



VITAL SIGNS

How Ohio passed one of the most extreme abortion laws, and understanding the path to rebuilding a culture of life



Center FOR **Christian Virtue**

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

Dear friends,

On November 7, 2023, Ohio voters approved one of the most extreme constitutional amendments on abortion in the nation. **Some estimates project more than 30,000 unborn children could lose their lives in Ohio every year because of this law.**

Following the amendment's passage, an exit poll evaluated how voters perceived the amendment, why a majority supported it, and what may be done to one day repeal this deadly law. Perhaps most importantly, the poll took a deep dive into understanding how the Body of Christ voted on this issue. **The results were devastating.**

Vital Signs is Center for Christian Virtue's report on the election results, the exit poll, and other key abortion-related statistics in Ohio. The purpose of this report is to **provide a sober-minded assessment of the state of Ohio's culture** so that all who are concerned about protecting innocent life can begin rebuilding what has been broken.

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Christian
Virtue



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That rebuilding is going to take time. Every day that passes, **more children suffer at the hands of Ohio abortionists.** Yet "despair" is not a word we know at CCV. And though we mourn the outcome of the election and the difficult truths revealed in Vital Signs, we trust that the November 7 election isn't the final word on abortion in Ohio.

That's why we end this report with "7 Ways to Protect and Restore the Sanctity of Life." These are short- and long-term strategies we believe can be implemented immediately to not only protect life today but also position Ohio to one day repeal the amendment.

Ohio is the only state in the nation that cites scripture in our state motto: "With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Friends, hold fast to this promise along with us as we work towards a day in which **the dignity of all human life is respected and protected in the Buckeye State.**

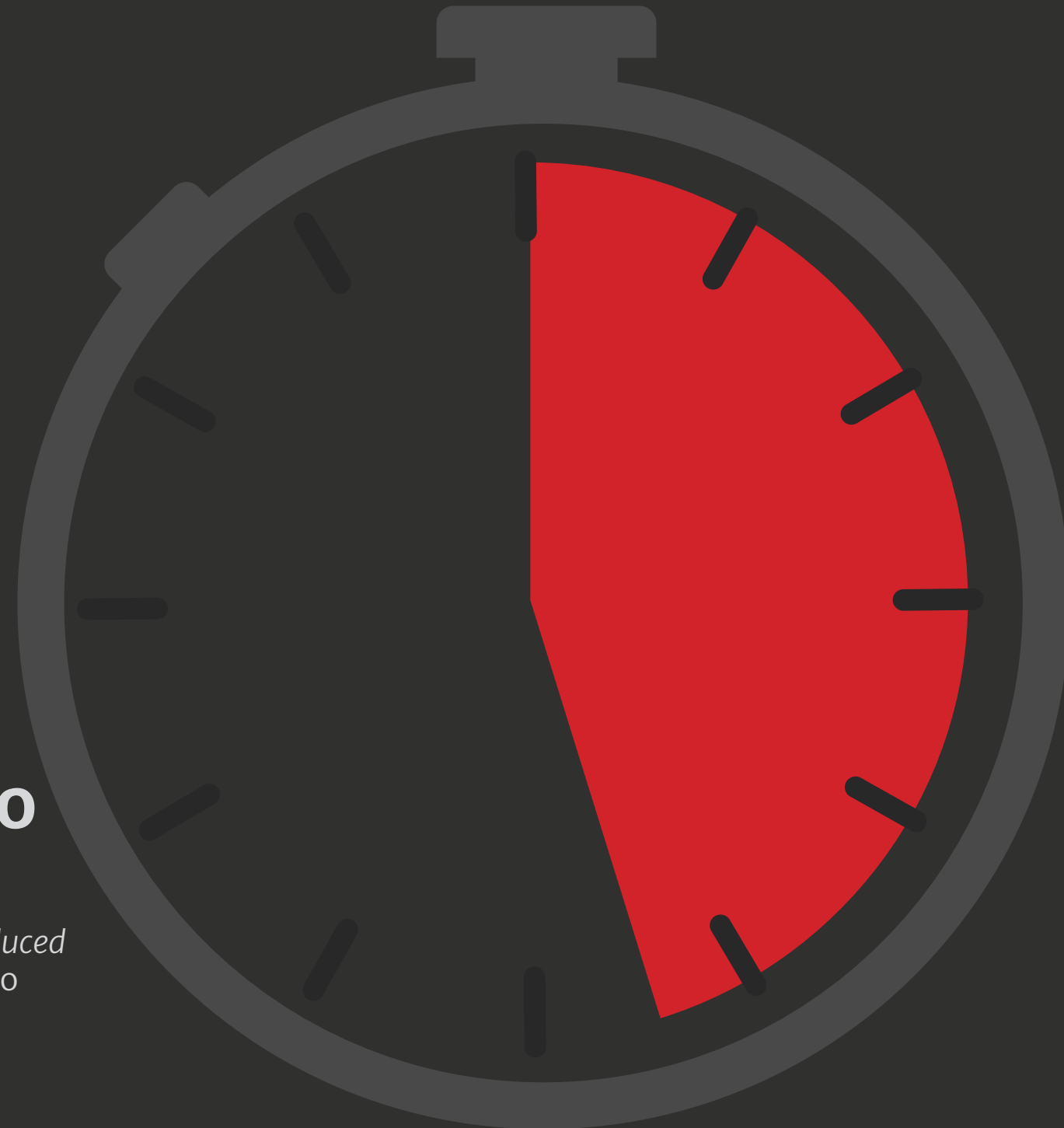
Yours for Life,

Aaron Baer
President
Center for Christian Virtue

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Unborn Child
Was Killed Via
Abortion Every
28 Minutes
in Ohio**

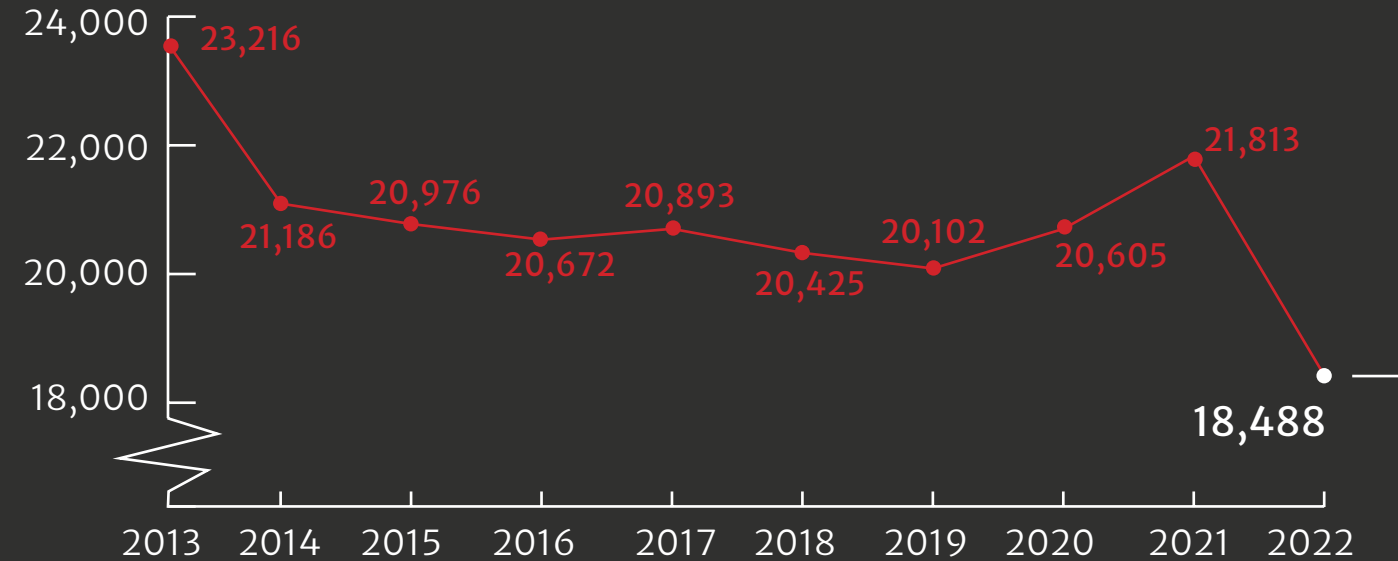


01

ABORTION IN OHIO

Source (except where noted): *Induced Abortion in Ohio, 2022 Report*. Ohio Department of Health, 2023.

Yearly Abortions in Ohio



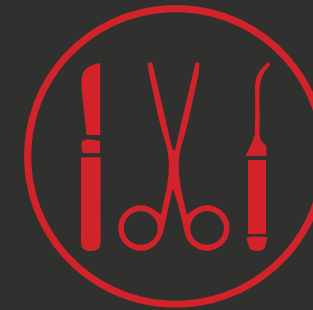
Estimated Number of Monthly Abortions In Ohio, 2022*

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| APR - 2,040 | JUL - 810 | OCT - 1,500 |
| MAY - 1,440 | AUG - 780 | NOV - 1,510 |
| JUN - 1,830 | SEP - 1,070 | DEC - 1,860 |

A main factor in the sharp decline in abortions in 2022 was Ohio's Heartbeat Law, which was in effect from June 24 (following the US Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*) through September 14 (when a federal judge granted a lawsuit blocking enforcement of the law).

* Source: #WeCount February 2024 Report. Society of Family Planning, 2024

Abortion Methods



Surgical

51%
(9,358)



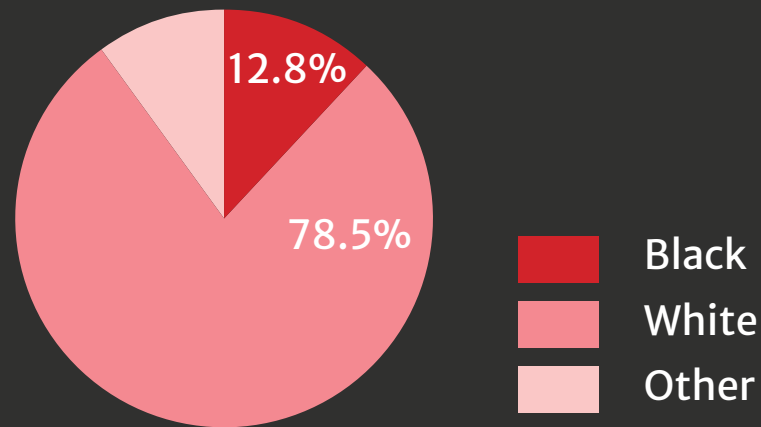
Chemical

49%
(9,225)

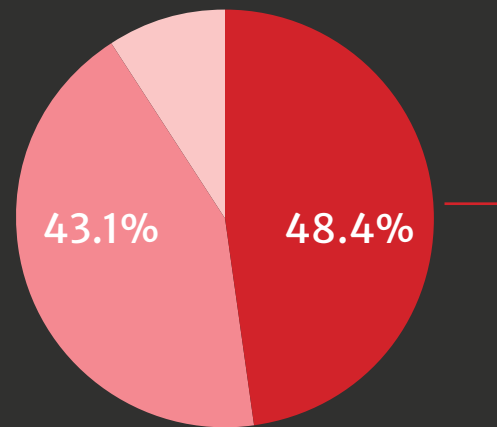
1,513 of the 9,358 surgical abortions performed in 2022 were completed using Dilation & Extraction or Dilation & Evacuation procedures. **The gruesome reality is that some of these were likely partial-birth abortions.**

Yearly Abortions in Ohio

Ohio Population by Race



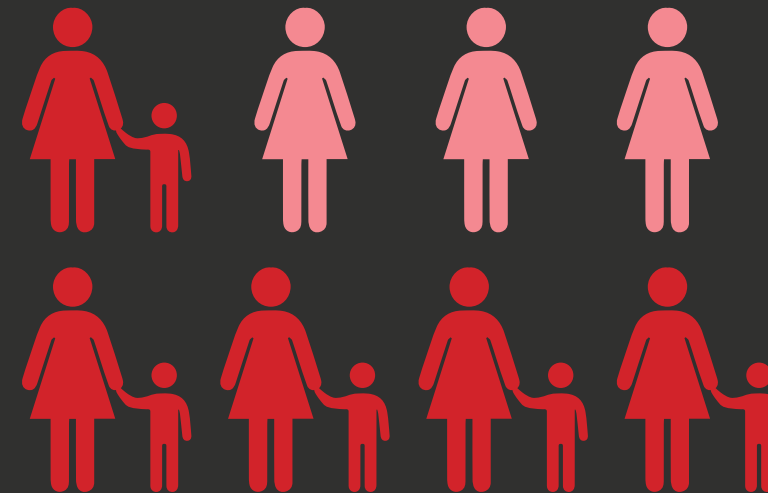
Abortions by Race



Even though only 1 in 8 people in Ohio are black, 1 out of every 2 abortions in Ohio kills a black baby.

2000

More than 2,000 abortions occurred after 12 weeks of pregnancy, at which point science has proven babies can feel pain.



63% of women who had an abortion in 2022 already had at least one living child.

02 ELECTION STATISTICS

Ohio Population

Source: US Decennial Census, 2020



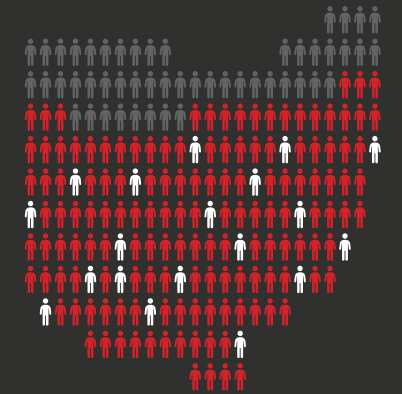
Total Population

11,799,448



Over 18

9,207,562

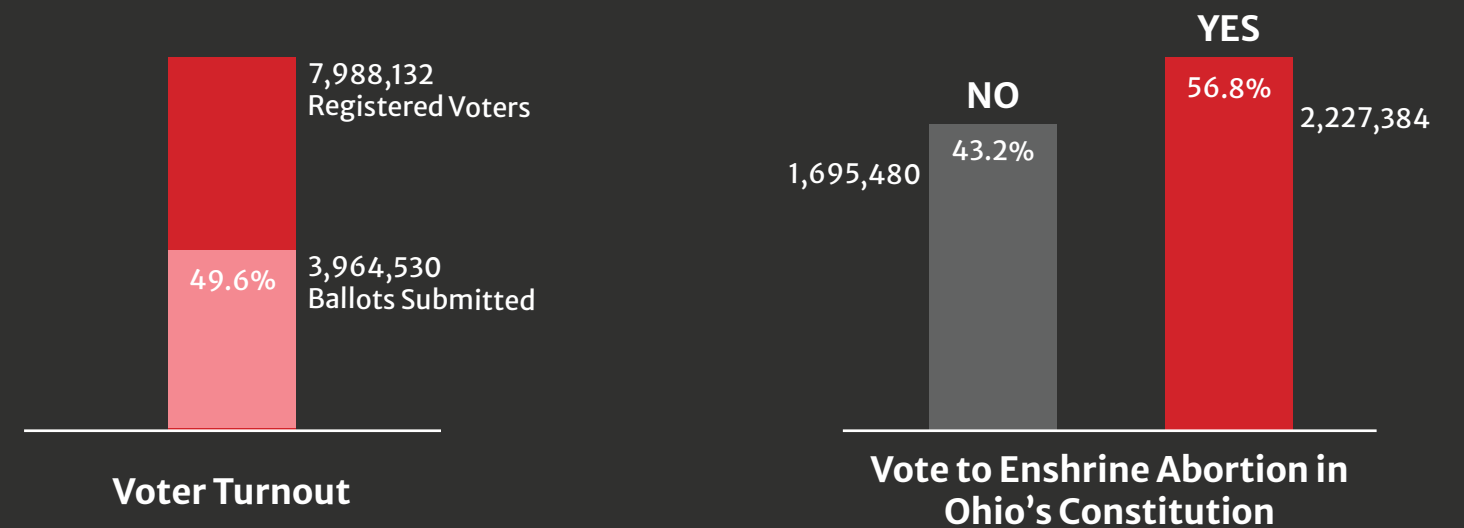


Unregistered Voters

1,219,430

November 7, 2023, Election

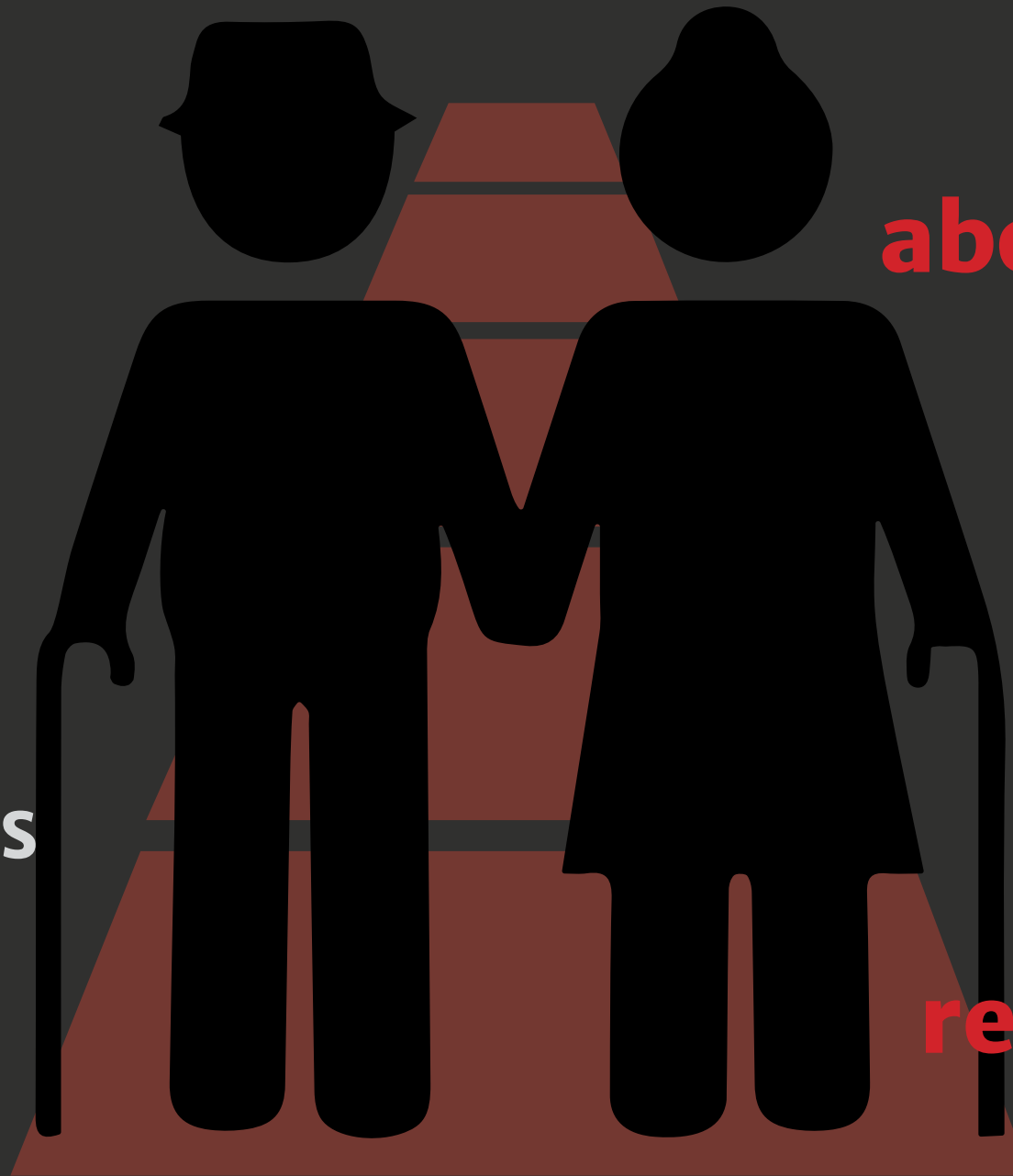
Source: Ohio Secretary of State Official Election Canvass



03

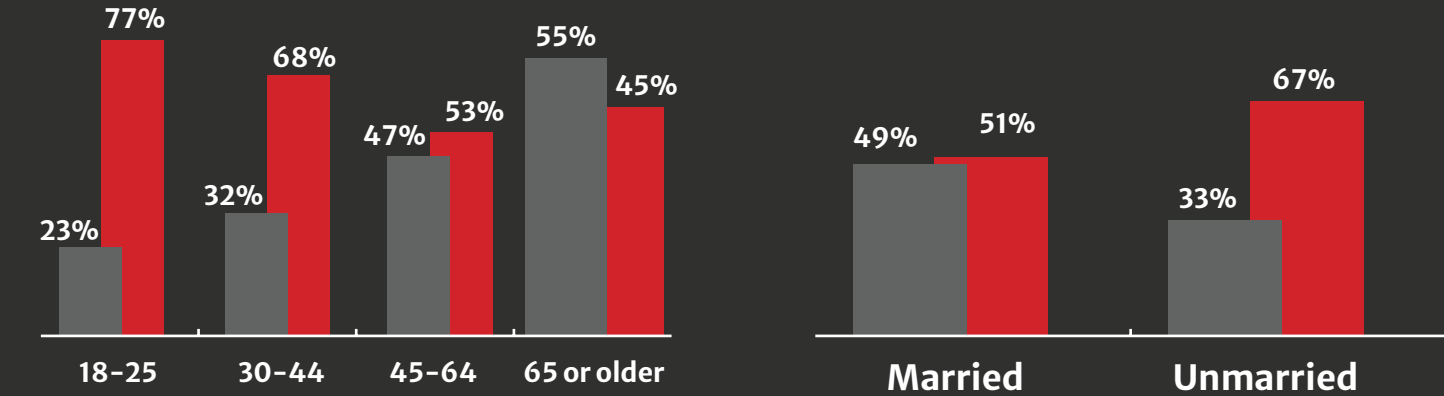
VOTING DEMOGRAPHICS

Source: CNN.com Ohio Exit Polls,
November 2023 General Election



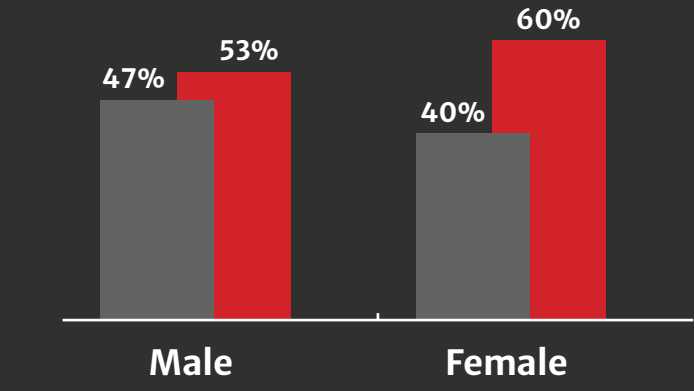
The only demographic to vote NO as a majority on the abortion amendment were individuals 65 and older. Not coincidentally, they are also the only generation to have lived in and remember a pre-*Roe v. Wade* America.

Voting Demographics



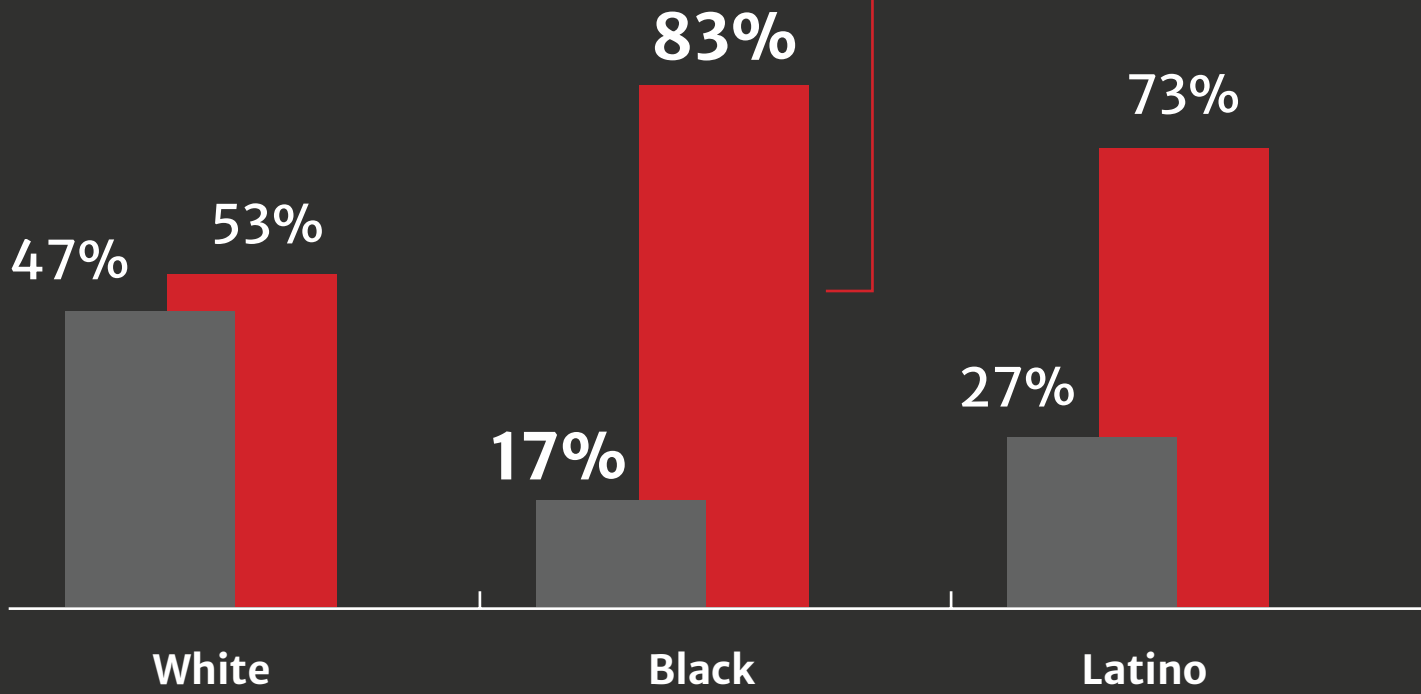
Age

Marital Status



Gender

■ YES, for the abortion amendment
■ NO, against the abortion amendment



Race

Abortion disproportionately affects the black population in Ohio (see page 8), yet 5 out of 6 black voters supported the abortion amendment.

04

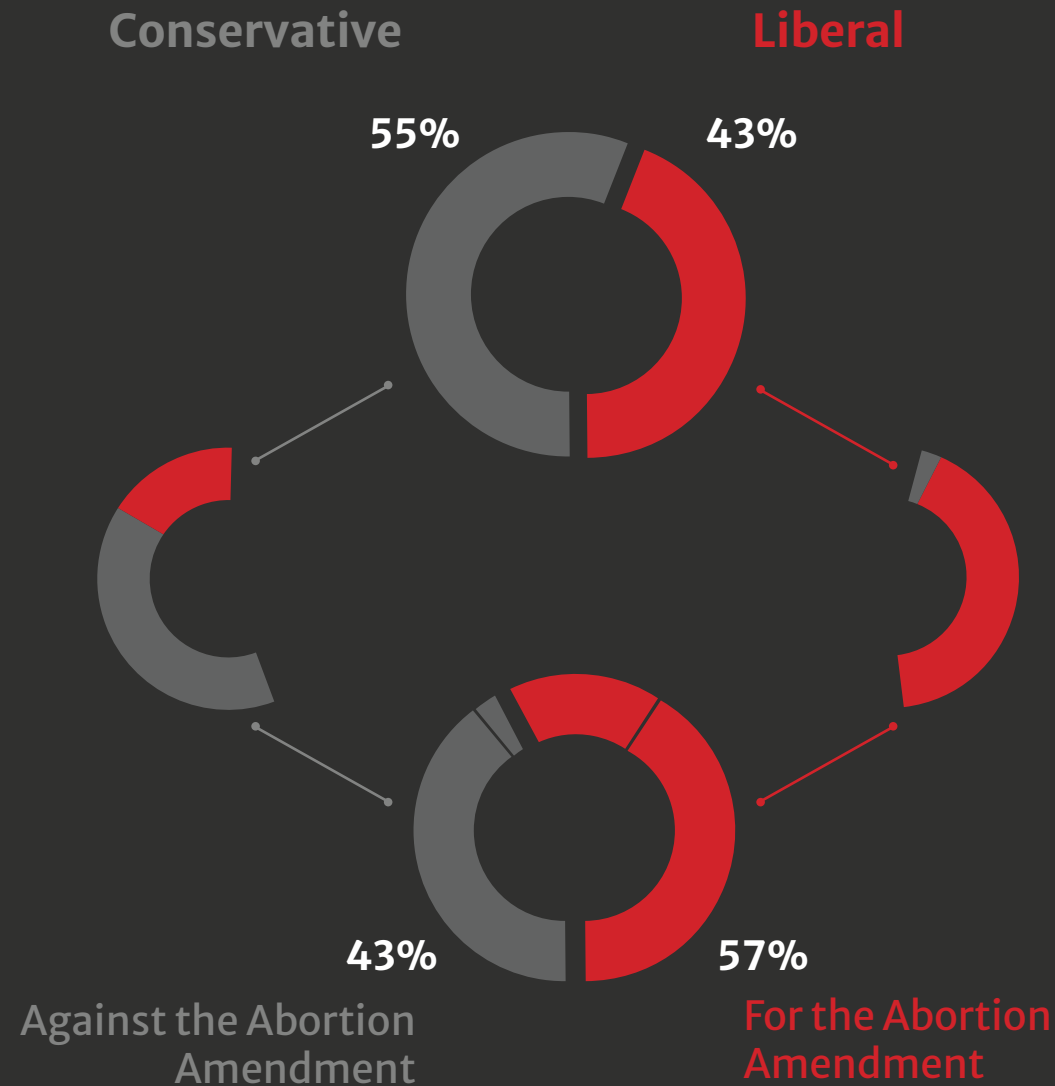
WORLDVIEW

Source: Protect Women Ohio Exit Poll



30 percent of Ohioans who believe life begins at conception still voted to pass Planned Parenthood's extreme abortion amendment

Ideology



While the majority of Ohio voters identify as conservative, the outcome was decided by liberals more consistently voting yes than conservatives voting no.

Media Influence

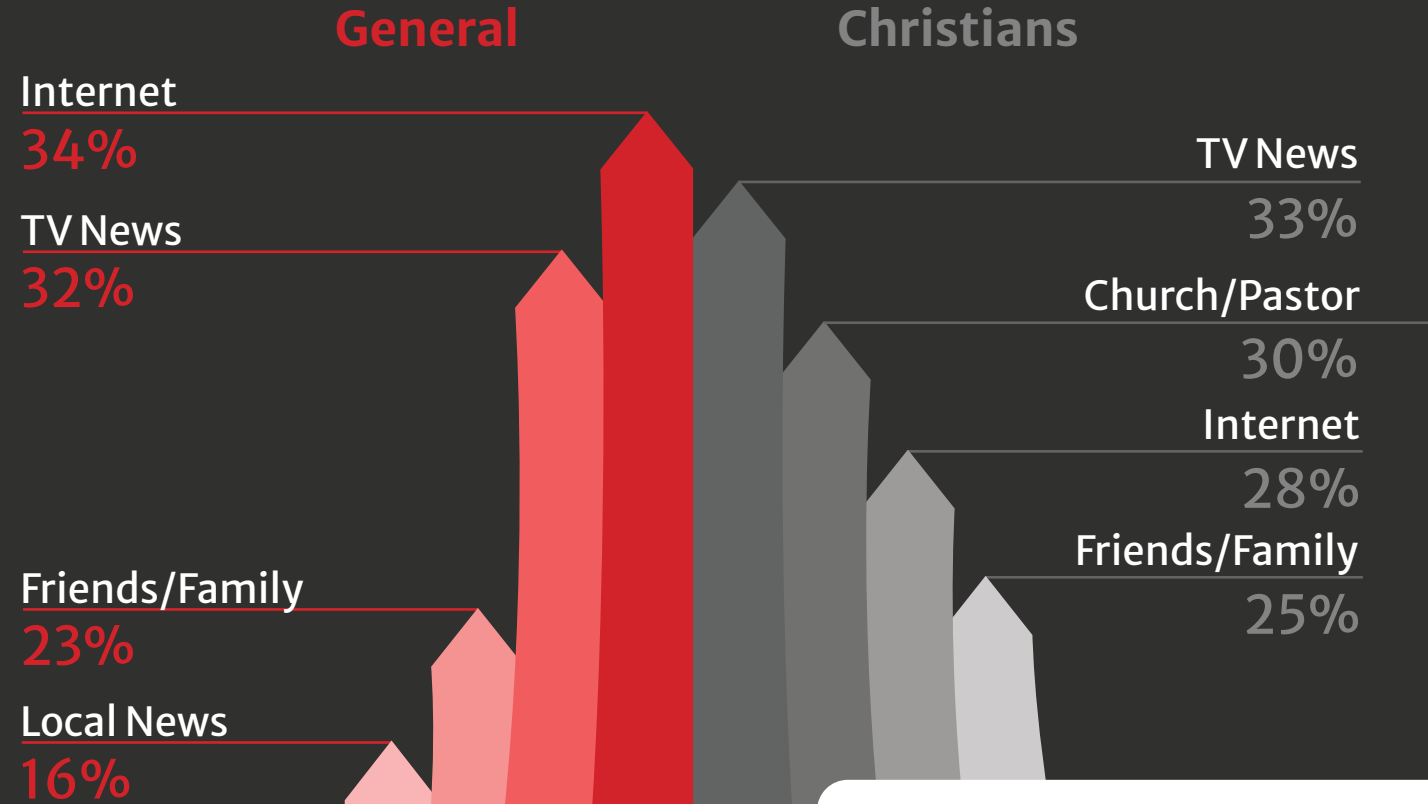


Miscarriage care has always been protected in Ohio. In a letter to State Senator Kristina Roegner prior to the election, the Ohio Department of Health debunked the lies of the abortion industry and made clear that women in Ohio had full access to miscarriage care.

However, this didn't stop the false ads and reports that misguided many voters.

Sources of Information

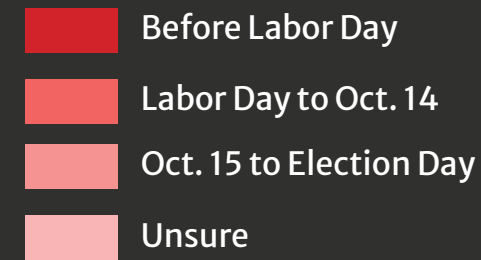
Voters were overwhelmingly influenced by ads and media coverage online and on television, but pastors and church leaders were a trusted source of information for Christians.



87% of Christians who heard information about the abortion amendment from a church/pastor voted no.

The Church Got Involved Too Late

Of the individuals who made an early decision on their vote, 60 percent supported the abortion amendment.



However, more than 2 out of 3 voters had decided how they were going to vote before Labor Day, well before most churches began to speak out against the abortion amendment.

05

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

Source: Protect Women Ohio Exit Poll

Half of
self-identifying
Evangelicals
and Catholics
voted YES
to enshrine
abortion
in the Ohio
Constitution

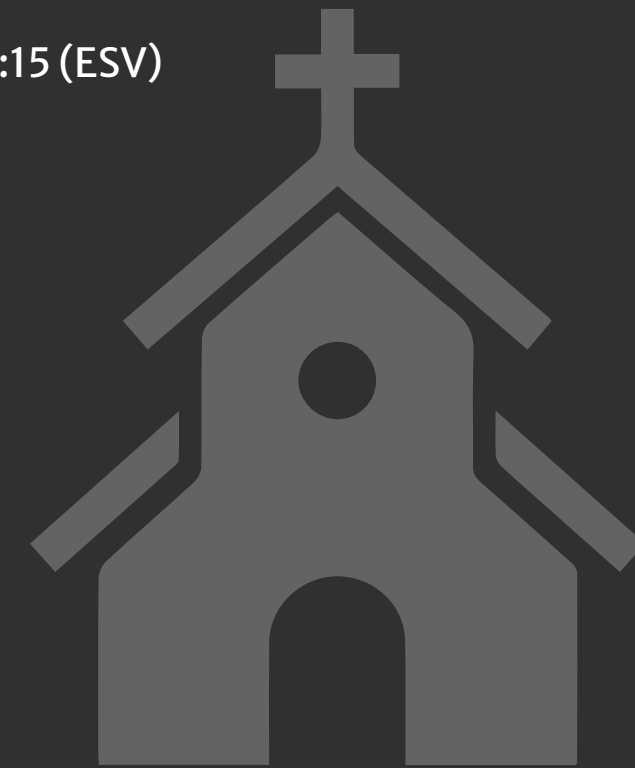
1 in 3 Christians who attend church at least once per week voted YES on the abortion amendment

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”

Matthew 5:13 (ESV)

“When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.”

Isaiah 1:15 (ESV)



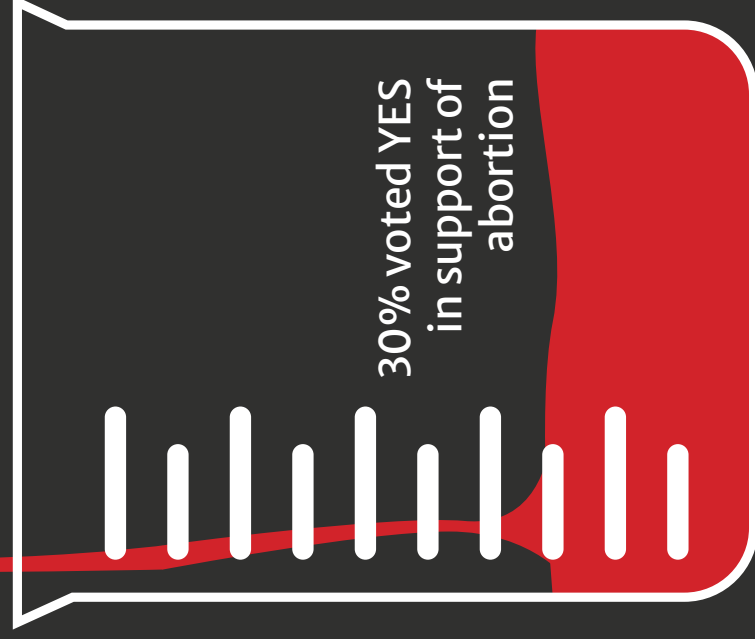
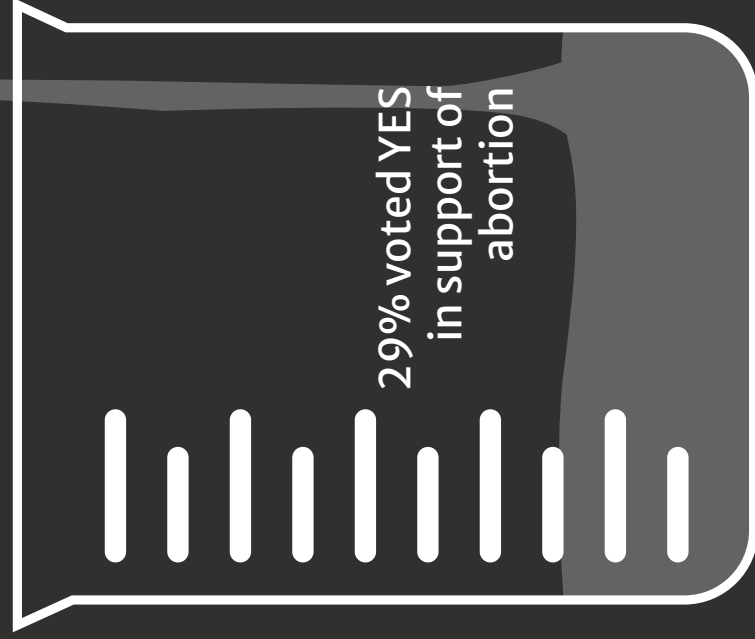
Voting With the Culture

Christians

General

62% of Evangelicals and
52% of Catholics polled
agree that life begins at
conception.

49% of Ohioans polled
agree that life begins at
conception.



Christians who believe the Bible teaches the inherent dignity of life in the womb **did not vote differently than the population at large. In each demographic, 3 out of 10 voters approved unlimited abortion in Ohio,** despite acknowledging that a distinct human life exists from the moment of conception.

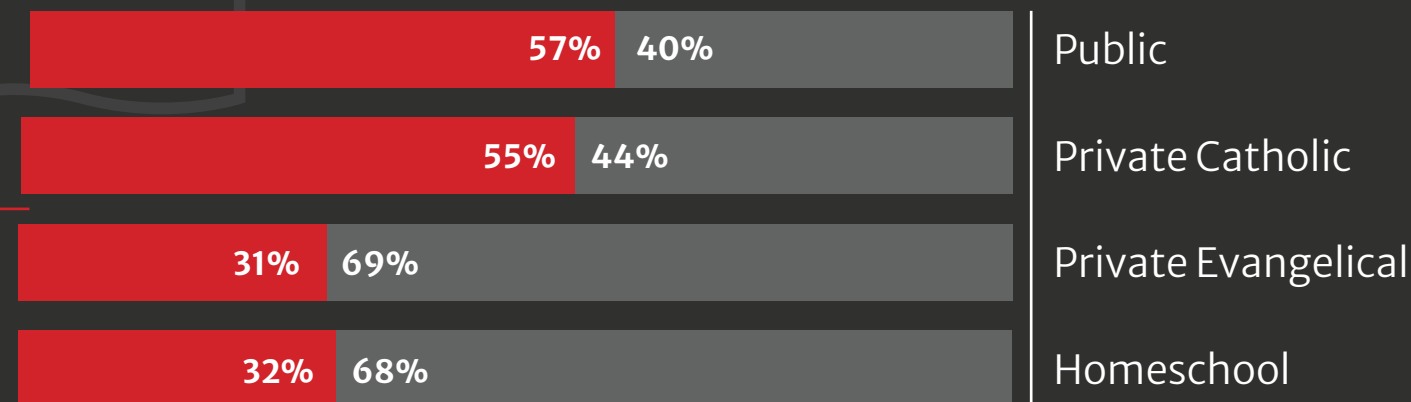
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EDUCATION

Source: Protect Women Ohio Exit Poll

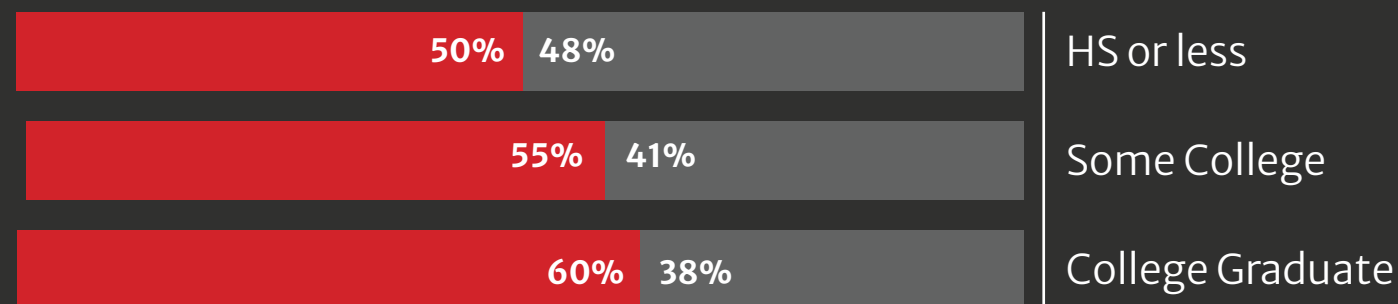
YES, for the abortion amendment
NO, against the abortion amendment

Type of High School Attended



The education options we provide the next generation matter because 7 in 10 voters who attended a private Evangelical high school or were homeschooled opposed the abortion amendment.

Level of Education



7 Ways to Protect and Restore the Sanctity of Life

Our efforts to protect life and restore what has been broken must include both short-term strategies to reach those in crisis and long-term efforts to change cultural attitudes towards abortion, enabling us one day to repeal the amendment. Here are seven strategies to begin this process.

07

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

Educate the Next Generation

Hundreds of thousands of children in Ohio are being taught about abortion and sex through a curriculum designed by Planned Parenthood, America's largest abortion provider. Lawmakers must remove Planned Parenthood from our classrooms and instead promote and fund public curriculum like Sexual Risk Avoidance (formerly known as abstinence education) to help children make healthy, life-affirming choices.

What You Can Do:

- *Contact your lawmakers:* Your elected officials need to hear from you that Planned Parenthood shouldn't be in our schools.
- *Launch a school in your church:* There is a growing movement across Ohio to launch full-time Christian schools in empty Sunday school classrooms. The Ohio Christian Education Network has built a model so any church can do it. Visit OCEN.org for more information.

Resource Church Leaders

One of the strongest indicators of voting against the abortion amendment was when a churchgoer heard their pastor speak against the issue (see page 20). CCV will be introducing numerous resources and educational opportunities to serve pastors and church leaders who want to boldly address issues of abortion and a biblical sexual ethic.

What You Can Do:

- *Join the Church Ambassador Network:* CCV leads one of the largest church networks in the state. Encourage your pastor to join at CCV.org/CAN so they can access free resources and information on the effort to preserve life.

Expand Services & Outreach to Women

Ohio should continue to expand funding to Pregnancy Resource Centers through the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program. Additionally, church leaders should look for ways to support and expand pregnancy centers and outreach to women in crisis.

What You Can Do:

- *Volunteer at your local pregnancy center:* There are more than 100 pregnancy centers throughout Ohio that need your help, financial support, and prayers!

Expose the Darkness

The Body of Christ must tell the stories of women who have been coerced by the abortion industry and harmed by their dangerous practices. When Ohio voters see the faces of these victims, we will begin to change culture.

What You Can Do:

- *Volunteer with your local Right to Life:* Throughout Ohio, Right to Life groups are leading prayer initiatives outside abortion facilities. Oftentimes, these prayer warriors are the first to hear when women have been coerced by or harmed in an abortion facility.
- *Share stories on social media:* The mainstream media often does not cover the tragedies inside abortion facilities. Use your voice to spread the truth about the abortion industry!

Demand Safety & Accountability

Ohio political leaders must continue to regulate and hold the abortion industry accountable for their dangerous practices. Informed consent laws and safety regulations imposed on abortion facilities must remain in law and be strictly enforced to protect women against exploitation.

What You Can Do:

- *Attend the Ohio March for Life:* Every year, pro-life Ohioans host the largest protest in the state on the first Friday of October. Thousands of men, women, and children descend on the Statehouse to march for the value of every human life. Visit MarchForLife.org/Ohio for more information.
- *Contact your lawmakers:* Make sure your state lawmakers know that they can still regulate the abortion industry and must hold abortionists accountable for atrocities committed against women and children.

Hold the Line

We cannot compromise our public witness to the value of every human life. While we work to build consensus and protect as many lives as possible, we must remain clear that abortion is evil and every life, from the point of conception, has dignity and deserves protection.

What You Can Do:

- *Learn about the fight for life:* From bioethics concerns surrounding the unregulated practices of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) industry to the expansion of euthanasia across western nations, the sanctity of human life is under attack like never before. Review the incredible resources on these topics from organizations like CCV, Them Before Us, and The Heritage Foundation.

Pray Without Ceasing

The battle against abortion is not merely a cultural or political one. It is also a spiritual one. Jesus said, “...if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move...” (Matthew 17:20, ESV). Through faith and prayer, God can repeal this amendment and protect life.

What You Can Do:

- *Start with repentance:* 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that healing our land starts with God’s people repenting and turning from their wicked ways. The Body of Christ must first look at our own sins and failures before we look to heal what has been broken.
- *Join CCV for Prayer at the Statehouse:* Four times each year, CCV hosts a prayer event in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Come worship with us and cry out to God for Him to restore the sanctity of life in Ohio. Learn more at CCV.org/Pray.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds
from before my eyes; cease to do evil,
learn to do good; seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow’s cause.

Isaiah 1:16–17 (ESV)

For more information, visit CCV.org

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