

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

Vol. XLVIII No. 3

Circulation 5,425

November 2020

## Candidates face off with sharply contrasting views on human life

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC has released a comprehensive Voter Guide for the 2020 general election. The guide is based on the candidates' voting records and public statements, compiled by the Federation, often with the assistance of local pro-life groups like People for Life.

A candidate who is identified as *pro-life* is one who supports legislation and public policies that will protect prenatal children and supports caring alternatives to abortion. A candidate who is identified as *pro-abortion* is one who will not support legislation or public policies that protect prenatal children. A candidate's position on abortion usually reflects his or her positions on other key human life issues such as assisted suicide, euthanasia, and infanticide.

Abortion is a tremendously important human rights issue for voters, especially because of the magnitude of the tragedy: Nearly a million American children have their lives ended by abortion every year.

Here is what the Federation PAC has to say about the candidates who are on the ballot in northwestern Pennsylvania for the November 3 general election.

**FEDERAL RACES** In the Presidential race, Donald Trump & Mike Pence (R) are pro-life; Joe Biden & Kamala Harris (D) are pro-abortion. In the 16th Congressional District, Mike Kelly (R) is pro-life; Kristy

Gnibus (D) is pro-abortion. In the 15th Congressional District, Glenn Thompson (R) is pro-life; Robert Williams (D) is pro-abortion.

**STATEWIDE RACES** In the race for state Attorney General, Heather Heidelbaugh (R) is pro-life; Josh Shapiro (D) is pro-abortion. In the race for state Auditor General, Tim Defoor (R) is pro-life; Nina Ahmad (D) is pro-abortion. In the race for state Treasurer, Stacy Garrity (R) is pro-life; Joe Torsella (D) is pro-abortion.

**PA STATE SENATE** In the 49th District, Dan Laughlin (R) has a mixed record; Julie Slomski (D) is pro-abortion.

**PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** In the 1st District, Pat Harkins (D), running unopposed, is pro-abortion. In the 2nd District, Bob Merski (D), running unopposed, is pro-abortion. In the 3rd District, Greg Hayes (R) is pro-life; Ryan Bizzarro (D) is pro-abortion. In the 4th District, Curt Sonney (R), running unopposed, is pro-life. In the 6th District, Brad Roae (R) is pro-life; Matthew Ferrence (D) is listed, *position unknown*. In the 7th District, Mark Longiotti (D), running unopposed, is pro-life. In the 17th District, Parke Wentling (R), running unopposed, is pro-life. In 65th District, Kathy Rapp (R), running unopposed, is pro-life.

An online version of the Federation PAC

voter guide is available at: [www.paprolife.org/2020vg](http://www.paprolife.org/2020vg).

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER** Another way to learn about the candidates' position on human life issues is to see who their friends are. An endorsement from a pro-abortion organization indicates the highest level of confidence that the candidate will advance the pro-abortion agenda.

In the current election cycle, Julie Slomski (D), running in state Senate District 49 against incumbent Dan Laughlin (R), is one of only 11 state Senate candidates who are endorsed by Planned Parenthood (the largest abortion provider in the United States). She is also endorsed by Emily's List, a political action committee dedicated exclusively to electing pro-abortion women.

Nina Ahmad (D), running for state Auditor General, is endorsed by Emily's List and the pro-abortion National Organization for Women.

Kristy Gnibus (D), running in the 16th District Congressional District against pro-life Mike Kelly, is endorsed by the National Organization for Women.

The Biden-Harris presidential ticket is endorsed, as you might expect, by Planned Parenthood, NARAL and NOW. Additionally, Kamala Harris is endorsed by Emily's List, which only endorses pro-abortion females.

## Most Pro-Life Political Convention

Describing President Trump as "the most pro-life president" seemed like optimistic hyperbole not so long ago, but the title gradually became axiomatic within the pro-life community. By all legitimate measurements, Donald Trump has indeed earned the distinction of being the most pro-life president America has ever seen. No one should have been surprised, then, that the Republican National Convention, August 24-27 was the most pro-life political party convention that America has ever seen.

Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood abortion facility director, spoke candidly about the horror of the abortion procedure, describing a sonogram of the unborn child fighting to escape the surgical instruments and the baby's spine twirling around in the mother's womb in the final moments of the procedure.

Sister Deirdre Byrne, a former military surgeon and U.S. Army Colonel, declared that "We must fight against a legislative agenda that supports and even celebrates destroying life in the womb," correctly

warning that the Biden-Harris ticket is the "most anti-life ever... even supporting the horrors of late-term abortion and infanticide."

Cabinet Secretary Ben Carson deplored "the fact that African Americans have the highest abortion rate."

Nick Sandman talked about becoming the target of the "full war machine of the mainstream media," primarily because he attended the March for Life and wore a MAGA hat.

And there were these stirring words from President Trump himself, "Tonight we

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## Pro-Life Breakfast

Plans are moving forward for the 43rd Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, despite the continuing uncertainties due to COVID-19. The event is scheduled for January 16, 2021 at the Bayfront Convention Center as usual.



Our special guest speaker will be Rachel Bovard, Senior Director of Policy at the Conservative Partnership Institute in Washington, DC.

Rachel is a native of the Finger Lakes region, born and raised in Dansville, New York a little south of Rochester. She studied history and political science at Grove City College, graduating summa cum laude in 2006. She also earned a master's degree

from the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University.

Rachel was highly recommended by Dr. Paul Kengor, one of her professors at Grove City. Dr. Kengor was the guest speaker at our 2015 Pro-Life Breakfast.

Beginning in 2006, Rachel served in the U.S. House and Senate in various roles, including legislative director for Senator Rand Paul. In 2013 she was named one of Washington DC's most influential women under 35 by *National Journal*.

Rachel's writing has appeared in many prominent publications, and she has made multiple radio and television appearances on: MSNBC, CNBC, Fox Business, EWTN, NPR, and other venues.

The cost of tickets will be announced and online registration will be available as soon as possible, but probably not until some of the uncertainties due to COVID-19 have been resolved. For the latest information, please monitor: our website, the Pro-Life Breakfast Facebook page, and our E-Mail Updates.

## March for Life Bus Trip

The 2021 Washington, DC March for Life has been pushed back to Friday, January 29 because of the presidential inauguration, which will take place on Wednesday, January 20. People for Life has three buses ready to go, so please start making plans to join us.

Our Bus Trip is designed to be economical in terms of both time and money. The entire trip takes only about 26 hours, and seats are still only \$55. Pay by December 26 and receive a \$5 subsidy as a thank you. Early reservations help us decide if we have chartered the correct number of buses. Online reservations will be available in early November. Payments can also be made at our office or by mail.

## MFL Bus Sponsorships

We work very hard each year to send as many people and buses as possible to the March for Life. We do all we can to make the March for Life experience available to everyone: by relying on as many people as possible to pay their own way and by encouraging others, who are able, to help those on tight budgets, students and young families for instance, with the cost of their seats. A donation of \$55 will cover the full cost of one seat or allow two marchers to get their seats at half-price. Smaller donations help, too.

In addition to the cost of a seat, marchers are responsible for their own meals and Metro fare (about \$10).

Requests for sponsorship are always welcome, so do not hesitate to ask. It's a win-win proposition. We help with the cost, and you help fill our buses.

To those faithful souls who sponsor one or more marchers every year, thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

## January 2021

[www.PeopleforLife.life/january2021](http://www.PeopleforLife.life/january2021)  
[www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife](https://www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife)

### Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 16, 2021, 9 a.m.  
Erie Bayfront Convention Center  
Special Guest Speaker: Rachel Bovard  
[www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](https://www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast)

### Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 11 a.m.  
Begins and Concludes at Perry Square

### March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 28, 2021 at 11 p.m.  
Return about 1:30 a.m., January 30  
\$55 per seat / \$50 until December 26  
[www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](https://www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)

## Oratory Contest

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on May 23, 2020 after being pushed back from the original date of April 18 due to COVID-19.

First place was awarded to Thomas Caulfield, who was 16 and a 10th grade home school student at the time. The second place winner was Clare Caulfield, who was 16 and a 9th grade home school student. Paige Guadagno, who was 15 and a 9th grade student at Commonwealth Charter Academy, took third place.

The topics were, respectively: Planned Parenthood and suppression of the truth, Pennsylvania's Down Syndrome Protection Act and a Wolf in sheep's clothing, and God's unconditional love: Why my parents and my friends' parents rejected abortion.

The next Oratory Contest will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021. All high school students are welcome to participate. Watch for additional details online and in the next issue of the *Erie Echo*.

## YouTube Channel

People for Life recently opened its own YouTube channel. The first uploaded videos were from the 2020 Oratory Contest.

The URLs are, for Thomas Caulfield's speech, [youtu.be/tVvtSIIIOPc](https://youtu.be/tVvtSIIIOPc) and, for Clare Caulfield's speech, [youtu.be/6mHg\\_P1CZDI](https://youtu.be/6mHg_P1CZDI).

Please *like* the two videos and subscribe to our new channel. While you are at it, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, too.

## Membership Renewal

Is your People for Life membership expired or coming due for renewal? If you are not sure, we can check for you. Not everyone who receives the *Erie Echo* newsletter is a member. New members automatically receive the *Erie Echo*, but newsletter

subscriptions are not automatically discontinued when the regular 12-month memberships expire.



Love him, hate him, support or oppose, the facts are still the facts. "Pro-Life" is the idea that intentionally killing an innocent human being as a solution to personal or societal problems is always and everywhere impermissible—from the womb to the tomb. Thank you, Desantis Signs, for the nice banner!

**FROM PAGE 1** Convention proudly declare that all children born and unborn have a God given right to life.ö The 2020 Republican Convention

deserves a prominent place in the long list of President Trump's remarkable first-term pro-life accomplishment. But please don't forget to leave room for

at least one more monumental accomplishment: the President's nomination of a brilliant, pro-life woman to the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett.

*Memorials*

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Jean & Tim Yurkovic	Rev. Michael Allison	Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters
Maureen Anthony	Judge Fred Anthony	Jean & Tim Yurkovic	Leo "Leon" Liniewicz
Jean & Tim Yurkovic	Fr. Daniel Arnold	Helen Quimby	Wayne Quimby
Jean & Tim Yurkovic	Mary Ann Arnold	David & Kathy Wayman	Jim Salter
Barbara Duchini	Caroline Ball	Mary Speice	James Speice
Margaret Mitchell	Ann Bednar	Jean & Tim Yurkovic	Geraldine Tomczak
Siebenbuerger Ladies Auxiliary	Ann Bednar	Sheila Valley	Roman Matthew Valley
Florence Winslow	Ann Bednar	David & Linda Wilamowski	Henry & Doris Wilamowski
Barbara Wnukowski	Ann Bednar	Maureen Berarducci	James Yadeski
Marilyn Bartlett	Angeline Berarducci	Betty & James Dalessandro	James Yadeski
Barb Cesare	Mark Borowy	John Fitzgerald	James Yadeski
Linda Etter	Mark Borowy	Rita & Edward Goebel	James Yadeski
Judge Daniel J. Brabender Jr.	Dan & Jane Brabender	George & Char Gustafson	James Yadeski
Amy Mulligan	KJ Carroll	Bill & Jackie Hendricks	James Yadeski
Patricia M. Popovich	The John & Josephine Dobrowolski Family	MaryAnn, Donny, and Gerrienne Holl	James Yadeski
Janice M. Pelensky	Mary Ellen Dunn	Glen & Carol Kuzma	James Yadeski
Barbara Duchini	Roger Eck	Richard, Mary, Alison, & Jim Lamp	James Yadeski
John & Debbie Adams	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	John & Michelle McElhenny	James Yadeski
Mary & Dave Dombrowski	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Mike & Debbie Murnock	James Yadeski
John & Kathy Griffith	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Karen & Dave Nelson	James Yadeski
Eleanor Lindenberger	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Bernard & Dorothy Pamula	James Yadeski
Anita Smith	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Frank Riley & Family	James Yadeski
Judy & Andy Wagner	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Dana & Kim Volkman	James Yadeski
Roberta Waldinger	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Jack & Penny Warmbrod	James Yadeski
Terri S. Ward	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Mary Warner	James Yadeski
Bonnie Lee Williams	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Rich & Sue Weber	James Yadeski
Rose Ann Yadeski	Mary "Peg" Fitzgerald	Bob & Marianne Wiczorek	James Yadeski
Bonnie Berarducci	Ray Fitzgerald	Tom & Chris Yadeski	James Yadeski
Judge Daniel J. Brabender Jr.	Ray Fitzgerald	Jean & Tim Yurkovic	James Yadeski
Tim & Juliet Broderick	Ray Fitzgerald	Nancy Zurawski	James Yadeski
Sharlene Guzy	Ted Guzy		
Guy D. Hagen	Donald D. & Audrey Hagen	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Mary Warner	Joanne Jackson	Patricia A. Grosso	Mary our Mother
Mary & Dave Dombrowski	Joanne Jackson	Marian E. Adelman	My children
Rose Ann Yadeski	Joanne Jackson	Erie Church of God	Unborn Babies
Ronald Kopf	Patricia Kopf	Tom & Chris Yadeski	Rose Ann Yadeski
Catherine Kraft	Bob Kraft		

**JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile? Yes  | No  Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile? Yes  | No  Do not text

AFFILIATED WITH (e.g., church, organization, business) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK/PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

1. DONATION: \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year): Individual \$10  Family \$20  Senior Citizen /Student \$5  New  Renewal

3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of  or In Honor of

4. TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Call when you need an extra hand.

Please make your check payable to: PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
www.PeopleforLife.life

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phone / fax (814) 459-1333  
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**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 1126  
Erie, PA 16512

**— Office Location —**  
1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA  
Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays  
Call for evening and Saturday hours

## Surviving COVID-19

We hope you and your family have been staying safe during the COVID-19 crisis. That has thankfully been the case with your People for Life leadership and the organization's close contacts and volunteers.

We are happy to report that People for Life has been surviving economically, but not without extra help from our friends. We did avoid some significant expenditures, because the dozen or so community events where we normally conduct educational outreach were all cancelled. It is assumed sometimes that our pro-life booths generate income, but that is not at all the case.

The time we would have devoted to the pro-life booths was, instead, spent reaching out to our friends and asking for their financial support, to make up some major budget shortfalls.

Our most important annual fundraiser, the Mother's Day Carnation Project was entirely shut down. We were hoping that the whole effort could be moved to Father's Day, but the virus, as well as the authorities, had other plans. We did what we could, providing carnations for Mothers and Fathers on Father's Day to about 30 smaller churches. But we handled only 5% of the carnation volume that we normally do on a Mother's Day weekend. Unfortunately, lost revenues were still far in excess of \$10,000.

Contributions to our People for Life Education Fund on Erie Gives Day were a major blessing, with 111 donors giving a total of \$7,845, nearly \$2,500 more than the year before.

Seven years ago, we took on a second major fundraising project: Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk, and now more than ever we are very glad we did. Fortunately, the impact of COVID-19 on this event was very minimal. It was a successful fundraiser, thanks to 130 registrations, a dozen \$250 sponsors, and 20 or so \$50 and \$150 sponsorships.

## 7th Annual Life Run

Everything about this year's Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk on October 10 was picture perfect, including the weather. Our 130 participants enjoyed mostly sunny skies and 70 degree temperatures.

We are thankful for each of our runners and walkers! We are also thankful to: Harborcreek Township and the township Supervisors for the use of the township roads and Slade Road Park; DJ (and Erie County councilman) Brian Shank for donating his excellent DJ services; Burch Farms for once again offering free wine tasting; all of our great sponsors; and all of our wonderful volunteers!

Please check out all of our sponsors at [www.peopleforlife.life](http://www.peopleforlife.life).

The winning athletes turned in some very impressive times. In the Women's 5K open category, Mary Jaskowak (24) of Erie took first place (and first place overall) with a time of 19:40; Helen McCormick (15) of Erie took second place with a time of 22:26; and Lauren Raimy (15) of Erie took third place with a time of 22:28. In the Men's 5K open category, Shawn Wiler (26) of Columbus, PA took first place with a time of 19:41; Nathan Smith (14) of Harborcreek took second place with a time of 21:47; and Peter Caulfield (19) of Erie took third place with a time of 22:14.

In the Women's 10K open category, Bridget Fetzner (46) of Waterford took first

place (and first place overall) with a time of 44:34; Theresa Hinkler (46) of Erie took second place with a time of 48:55; and Olivia Zeigler (10) of Albion took third place with a time of 52:51. In the Men's 10K open category, John Clark (48) of Cranesville took first place with a time of 46:56; John Rowden (58) of Cambridge Springs took second place with a time of 50:32; and Rod Brest (72) of Meadville took third place with a time of 55:26.

## Yard Sign Phenomenon

Our Vote Pro-Life yard signs have been a popular item lately. You may have seen some of them popping up in the Erie area.

We have been offering the red, white and blue signs since 2008. Between 2008 and 2020, we distributed about 250. This year we have distributed about 650, most of them in the last two to three months. It has been quite a phenomenon. It is a strong indication that a lot of people fully realize and have taken to heart what is at stake in the upcoming election.

It has become almost customary over the years to say that the next election will be the most important we have ever faced. But now we are witnessing pro-abortion extremists pulling out all the stops, waging war against any and all limitations on abortion and even fighting against protection for infants born alive during failed abortion attempts. At the same time, we are witnessing, in Donald Trump, the most pro-life president our country has ever seen.

It looks like many people are convinced that if the pro-life cause does not prevail this time around, chances of a comeback in the foreseeable future are very slim.

**Wisdom from Social Media**  
% vote is not a valentine. You are not confessing your love for the candidate. It's a chess move for the world you want to live in.+

## 2020 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2021

<b>Nov. 3</b>	Presidential Election
<b>Dec. 26</b>	Last day for the March for Life Bus Trip early bird subsidy
<b>Jan. 16</b>	43rd Annual Pro-Life Breakfast - Erie Bayfront Convention Center
<b>Jan. 23</b>	Erie March for Life - downtown Erie
<b>Jan. 28</b>	48th Annual Bus Trip to the March for Life - leaves Erie at 11 p.m.
<b>Jan. 29</b>	48th Annual March for Life - Washington, DC
<b>Jan. 30</b>	March for Life buses return to Erie approximately 1:30 a.m.
<b>March 5</b>	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
<b>April 19</b>	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
<b>April 24</b>	People for Life High School Oratory Contest
<b>April 26</b>	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries
<b>April 30</b>	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
<b>May 9</b>	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
<b>May 17</b>	Annual Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
<b>June 25-26</b>	National Right to Life Convention - Herndon, VA