

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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PA Life Amendment

The abortion industry, led by Planned Parenthood and the Women's Law Project extremist groups, have brought a law suit before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court claiming that the constitution of Pennsylvania requires the state to pay for elective abortions. The suit is based on the premise that abortion is nothing more than routine health care and that applying any restrictions or special regulations on the practice amounts to unconstitutional discrimination that targets women. It is likely that the state Supreme Court will rule in favor of the abortion industry in the near future, discovering that there is a fundamental right to abortion on demand hidden away in Pennsylvania's constitution. The decision could come at any time.

Not only will taxpayer funding of abortions be mandatory, significantly increasing the number of lives lost, but it will be practically impossible to protect babies even in the last three months of pregnancy. The Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act, with its common sense protections for unborn children and their mothers, will not survive. The Abortion Control Act, in force since the 1990s, requires that a woman be informed about the physical development of the baby and the availability of alternatives to

abortion, then given 24 hours to consider the information. The Abortion Control Act also ensures that at least one parent is involved in a minor daughter's abortion decision or that a judge determines, in extenuating circumstances, that the minor is mature enough to opt for abortion without a parent's involvement. Even the ability of state health regulators to conduct inspections of abortion facilities will be compromised.

The only sure way to prevent a disaster for the pro-life cause is for Pennsylvanians to amend their constitution and spell out in no uncertain terms that abortion is not a fundamental right in the Commonwealth.

Amending the Pennsylvania constitution is not a simple process. The amendment must be approved by majorities in the state House and state Senate, not once but twice, in two consecutive legislative sessions. Then it must be placed on the ballot in a general election and approved by a majority of the voters. Although it is a challenging procedure, it is possible that a strong, concerted effort will succeed, given that there are pro-life majorities in both the House and Senate. Fortunately, a constitutional amendment is not subject to a governor's veto.

Our first urgent tasks are to make sure the leaders in both House and Senate bring the amendment to a vote in a timely manner and to do everything possible to see that our own state representative and state senator vote to approve it. If all goes well, the process will be completed with the general election on November 7, 2023.

Action Request

Please send an e-mail or letter to your legislators and for good measure make a phone call, too. Your basic message should be: "Please support the Life Amendment to our state constitution. There is no right to abortion in our constitution, and that is the way it should be. The people of Pennsylvania deserve a chance to participate in the lawmaking process, especially in important matters that affect the lives of so many Pennsylvanians. The will of the people should not be overridden by the seven people on our state Supreme Court."

If you would like to mention the bill numbers, they are SB 956 for the Senate and HB 2252 for the House of Representatives.

Learn more and get contact information for the state legislators of northwestern Pennsylvania at peopleforlife.org/lifeamend.

Vote Pro-Life Billboard Project

The gift of life is the most important issue in every election. People for Life is planning a series of 10 billboards to reinforce this truth in local hearts and minds. It will be a bold but simple message: "Vote Pro-Life. Abortion hurts everyone." We think it is a good, and very important, message and hope that our friends and donors will agree. If there is enough financial support available, we would love to increase the number of billboard locations.

During the 2020 election season we distributed over 700 Vote Pro-Life yard signs. The red, white, and blue billboards will be based on the same design and should make a nice match with the signs in people's yards. The yard signs will continue to be available from People for Life.

Define 'Pro-Life'

Let's take a closer look at our message. What

do we mean when we say "pro-life"? Simple! Killing any human being in an attempt to solve personal or societal problems is never permissible. You don't intentionally eliminate a human being to solve a problem.

Vote Pro-Life?

So what does it mean to vote pro-life? This is not complicated either. It means that protecting and defending the fundamental right of every individual to continue living must be given the highest possible priority in every election. Being pro-life is a matter of practicing proper priorities; it is much more than just agreeing with a certain opinion. Voting to improve the quality of life, for others or even for oneself, is entirely legitimate, but not if it undercuts the right to life. To consciously choose quality of life over life itself is an abhorrent inversion of proper priorities.

Why a 'political' message?

In our democratic republic, the voters, or more precisely, all those who are eligible to vote, are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all members of society are treated justly and that basic human rights are never desecrated. Politics is one of the most important means by which we look out for one another. When we vote, we must never forget that we are indeed our brother's and sister's keeper, to use a biblical allusion. Each of us must decide whether the most fundamental human right and the dignity of human life are essential or optional. We, the people of the United States and residents of Pennsylvania, have been given the power to govern. The question is this: Shall we govern responsibly or rule as narrow-minded tyrants?

continued on page 2

FROM PAGE 1 Billboards

Single-Issue Voter?

öBut you are not going say you are a one-issue voter, are you?ö The answer should be a resounding, YES, of course, I am. When lives hang in the balance, when hundreds of thousand of lives hang in the balance as in the case of legalized abortion, we have a solemn duty to be single issue voters. If anyone challenges this, please ask them, öWhat other issues would be more important to you, if it were *your* life that hung in the balance?ö

Target Audience

We don't live in a perfect world, and unfortunately no billboard message will ever convince or compel the entire population to embrace our single-issue convictions. So what can we hope to accomplish with billboards? Are they a good idea, or not?

It is disheartening, but polling shows that only about 10% of American voters make protecting the unborn the top priority when they vote. This is disheartening. Beyond this 10% are many people who should know better, people who already understand that abortion is a grave act of violence that kills an innocent child. Some of these people are so passionate that they even use pro-life bumper stickers and pray daily to öendö abortion. Yet they are not even registered to vote.

There are many excuses. Some people say their vote will not make a difference, even though we have all heard about elections that were decided by just a handful of votes, or even a single vote. Some think that abortion is legal (through all nine months in many places) because the majority of Americans want it that way. They forget that abortion was legalized by only seven men on the U.S. Supreme Court

who forced their opinion on the rest of America. To this very day only about 10% of Americans fully agree with Roe v. Wade, at least not after they find out what the decision actually says and how extreme it really is. Others feel like they are all alone in their convictions and that our nation's blindness to the evil of abortion too engrained. What if the opponents of slavery or segregation thought that way? Pro-life billboards and yard signs can help assure these pessimistic people that they are far from alone. Still others have been hoodwinked by those who deliberately and cynically distort the term öpro-lifeö to comport with their personal political agenda. That is why our billboards are worded to go directly to the heart of the matter: Abortion Hurts Everyone.

The billboards will be a resounding success if they do nothing more than motivate a small subset of voters to take human life issues more seriously, thereby encouraging them to reevaluate their priorities. Likewise, if the billboards help more pro-life people recognize the connection between öbeing pro-lifeö and VOTING, it will be ömission accomplished.ö

Pro-Abortion Backlash?

But won't highlighting human life issues and opposition to abortion mobilize pro-abortion voters just as much as pro-life voters? Not likely.

First of all, polls show that single issue pro-abortion voters are even more unusual than single issue pro-life voters. Abortion advocates often insist that öno one is pro-abortion.ö There is some truth to this, even though there are plenty of people who are indeed pro-abortion in every sense of the term. But it is not easy to be completely in the tank for baby-killing.

The pro-life position offers love, hope, true compassion, and unlimited possibilities. The pro-abortion side offers nothing but a dead baby and empty arms. The truth is, life holds no guarantees, but abortion holds no possibilities.

So what about all the people who don't yet embrace our entire pro-life vision but do know, deep down, that abortion is not a good thing, those who realize that their pro-life friends do, at least, have a point? For some of these people, voting pro-life might mean choosing the pro-life candidate over the extremist candidate who cheers for third trimester abortions or thinks that the public schools should teach children that öAbortion is Health Care.ö For others, who might understand the heartbreak of abortion from personal experience, it could mean choosing the pro-life candidate over the pro-abortion candidate that would do away with common sense protections for women such as informed consent, parental consent, and one day waiting period regulations. Still others might draw the line at pro-abortion politicians who vow to use our tax dollars to pay for abortions as casually as if they were no different than an eye exam.

The Life Amendment

The Pennsylvania Life Amendment is expected to be on the ballot in 2023. Anyone who votes for the Life Amendment, whether they wear the 100% pro-life label or not, will be casting a vote of epic pro-life importance. The Life Amendment will not make a single abortion illegal, but it will stop our opponents from expunging every commonsense law and regulation that pro-life Pennsylvanians have struggled to enact over the last 50 years. So, let's mainstream the message: Vote Pro-Life!

Election: Congress and PA General Assembly

See peopleforlife.org for last-minute updates.

We sent a questionnaire to each candidate.

Incomplete information may be due to the lack of a response. Some ratings are based on the PA Pro-Life Federation 2020 Voter Guide.

In the 16th Congressional District, incumbent George J. öMikeö Kelly (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record. He is passionately pro-life. Since first elected in 2010, Mike Kelly has never missed our Pro-Life Breakfast, a long winter's drive from his hometown of Butler. He has been a featured speaker at the Washington, DC March for Life. Richard Telesz's (D) position is unknown, but we did receive an email in response to our questionnaire. It was a CC of a message from Telesz's political consulting company, with a curious notation: öNah.. these are the pro-life people.ö Dan Pastore's (D) position is clear, according to a report from KDKA in Pittsburgh: öI do believe in a woman's right to choose, and the issue should be decided between a woman and her health care providers.ö

In the 15th Congressional District, Glenn Thompson (R) is unopposed. He has a 100% pro-life voting record, is no less passionately pro-life than his colleague Mike Kelly, and has also been a frequent guest at the Pro-Life Breakfast.

The only state Senate race in our area this year is in the 50th District, south of Erie County. In that race, Michele Brooks (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record and is a frequent sponsor of pro-life legislation. She has spoken at the Pro-Life Breakfast and was the keynote speaker at the Erie March for Life a few years ago. Rianna Czech's (D) position is not known, but she is supported by the pro-abortion Run for Something PAC.

Here is what we know about the candidates for the state House. ★In the 1st District, incumbent Pat Harkins's (D) voting record is pro-abortion. Challenger Andre Horton's (D) position is unknown. ★2nd District incumbent Bob Merski's (D) voting record is pro-abortion. Challenger Paul Pitonyak's (R) position is unknown. ★3rd District incumbent Ryan Bizzarro (D) is pro-abortion, and, sadly, very stridently so.

Incumbent Joseph Kujawa (R) takes a pro-life position. ★The 4th District is an open seat.

continued on page 4

Statewide Candidates

Here is where the statewide primary candidates stand, according to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. In the race for governor, all nine Republican candidates are identified as pro-life. The single Democratic candidate, Josh Shapiro is identified as pro-abortion. In the race for lieutenant governor, all nine Republican candidates are pro-life. There are three candidates on the Democratic side. Austin Davis and Brian Sims are pro-abortion. Raymond Sosa's position is unknown. Brian Sims once videoed himself harassing a mother and daughter who were attempting to sidewalk counsel in front of an abortion facility. In the race for U.S. Senate, six of the seven Republican candidates are identified as pro-life and the position of one, Mehmet Oz, is reported as unknown. Oz was decidedly supportive of abortion in 2019 but now says he thinks of himself as öpro-life.ö All five Democratic candidates are identified as pro-abortion.

Patricia Sandoval: 2023 Pro-Life Breakfast Speaker

The 2023 Pro-Life Breakfast is a long eight months away, but we already have a special guest speaker that we can't wait to tell you about. Patricia Sandoval is an international pro-life speaker who has traveled the world since 2007 sharing the story of her three abortions as well as employment behind the dark doors of Planned Parenthood. She experienced a gradual downward spiral that eventually swept Patricia into nearly three years of homelessness and drug addiction.

Today, Patricia hosts a weekly television

program, *Pro-Life Report* (*Informe Próvida*) on EWTN Español. Married with two beautiful young children, she is the author of *Transfigured*, a book, published in several languages, that tells her remarkable story.

Abortion kills babies, the smallest, most innocent, and most defenseless of all human beings. Abortion is also a mortal danger to our entire culture, society, and nation. The huge loss of life and the tragic deadening of our collective sense of right and wrong, good and evil are not the only tragedies. There are also

the women, haunted by their abortion experiences and in some cases completely submerged in a black abyss where life is cheap and existence is ultimately meaningless. But there is hope and transformation! This is the story of Patricia Sandoval.

The 45th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will, God willing, take place on January 14, 2023, once again at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Patricia will have a book signing after the program, but copies of *Transfigured* are available now from People for Life.

Mother's Day Carnations

Preparations for our annual Mother's Day Carnation Project are in full swing. We are working once again with scores of churches to help celebrate all mothers and motherhood and raise much-needed funds to support all facets of our pro-life educational work. The carnations, in 18 beautiful colors and styles, will arrive from Columbia during the week of

May 1. Volunteers will be needed to prepare and distribute them, especially on Friday, May 6. Let us know, please, if you would like to help. Also, we welcome any church that would like to be involved, and local businesses, too.

Erie Gives Day

August 9 is Erie Gives Day. Please support the People for Life Education Fund. Your tax-deductible donation will be partially matched

by local sponsors through the Erie Community Foundation. Get more information at eriegives.org.

Hear Dr. Ben Carson

In case you have not heard, Dr. Ben Carson will be the keynote speaker at the PA Pro-Life Federation Celebrate Life Banquet on October 21 in Harrisburg. See paprolife.org for complete information.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
John Pfadt	Judge Fred Anthony	Carl & Mary Poniatowski	Henry Poniatowski
Cathy Truden	Tera Bisbee Forever 28	Carl & Mary Poniatowski	Ronald Poniatowski
Lois Borowy	Mark Borowy	Sanibel Stravinsky	Mary & Bob Terrill
Linda Etter	Mark Borowy	Angeliki Agrafiotis	My Husband Thomas
Ruth Dimerling	Robert Dimerling	Sue & Jerry Verga	Jesse Verga
Scott & Paula Hilinski	Walter Hilinski	Rebecca Nelson	Veronica Whitman
Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters		
Stephanie & David Lindenberger	Eleanor Lindenberger	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Scott & Paula Hilinski	Leonard Mankosky	Terry, Joan, Kathy, Linda, Polly	Francis Birchard
Anita Smith	Cynthia Manna	Doug, Steve, Fred, Scott	
Marla Pellegrino	Mother	Kathy & Joe Daniels & Family	John & Bert Seepe
Carl & Mary Poniatowski	Francis Poniatowski		

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

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 Call for evening and Saturday hours

FROM PAGE 2 4th District

Chelsea Oliver (D) position is unknown. Jason Monn (R) returned our questionnaire with all pro-life responses. Jake Banta (R) position is unknown. Jennifer Lesh (R) position is unknown. Gregory Hayes (R) is pro-life. He attends the Pro-Life Breakfast and occasionally visits our office. Joseph Concilla (R) returned a questionnaire with all pro-life responses. During a visit to People for Life several weeks ago, he took a strong pro-life position. ★ In the 6th District, incumbent Brad Roae (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record and is a frequent guest at the Pro-Life Breakfast. The positions of John Diamond (D) and Nerissa Galt (D) are unknown. ★ In the 7th District, incumbent Parke Wentling (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record and is a frequent Pro-Life Breakfast attendee. Mitchel Henderson (D) position is unknown. Timothy McGonigle (D) returned pro-life responses to our questionnaire, except for noting support for exceptions in cases of rape, incest, and when the mother's life is compromised due to the pregnancy. ★ In the 65th District, incumbent Kath Rapp (R), is unopposed. She is the co-chair of the House Pro-Life Caucus and a primary sponsor of many important pro-life bills. Also a the Pro-Life Breakfast attendee, she has a 100% pro-life voting record.

Bus: PA March for Life

People for Life is arranging bus transportation to the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, September 19, 2022.

The roundtrip to Harrisburg will cost \$45 per seat. We will leave Erie bright and early that morning and return at approximately 8 p.m. the same day. Monitor our website and Facebook page for all the details as they are finalized. At this time, we have one Anderson Coach & Travel bus reserved, but we will gladly charter additional motor coaches if required. Anderson has been our favorite bus company for many years.

Are you interested in taking the bus to the PA March for Life? We would love to hear what you think. As with the annual March for Life Bus Trip in January, we encourage inquiries about financial help from our sponsors. Seats can be reserved by

mailing your payment to P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512 or delivering it to 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. Include a name, phone number, and, if possible, an email address with each reservation.

Oratory Contest Winners

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on April 9 at the Blasco Memorial Library in Erie. The first place award went to high school senior Thomas Caulfield for his speech titled, "A Defense of Personhood." The second place winner was Alaina Carrol, a high school junior. Alaina's speech was titled, "Abortion and Down Syndrome." Claire Caulfield, also a junior, took third place with her speech, "Is there ever a good reason for an abortion?" All three winners are home schoolers. Each of them received a cash prize.

All three speeches were excellent in both content and delivery. Hear them for yourself on the People for Life YouTube channel. Just search YouTube using "People for Life," with the quotation marks.

Life Run 5K/10K & Walk

Our 9th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk will take place on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Race time is 9 a.m. The events will be based again this year at Slade Park in Harborcreek Twp. For the latest news, follow Life Run at: [Facebook.com/LifeRunErie](https://www.facebook.com/LifeRunErie).

Big White Trailer will handle the digital timing. There will be convenient parking, free

refreshments, free wine tasting at nearby Burch Farms Country Market, and the enticing aroma of vineyards ready for harvest. Registration will remain open until 8:40 a.m. on race day, but please register by September 26 to be sure of getting a Life Run t-shirt. Complete information and online registration are available at: [PeopleforLife.org/liferun](https://www.PeopleforLife.org/liferun).

Business owners, professionals, and other organizations are invited to be Life Run sponsors. The levels are \$300, \$150, and \$50. Sponsors will be displayed on the race t-shirts and, with their approval, on our website. Sponsor registration will soon be available online.

Party State Committee Races

We mailed questionnaires to the 27 Democratic and Republican candidates from Erie and Crawford counties who are running to serve on their party's state committee. Five Republicans provided 100% pro-life responses: B. Eddie, C. Greig, G. Greig, R. McGregor, and L. Pezino; J. Pepper's response leaned pro-life. T. Kuzma has returned 100% pro-life questionnaires in several previous election cycles. Of the other Republicans with whom we are familiar we think it is pretty safe to assume that J. Friend, R. Smith, and S. Sterrett also hold pro-life positions.

None of the Democratic candidates responded. However, one of them, Kristy Gribus, made her pro-abortion views very public when she ran for Congress against Mike Kelly in 2020.

Our Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022. It will be held at our office, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. The nominees are: Tim Broderick, president; Carol Struchen, treasurer; Shauna Jackson, secretary; Gretchen Lorei, first vice president; Dale Klobusnik, second vice president; and Megan Bonk, third vice president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life. Only individuals whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting are eligible to vote.

2022 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2023

May 2	Last day to register for the PA Primary Election
May 6-8	Mother's Day Carnation Project in full swing
May 8	Mother's Day
May 10	Last day to request a PA mail-in or absentee ballot
May 16	Annual Election of Officers Meeting - 1625 W. 26th St.
May 17	Pennsylvania Primary Election
June 16-18	Educational Booth - Lake City Fire Company Carnival
June 24-25	National Right to Life Convention - Atlanta, Georgia
Six Educational Booths between July 6 to September 17 <i>details omitted to conserve space</i>	
Sept. 19	PA March for Life Bus Trip - Roundtrip to Harrisburg
Oct. 8	Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk - Harborcreek Township
Oct 21	Dr. Ben Carson speaking at the PA Pro-Life Banquet
Oct. 24	Last day to register for the PA General Election
Nov. 1	Last day to request a PA mail-in or absentee ballot
Nov. 8	ELECTION DAY
Jan. 14	Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center
Jan 19	Buses depart for the Washington, DC March for Life
Jan 28	Erie March for Life - Based at Perry Square, Erie