lot. The meeting will start at 6 pm and conclude at 8 pm. Our guest speaker will be Right to Life of Michigan's Vice President of Operations Amber Roseboom. She has become Barb Listing's right-hand assistant. It is a great honor to have her come and speak to us. The following is the slate of candidates for 2023-2024 KRTL officers:

Jean Talanda = president

Rob Karrer = vice president

Candy Courtney = Treasurer

Ann Brissette = Secretary

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restrict or even ban abortion altogether. In many states, pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood or the American Civil Liberties Union filed lawsuits to challenge these new pro-life laws. Currently, judges have imposed injunctions in Indiana, Ohio, and Utah. These cases will be handled by state Supreme Courts.

The biggest threats on the horizon are two-fold. 1. Pro-abortion feminists and allied groups WILL launch petition drives to place referendums before the voters. These referendums will not be the regular garden variety one but be in the form of state constitutional changes that would nullify pro-life laws and codify abortion rights. 2. It seems clear that pro-abortion millionaires and billionaires are far more ideologically driven than their pro-life counterparts. These rich pro-abortionists WILL donate millions of dollars to fund these petition drives and referendums. Our wealthy pro-life friends must be more willing to invest some of their money to help underwrite pro-life campaigns, to match the other side dollar for dollar. I realize that sounds materialistic...but it's the reality we live in. TV commercials, radio ads, and social media announcements cost tons of money. Pro-life groups do not sit on pots of gold. Our movement will need financial help to defeat these state referendums.

Right to Life of Michigan State Conference

Kalamazoo Right to Life members are invited to attend Right to Life of Michigan's annual state conference.

Date: September 28, 2023

Location: The Great Hall Banquet and Convention Center 5121 Bay City Rd. Midland, MI 48642

Cost: \$45 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshops), \$30 student \$58 (after Sept. 11)

Event Schedule: 8:30 am registration 9:00 am program 2:45 pm close

If anyone is interested in going to the conference, please contact Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954.

Ohio Voters Will Face Referendum In November

In recent years Ohio voters have become reliable conservatives. The state's governor is a pro-life Republican and the state legislature is also controlled by pro-life lawmakers. After the *Dobbs* decision, Ohio passed a heartbeat bill. A judge issued an injunction preventing the law from taking effect. The case is under appeal. Pro-abortion Ohioans decided to take another path. They launched a petition drive to get before the voters a change to the state's constitution that would make legal up to the point of viability. They collected over 700,000 signatures. Ohio Right to Life, in conjunction with pro-life lawmakers and other pro-life groups, attempted to derail the success of the November referendum by placing before the people constitutional amendments. On August 8, voters decided the state of Issue 1, the name assigned to this pro-life effort. Issue 1 had two main requirements: a referendum that would amend the state constitution would need a minimum of

60 percent support for the change to take effect, not the more typical majority vote; signatures needed to be collected from all 88 counties, not the proscribed "half." Pro-lifers argued that the 60 percent threshold was more in line with the US Constitution where amendments need support from 2/3 of the House (66 percent) and 2/3 of the Senate, and then 3/5 of state legislatures (60 percent) to ratify. On August 8, voters overwhelmingly rejected Issue 1 by 57 to 43 percent. This does not bode well for pro-lifers to defeat the referendum in November. Opinion polls show that 58 percent of Ohio voters support the referendum. Both pro-life and pro-abortion camps will pour millions of dollars into their respective campaigns as the November vote approaches.

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Veep Corner Rob Karrer

In the next three months volunteers and members have opportunities to get more involved with Kalamazoo RTL. This newsletter announces three upcoming events: the Annual Business Meeting on September 18, the Right to Life of Michigan State Conference in Midland on September 26, and the March for Life in Lansing on November 8. Each event provides educational rewards. I hope that many of you take these announcements and this reminder as incentives to get more involved and attend one or all of them.

The *Dobbs* decision did not end the abortion war. As we saw in the build-up to the Proposal 3 vote, the well-funded pro-abortion forces will stop at nothing to achieve their ultimate goal of keeping abortion legal in every state in the country. We in the pro-life movement (collectively in all 50 states) must not permit the other side get the upper hand. I know it's a cliché but if ever there was a time to get involved it is NOW—“All hands on deck!” We need everyone's attention and interest. We need participants, not spectators. We cannot afford to sit back and watch as our society and culture disintegrates into moral depravity. The lightening speed in which the transgender issue has exploded across our world is further proof that we are losing the moral battle.

The November 8 March for Life is vitally important. We need thousands, maybe tens of thousands of people to attend. We must give a clear message to the pro-abortion Democrats now in charge of Michigan's state government that though we lost Prop 3 last November, we are not giving up.