

ERIE ECHO NEWSLETTER

ADDENDUM TO THE MAY 2023 ISSUE

Candidate Survey for the May 16, 2023 Primary Election Additional Entries (last updated May 12)

Questions 1 to 9 can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Erie County Council District 5 four-year term vote for (1)										
R	Brian Shank	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Erie City School Director four-year term vote for not more than (4)										
D	Gwendolyn Cooley ²	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
General McLane School Director Region 2 four-year term vote for not more than (2)										
DR	Ashley Foulkrod Olson	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	b	b	b

1 This candidate returned a questionnaire, but did not provide an answer to any of the questions. The candidate did, however, include the following message.

I believe every human being has the right to choose for themselves what is right, if properly educated in the pro's & con's.

Someone might note that it takes a lot of faith to believe the above especially after 70 million abortions (since 1973) and in light of the history of American slavery. These are just two examples of what happens when the right to choose is substituted for just laws.

Survey Table Key
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R: Running on Republican ballot
DR: Running on both ballots
<i>Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in BOLD UPPER CASE.</i>
Y or y: Yes N or n: No
nr: No response to current survey
b: Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer yes or no to the question

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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Death Stalks the State Capitol

They are at it again. Democrats in the Pennsylvania General Assembly recently introduced a truly dangerous bill, HB 428, to abolish our state's longstanding Abortion Control Act (ACA). HB 428 expunges the entire text of the ACA and replaces it with deceiving language crafted to give the bill a superficial resemblance to the ACA. But the new language does practically nothing to protect pre-born children or their mothers. HB 428 would be a disaster if enacted. Whether it becomes law or not, it bears witness to the cunning malevolence of the Harrisburg abortion caucus.

The bill's stated intent, "to ensure the freedom to choose the life that the pregnant woman wants," perfectly reflects the ethos of the abortion movement. Freedom, to a pro-choicer, means getting whatever I want and doing whatever I please, no matter what.

Whereas the stated intent of the ACA is to protect the "life and health of the woman subject to abortion and to protect the life and health of the child subject to abortion" to the fullest extent possible, HB 428's intent is to make abortion as widespread and readily available as possible.

The bill's authors boldly announce that they further intend to "protect the right of individuals under 18 years of age to voluntarily decide to submit to an abortion."

Sorry mom. Sorry dad. Your children belong to the abortion lobby.

HB 428 ominously redefines the term "physician," a word which appears in the bill no less than 181 times. Whereas the ACA defines a physician as an MD or a DO, as one might expect, HB 428 has a different take. Yes, MDs and DOs are physicians, but so is anyone who is "eligible to perform abortions in this Commonwealth." The bill goes on to put registered nurse anesthetists, registered nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants in that category. If this ambiguous language does not explicitly authorize people who are not doctors to engage in abortions, it certainly lays the groundwork for such an eventuality. Let's remember that the Erie abortion facility closed in 2007 quite obviously from a shortage of doctors willing to kill babies.

Another ominous provision in HB 428 is a "mental health" exception to allow for post-viability abortions. This effectively legalizes third-trimester abortions across the board: "[F]or the states that include a mental health exception, the ban [on post-viability abortions] has no impact and therefore there is nothing to enforce.... Many states wish to limit the health exception to physical health because an exception for mental, emotional and social health takes all force out of any ban." (Michael J. Tierney, "Post-Viability

Abortion Bans and the Limits of the Health Exception" *Notre Dame Law Review*, 11-1-2004)

Whereas the ACA requires that the abortion-minded woman be properly informed about the risks and realities of the abortion procedure, HB 428 says that it should simply be *assumed* that the woman is making an informed decision, since, after years of debate about abortion, everyone already knows everything they need to know about the subject.

Whereas the ACA requires the involvement of a parent or guardian before an abortion is carried out on a minor, HB 428 only requires consent of a guardian in cases where the candidate for an abortion is incapacitated and unable to speak for herself.

In order to facilitate abortion-pills-by-mail, HB 428 authorizes the abortionist to determine the gestational age of the pre-born child over the Internet! The bill also expressly waives the requirement for Rh testing, without which a woman's future pregnancies could be gravely jeopardized. The possibility of serious complications from an undiagnosed tubal pregnancy is completely ignored.

Please share your thoughts about House Bill 428 with those who represent you in Harrisburg. See also "PA.GOV" and "Pro-Abortion Amendment" on page 4.

High School Oratory Contest Winners

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on April 15. Although the number of participants was disappointing, the speeches were excellent.

The winner in the 9th & 10th grade category was Mark Caulfield, a 9th grade home school student. His memorable speech was titled "The Intrinsic Rights of Man."

Mark began, "We the People of the United States of America are really big on protecting our rights... It is high time we do this for the unborn." He continued, "The Preamble to the Constitution [speaks of securing justice and individual liberty] 'for ourselves and our posterity,' that is, those born and those yet to be born."

Mark mustered the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation

Proclamation and the 19th amendment (women's right to vote) to advance his thesis. In closing, he beckoned toward the ultimate goal: "We must have a Right to Life amendment to 'right the course of our nation' and 'save the unborn.'" Mark's speech reminds us that as we fight to save babies, we are also defending and extending the flame of liberty in the best traditions of our great nation.

Clare Caulfield, a 12th grade home school student, was the winner in the 11th & 12th grade category. She addressed one of the most bizarre preoccupations of the pro-abortion community: bashing, defaming and slandering the thousands of pro-life pregnancy support centers all across America. "Type 'crisis pregnancy centers'

into your search bar," Clare suggested, and you will see a preponderance of derogatory articles from news media and government sources.

Clare zeroed in on an article from the pro-abortion American Medical Association's *Journal of Ethics*. She exposed some breathtaking hypocrisy by applying the article's criticism of CPCs to abortion facilities and their defenders.

CPCs don't protect patient privacy? The Gosnell clinic in Philadelphia still contained easily accessible patient files many months after the place was permanently closed.

CPCs are not licensed? Illinois Right to Life determined that not one of the five Planned Parenthood killing centers in that

continued on page 2

FROM PAGE 1 Oratory Contest

state had obtained a license, even though, unlike CPCs, abortion outlets subject women to dangerous drugs and surgical procedures.

CPCs don't abide by the principles of "beneficence and nonmaleficence"? Abortion facilities kill every other patient that receives "abortion care," and the ones who survive must live with heightened risks of suicide, clinical depression, and a 500% increased risk of alcohol and drug abuse. "One life is ended at the abortion and the other is catastrophically altered," in Clare's words.

Oh! And CPCs don't ensure that all services are made equally available? Abortion facilities ensure that only one pregnancy-related service is available, the one that generates the most income.

Watch these two speeches on YouTube. Google "People for Life," with the quotes, to find these and other prize-winning speeches from past years.

Prize money for the annual High School Oratory Contests and Student Essay Contests is provided by contributors to the People for Life Education Fund. Thank you!



Erie March for Life 2024

Finally! The Erie March for Life is moving to warmer weather. For this, we can thank the U.S. Supreme Court and the Dobbs decision, which overturned the Roe v. Wade decision of January 22, 1973. We will continue to March for Life in January, but only in the generally milder climate of Washington, DC.

Mother's Day will be the new focal point. The Saturday before Mother's Day (May 11, next year) was the natural choice. But another event is traditionally held in downtown Erie on that Saturday. So, the next Erie March will take place a week earlier, on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Close enough!

Candidate Survey for the May 16, 2023 Primary Election

Candidate questionnaires were sent to all of the major party candidates in the following primary races: Erie County Court of Common Pleas, Erie County Council, Erie City Council, Cory City Council, Erie County School Boards, and township supervisor races in Millcreek and Harborcreek. Out of the 115 questionnaires that were mailed, only 10 responses were received by our print deadline. We do expect to receive additional

responses before the primary election. Please monitor our website for updates. We will post an addendum to the online edition of the Erie Echo, if there are any updates. It will be available at peopleforlife.org/newsletter.

As always, if you have any information about any of the candidates' positions on human life issues, we encourage you to share it with us. And remember, if you have an opportunity to talk with a candidate, do not

ask, "Are you pro-life?" That can mean whatever someone wants it to mean, and politicians know it. Not even the most hardened abortionist will tell you that he is "anti-life." Ask what the candidate thinks about laws to protect pre-born children from abortion and what he or she thinks about legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide.

If they say "personally" pro-life, watch out. We elect public, not "personal" officials.

- 1. Do you accept the premise that a living human being exists from the moment of conception and onward through pregnancy?
- 2. Does the human right to life entail a duty on the part of civil authorities to defend every human being from life-threatening physical harm?
- 3. Does the right to life belong to the human being at his or her earliest stages of growth, beginning at conception?
- 4. Are there any classes of human beings, including classes based on age or ability, that may be justly denied protection by government or society?
- 5. One's right to act freely is understood to extend only so far as the actions to not injure another person. Does this principle apply to the relationship between a mother and her pre-born

- child, in the absence of any imminent risk to the mother's life?
- 6. Do you favor legal protection from abortion for all pre-born human beings unless an abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the mother or prevent serious, irreversible physical harm to the mother?
- 7. Are crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) performing a valuable service when they provide pregnancy support in order to make it more likely that fewer women will choose to get an abortion?
- 8. Do you think that legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide diminish perceptions about the value of individual human lives?
- 9. Do you think that legalized assisted suicide may have the undesirable side effect of causing other forms of suicide to become less

problematic or more acceptable to the general public?

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Y or **y:** Yes **N** or **n:** No

nr: No response to current survey
b: Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer yes or no to the question
◆ See "Additional Comments"
◀ Did not respond this time, but did respond when running for office previously

◆ We did not receive a response from this candidate by the print deadline. But we are aware that the candidate is endorsed by the radically pro-abortion Erie chapter of a far-left, statewide organization.

◆ We did not receive a response from this candidate by the print deadline. But we are aware that the candidate is supported by the Erie chapter of a far-left, radically pro-abortion statewide organization.

■ No response was received by the print deadline, but this candidate routinely turns in 100% pro-life questionnaires and is well known for his pro-life position.

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Erie County Council District 1 four-year term vote for (1)										
R	Lou Aliota	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
City of Erie City Council four-year term vote for not more than (3)										
D	Ed Brzezinski	Y	Y	Y	N	n	Y	Y	Y	Y
D	Elspheth Koehle* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
D	Tyler Titus* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
City of Erie City Council two-year term vote for (1)										
D	Susanna Faulkner* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Erie City School Director four-year term vote for not more than (4)										
D	Angie Amatangelo* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
DR	Zakaria Sharif* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Erie City School Director two-year term vote for (1)										
DR	Zakaria Sharif* see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Fort LeBoeuf School District four-year term vote for not more than (5)										
DR	Scott Taylor	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
General McLane School Director Region 2 four-year term vote for not than (2)										
R	Mark Kernick	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R	Robert Nick	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Girard School District four-year term vote for not more than (5)										
R	Sean Dunn	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	b
Inquois School Director four-year term vote for not more than (5)										
DR	Jeremy Coblentz	Y	Y	Y	N	n	n	Y	Y	Y
Millcreek School Director four-year term vote for not more than (4)										
R	Lou Aliota	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
North East School Director four-year term vote for not more than (5)										
R	Glenn Craig	Y	Y	Y	N	n	Y	Y	Y	Y
Northwestern School Director four-year term vote for not more than (5)										
DR	Shelly Rea Rice	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DR	Sam Ring■ see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Northwestern School Director two-year term vote for (1)										
DR	Shelly Rea Rice	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DR	Sam Ring■ see above	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Harborcreek Township Supervisor six-year term vote for (1)										
R	Dean Pepicello	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statewide Judicial Races

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC has announced endorsements of candidates in Pennsylvania's statewide judicial primary election on May 16.

There is a single open seat on the state Supreme Court. Both candidates on the Republican ballot in that contest are endorsed: Carolyn Carluccio and Patricia McCullough.

For the two openings on the state Superior Court, two candidates, both Republicans, are endorsed: Maria Battista and Harry Smail.

For the single open seat on the state Commonwealth Court, two of the candidates on the Republican ballot are endorsed: Megan Martin and Joshua Prince.

None of the candidates on the Democratic ballot are endorsed by the Federation PAC.

Major Pro-Life Event Coming to Western PA

The annual National Right to Life Convention will be held this year at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport, on June 23&24. There are many worthwhile pro-life educational events, but few if any are as dynamic, comprehensive or motivational as the NRL Convention.

We "discovered" Patricia Sandoval, the star of our 2023 Pro-Life Breakfast, at the 2021 NRL Convention in Washington, DC.

Among the dozens of superb speakers this year will be Alex Schadenberg, the Canadian executive director of the Euthanasia

Prevention Coalition; award-winning author and internationally renowned speaker Wesley Smith, who spoke at our very own Pro-Life Breakfast in 2002; and Seth Dillon, the CEO of *The Babylon Bee*.

Early bird registration for the two-day event is \$120. The cost for teens is \$50, for older students \$70, and for seniors \$90. Single day registration is \$80. Rooms at the Hyatt are available at the convention rate of \$135/night. Learn more at nrlconvention.com!

Come to the Convention! You will be among friends, including friends from Erie.

January Activities Results

Pro-Life Breakfast: Sellout, 630 guests
 March for Life Bus Trip: Full bus, 55 people
 Erie March for Life: Over 300 marchers
Thanks, everyone! Good job!

Memorials & Tributes

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Mrs. Maureen Anthony	Judge Fred Anthony	Marian E. Adelman	Charles Perkins
Lawrence F. Berdis	Johanna Berdis (wife)	Marian E. Adelman	Mary Perkins
Cathy S. Truden	Tara Bisbee	June Klins	The Blessed Mother
Duane & Marcie Kerstetter	Mark Borowy	Sue Luteran	Three Special Souls
Diane & Bill Stumpf	Mark Borowy	Diane & Bill Stumpf	Mary Toohey
Judge Daniel J. Brabender Jr.	Jane & Dan Brabender, Sr.	Fr. Rich Toohey	Mary Ann Toohey
Grumblatt Family	Drs. Richard & Catharine Cerami	Sue & Jerry Verga	Jesse Verga
David & Mary Louise Capan	Pauline Chimenti	Jack & Margie Walsh	Michael Walsh Birthday
Michael & Peggy Ciccocioppo	Mike & Blanche Ciccocioppo	Grumblatt Family	Joy Westbrook
Sharlene D. Guzzy	Ted Guzzy	Rob & Gina Lintelman	Stan Widomski
Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters		
Stephanie & David Lindenberger	Eleanor Lindenberger	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Anita Smith	Cynthia Manna	Sue Homan	Judith Anderton
Marian E. Adelman	Rose McCoy	Grumblatt Family	Warren J. Beaver, MD on his retirement
Nancy Miller	Glenn Miller	Pauline Labonte	Frances Birchard
Marla J. Pellegrino	Mother		

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.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling <input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker <input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project <input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Worker <input type="checkbox"/> Call when you need an extra hand.
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Please make your check payable to: **PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.**
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

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

Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023. It will be held at 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. The nominees are: 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 and have been actively engaged in the organization for at least the previous 12 months. Only individuals whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting are eligible to vote.

5K/10K & Fun Walk

People for Life's Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk will mark its 10th anniversary this year. Whether you like to run or a casual walk is more your speed, we would love to share a country morning with you this October during the grape harvest. Life Run will be based once again at Slade Park in Harborcreek Township. Race time is 9 a.m. Follow Life Run at: [Facebook.com/LifeRunErie](https://www.facebook.com/LifeRunErie) for occasional updates over the summer months.

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 ripe for harvest. Registration will remain open until 8:45 a.m. on race day, but please register by October 2 to be sure of getting a Life Run t-shirt. Complete information and online registration will soon be available at: [PeopleforLife.org/liferun](https://www.PeopleforLife.org/liferun).

Businesses, professional practices, 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. Contact People for Life for more

information or visit [peopleforlife.org](https://www.peopleforlife.org) for more information!

Abortion Pill Petition

The pro-abortion Biden administration has weakened the safety protocols for Mifepristone (RU 486) chemical abortions to the point where anyone can pick up the lethal drug at their local pharmacy. All that is needed is a quick telemedicine interview with an abortion provider.

CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens moved quickly to get a piece of the Mifepristone business, announcing their plans to begin dispensing the deadly pills. The big pharmacy corporations apparently see an opportunity to burnish their woke "social credit score" and make an extra few (million?) bucks in the process.

People for Life has drawn up a petition that rejects this expanded distribution scheme. The signatories (1) implore the big pharmacy corporations to reverse course and (2) promise that they will be shopping elsewhere until things change. We collected over three pages of signatures at the recent WCTL Women's Conference and sent them along with letters to the CEOs of all three pharmacy chains. We will continue collecting signatures all summer at our pro-life booths and wherever we can. We see this as a way to do our small part to put the pharmacies on notice, but also to raise public awareness of the gravity of this situation and who is to

blame: CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and, lest we forget, President Joe Biden. Plenty of petitions are available for those who would like to collect signatures for us.

You may have heard about lawsuits to restore the Mifepristone safety regulations that were jettisoned by the Obama and Biden administrations. If successful, these abortion pills will once again have to be dispensed at the abortion facility after a proper medical examination, not by local pharmacists filling prescriptions called in by Planned Parenthood. But until this happens, let's keep signing and circulating those petitions.

PA.GOV: Abortion Central

The pro-abortion governor of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro took to Twitter recently to brag about his new "Accessing Abortion Care in Pennsylvania" webpage that all of us are paying for.

Visitors are coached to "Find a Provider," "Make your Plan," and have your abortion subsidized by various nongovernmental organizations. This is nothing less than encouraging abortion with the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

No one is actually "pro-abortion," you say? You've got to be Joshing! Please never ever say that no one is pro-abortion, at least not until Governor Shapiro puts up an "Accessing Alternatives to Abortion" website with a map that shows all of Pennsylvania's pro-life pregnancy support centers, as his pro-abortion website does for all of the state's abortion killing centers.

See what Shapiro is paying for with your tax dollars and bragging about at www.pa.gov/freedomtochoose (...to kill a baby).

Pro-Life Outreach

We look forward to seeing you at some of our pro-life booths this summer. Look for us at the: Lake City Fire Company Carnival, Waterford Heritage Days, Dan Rice Days, Wattsburg Fair, Waterford Fair, Albion Fair, and probably several more venues.

2023 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2024

May 9	Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot
May 14	Mother's Day
May 15	Annual Election Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
May 16	Pennsylvania Primary Election
June 18	Father's Day
June 23-24	NRL Convention - Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Intl. Airport
Oct. 14	10th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk, 9 a.m.
Oct. 16	Pennsylvania March for Life / Bus Trip
Oct. 23	Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
2024	
Jan. 13	46th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast – Bayfront Convention Center
Jan. 18	Buses depart for the 51st March for Life
Jan. 19	51st March for Life – Washington, DC
May 4	47th Annual Erie March for Life, 11 a.m. – downtown Erie, PA
May 12	Mother's Day