 **Erie County Right to Life**

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**Find us at: http://www.eriecountyrighttolife.org**

 ***August 2023***

***If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at:*** ***eriecountyrighttolife@gmail.com***

**\*\*PLEASE VOTE\*\***

**Tuesday August 8**

 **Special Election**

**Consider Voting YES on Issue 1**

 **A YES vote for Issue 1 means that a 60% super majority of votes cast would be required for a proposed amendment to be added to the Ohio Constitution, instead of the current 50%+1. YES on Issue 1 also means that signatures of 5% of the voters in each of the 88 Ohio counties would be required on petitions to place a proposed amendment on a future ballot. Currently 5% of the voters in only 44 Ohio counties is required.**

 This change to 60% vote wouldalign Ohio more closely with most other states and the federal government, regarding adding amendments to a constitution. This change would also allow ALL Ohioans, in all 88 counties, instead of in just half of the state, to have a say in putting a proposed amendment up for a vote.

 For more on Issue 1, go to: **https://www.ohiolife.org/yeson1?utm\_campaign=as\_ohio\_goes\_6\_28&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=ohiolife**

**\*\*FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME\*\***

 ECRTL is in our community spreading our Pro-Life Message--at the Vermillion Fish Festival in June and at the Sandusky Downtown 4th of July Celebration.

 The Fish Festival brought some challenges; our ECRTL Booth was placed beside the pro-abortion group’s table where they were collecting signatures for their proposed pro-abortion amendment. They yelled at our Pro-Life supporters and our volunteers. Our smiles, and polite and gracious responses, seemed to anger them even more.

 Many visitors were attracted to our Booth when a family with 2-week-old twins stopped by. How beautiful to compare our display’s model of 15-week preborn twins to these 2-week-old little ones!
 Overall, the blessings and Pro-Life support we received at the Fish Festival were many; visitors to our ECRTL Booth outnumbered those to the pro-abortion booth 20 to 1!
 About 400 people played our Plinko game; all received prizes. Congratulations to the Grand Prize Winner of our $25 ChickFilA Gift Card, K. King of Lorain.
 We could not have accomplished this successful festival experience in Vermilion without the numerous volunteers who donated their time and energy. THANK YOU!

 With YOUR help, we plan to have our ECRTL Booth at the Erie County Fair and three more festivals this summer!!

**Berlin Heights Basket Festival—Aug. 4-5**

**Erie County Fair, Sandusky—Aug. 8-13**

**Milan Melon Festival—Sept. 2-4**

**Wooly Bear Festival, Vermilion—Oct. 7**

 We hope YOU will carve out time this summer to spread the Pro-Life Message with us this summer! Training in presenting the Pro-Life Message, and the latest Ohio legislative info, will be provided to all volunteers.

 **Please text or call Kim Johnston, Festivals/Fair Chairperson at 419-271-3086 (you can leave a message) with the festival(s), the Fair, and the dates that you can volunteer at the ECRTL BOOTH!! OR send an email with that info to:** **eriecountyrighttolife@gmail.com****.** 

--photo and article info submitted by Kim Johnston

**\*In Their Opinion….\***

Constitutional scholars Carrie Campbell Severino and Frank J. Scaturro say that the proposed “Right to Reproductive Freedom” amendment language would “effectively obliterate most limits to abortion or sex-change surgery.” To read their article, go to: **https://www.nationalreview.com/2023/03/ohios-disastrous-abortion-ballot-proposal/**

**Tuesday November 7**

**Consider Voting NO**

**on the proposed**

**“Right to Reproductive Freedom” amendment**

 Pro-abortion supporters submitted over 700,000 signatures to the Ohio Sec’y of State’s office the morning of July 5. Ohio County Board of Elections will now validate the signatures; 413,000 valid signatures are needed to put the so-called “Right to Reproductive Freedom” amendment on the November 7 ballot. Local officials have until July 20 to complete that work, and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose will give a final thumbs up or down by July 25 about putting the proposed amendment on the November 7 ballot. For more info: [**https://www.ohiolife.org/breaking\_ohio\_right\_to\_life\_releases\_statement\_on\_petitions\_filed**](https://www.ohiolife.org/breaking_ohio_right_to_life_releases_statement_on_petitions_filed) **and** [**https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/elections/2023/07/05/ohio-abortion-measure-backers-to-submit-signatures-to-make-nov-ballot/70356717007/**](https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/elections/2023/07/05/ohio-abortion-measure-backers-to-submit-signatures-to-make-nov-ballot/70356717007/)

The proposed amendment, despite its name, has nothing to do with real health and safety. **It allows for the killing of Pre-term Babies throughout the nine months of pregnancy in Ohio.** There are many problems with this proposed amendment.

 \*The wording is vague: Article 1, Section 22, A, *Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions…* The words “woman”, “girl”, or “female” do not appear in the text, suggesting that a 14-year-old pregnant girl could have an abortion without her parents’ involvement in the decision. This also suggests that other “reproductive decisions” such as sex-change surgeries could be obtained by children without their parents’ permission or knowledge

 \* **VOIDED by this proposed amendment wouldbe**laws currently in place to protect the health and safety of women by ensuring that those seeking abortion are screened and counseled by a licensed doctor who can transfer a patient to a local hospital in an emergency. More info: [**https://theohiostar.com/news/pro-life-activists-warn-ohio-ballot-initiative-would-eliminate-health-and-safety-regulations-and-parental-consent-for-minor-abortions/sberry/2023/03/04/**](https://theohiostar.com/news/pro-life-activists-warn-ohio-ballot-initiative-would-eliminate-health-and-safety-regulations-and-parental-consent-for-minor-abortions/sberry/2023/03/04/)

\*The amendment language clearly forbids any law that “directly or indirectly” would “burden’ or “interfere” with any “reproductive decisions”. That suggests that taxpayer funding for abortions here in Ohio would be legal.

  **To read the text of the proposed abortion amendment, go to:** [**https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/getattachment/cf27c10f-b153-4731-ae9e-e3555a326ed9/The-Right-to-Reproductive-Freedom-with-Protections-for-Health-and-Safety.aspx**](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/getattachment/cf27c10f-b153-4731-ae9e-e3555a326ed9/The-Right-to-Reproductive-Freedom-with-Protections-for-Health-and-Safety.aspx)

  **To find out what the proposed amendment *really* says, go to:**

[**https://www.declinetosign.us/**](https://www.declinetosign.us/) **and** [**https://www.createdequal.org/ohio/**](https://www.createdequal.org/ohio/)

**\*NEWS from Our Local**

**Pregnancy Resource Centers\*\***

**Abigail Pregnancy Services**, 3900 Laylin Rd., Norwalk, offers free pregnancy tests, abortion education, and confidential support for those with an unexpected pregnancy. Call: [**(419) 668-9500**](https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJzj4tZP1zcsSUk2tExLMmC0UjWosLAwTjROsTCzNDZMMjRKNrUyqEhLskw2AwqamyYlmZgbJHtJJSZlpidm5igUFKWm5yXmJVcqFKcWlWUmpxYDAJySGO4&q=abigail+pregnancy+services&rlz=1C1SQJL_enUS872US872&oq=Abigail&aqs=chrome.1.35i39i355j46i39i175i199j69i57j46i340i433i512l2j69i60j69i61j69i60.4186j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

  **Heartbeat of Sandusky, l**ocated at 3423 Columbus Ave. in Sandusky, offers lay/peer counseling, maternity clothes, children’s clothes up to size 4, starter packs for newborns, baby food, as well as a 24-hour-Hotline, 800-712-HELP (4357). All services are free and confidential. Please contact Director Mattie Sparks at **419-625-9511**.

**\*\*Protect Women Ohio\*\***

Check out Pro-Life videos and much more, at: **protectwomenohio.com**

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**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

**ECRTL General Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next ECRTL meeting will be Monday Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 1810 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky.**

**PLEASE COME!!! All are welcome!!**

***\*\*\**Tuesday August 8, SPECIAL ELECTION for an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would require a 60% majority vote to amend our state Constitution\*\*\* CONSIDER VOTING YES**

**\*Ohio March for Life Fri. Oct. 6,**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215**

**\*ECRTL Prayer Brunch, Sat. Oct. 7, watch for details!**

**\*Abigail Pregnancy Services Annual Banquet,**

**Thurs. Oct. 19, at The Colonnade, Milan; speaker Peter Range, Ohio Right to Life CEO**

**\*Sandusky-Huron Knights of Columbus 3rd annual Walk for Life to support Abigail Pregnancy Services and Heartbeat of Sandusky, Sat. Oct. 21, 8 a.m. at the Sandusky Sailing Club**