



The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health & Safety Talking Points

General

- We are gathering signatures to place an amendment to the Ohio Constitution on the 2023 General Election ballot.
- **This amendment will ensure that all Ohioans have access to safe, legal, and comprehensive reproductive medical care including abortion.**
- The overturn of Roe and Ohio's adoption of a near-total ban on abortion plunged Ohio into a medical crisis that put our lives, health, safety, and bodily autonomy at risk. **We must restore and protect reproductive freedom by passing this amendment.**
- **The amendment will ensure that all people have the right to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions with the advice and support of their families and their doctors, free from interference by politicians and government.**
- Amending the constitution will enable patients to obtain the medical care they need here at home in Ohio, instead of being forced to travel to other states. This amendment will restore and preserve the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship.
- If we do not amend the constitution, the anti-abortion lobby and politicians will continue to pursue and impose a total abortion ban that can make it a felony for physicians to perform abortions.
- The amendment was written and proposed by **Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights (OPRR)**, a nonpartisan grassroots group of more than 2,000 physicians, allied medical professionals, business leaders and ordinary citizens and **Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom (ORF)**, a coalition of organizations with a longstanding track record of supporting access to abortion and other reproductive services.
- Thousands of volunteers are working across the state to collect the 413,488 valid signatures of Ohio voters needed to place the amendment on the 2023 General Election ballot. Our goal is to collect 700,000 signatures by the July 5 filing deadline. Hitting that benchmark will ensure that we submit at least the minimum number of signatures required.

60% Supermajority August Ballot Issue

- The anti-abortion lobbyists, extreme legislators and out-of-state millionaires who supported this issue made no secret of the fact that this is designed to derail our effort to ensure that all Ohioans have access to reproductive health care, including abortion.
- They know a solid majority of Ohioans support and will vote for our amendment, which means they believe changing the rules is the only way to stop us.
- Their abuse of power will fail.
- Nearly 200 organizations and numerous respected individuals have already joined forces and are working together to defeat the issue in August.
- We believe Ohioans, like voters in other states where similar issues were on the ballot, will soundly reject this cynical attempt to strip them of their rights.
- We remain laser-focused on and totally committed to the one issue that brought us together: enshrining reproductive freedom and access to abortion in the Ohio Constitution in 2023.

Parental Consent

- Independent and internal polling consistently shows a strong majority of Ohio voters believe reproductive health care decisions, including abortion, should be left to patients and their physicians, without interference from politicians and government.
- The ads are being aired as part of a multi-million-dollar disinformation campaign waged by a dark money group.
- They are designed to raise unsubstantiated fears and distract from the fact that our amendment will ensure Ohioans have access to comprehensive reproductive health care and preserve the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship.
- **There is absolutely nothing in our amendment that mentions or supersedes Ohio's parental consent laws.**
- Anti-abortion activists in Michigan unsuccessfully used the parental consent issue in TV ads in Michigan, and they are trying it again in Ohio. That's because they know they can't win with a direct argument about reproductive freedom.
- Our amendment was written and is being proposed for one purpose and one purpose only: to protect the life and health of all Ohioans by restoring the rights granted under the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973.

Signature Collection

- The petition drive is progressing according to plan.

- We are both pleased and gratified by the enthusiastic response we are receiving from people in Ohio's cities, suburbs, villages, and rural areas.
- We are focused on executing our field plan, recruiting and mobilizing volunteers and supporters, ensuring that every Ohioan who wants to sign a petition has the opportunity to do so, and validating the signatures we have already gathered.
- You can help us accomplish that important task by urging everyone in your group to return the petitions they now have—we'll be more than happy to give them new ones.

Working with Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom (ORF)

- OPRR and ORF joined forces earlier this year to draft the amendment and win the approval of both the Attorney General and the Ballot Board so we could begin collecting the signatures needed to place the issue on the ballot.
- We accomplished those important tasks and are now working collaboratively to ensure that we use all the resources at our disposal as effectively and efficiently as possible as the petition drive continues.
- Our organizations are and will remain united in purpose as we strive to achieve our mutual goal: enshrining reproductive freedom and abortion access in the Ohio Constitution this year.

Lawsuit Against the Ballot Board

- The frivolous lawsuit filed by an anti-abortion splinter group is meritless and unprecedented.
- The bipartisan Ballot Board followed the law and unanimously approved our language.
- The Supreme Court will deal with the issue shortly and is expected to rule in our favor.
- In any case, the suit has not and will not deter or distract us from accomplishing our mission: restoring and protecting reproductive rights and abortion access in our state.