



The Missouri Pro-Abortion Ballot

Read below for more information.
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I. What is the Missouri Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative?

It is an attempt by pro-abortion groups to put forth a ballot measure to amend the Missouri Constitution and legalize abortion throughout ALL stages of pregnancy.

What are the pro-abortion groups doing to get the proposed change to the constitution on a fall 2024 ballot?

They are in the process of collecting signatures on a petition throughout Missouri. They need to collect approximately 172,000 total valid signatures from registered voters in six out of eight congressional districts.

If the measure is passed by Missouri voters in the general election, what does it mean?

It would place a right to abortion in the state constitution and would nullify all current state pro-life and parental notification laws.



II. What does the slogan “Decline to Sign” mean?

If you are approached to sign anything, read the petition summary on the front or the actual language on the back before you sign anything. After reading, you can say, “No, thank you.”

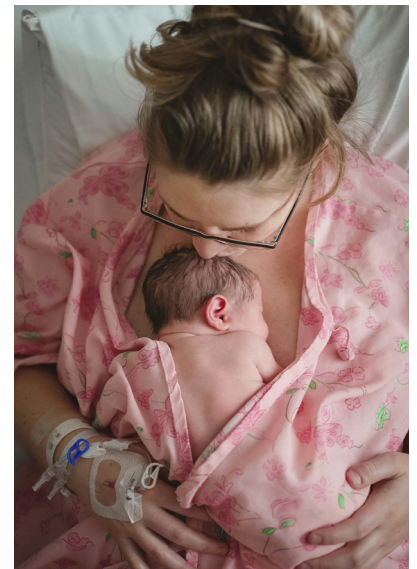
Don't take for granted what the signature gatherers tell you. In other states, voters have been falsely told that the petitions protect “women's health” or that it is “pro-life.” None of the pro-life groups in Missouri are collecting signatures for an initiative petition, so don't be misled.

Don't fall for the tactic “you can sign it, but still vote against it later.” No one should participate in abortion to any degree. It is morally wrong to help put it on the ballot so that others can vote in favor of it.

III. Why we as Catholics must NOT sign and allow this to appear on the fall ballot.

The dignity of the human person, the sacredness of each human being in God's eyes, and the humanity of the preborn is at the center of what we as Catholics must accept as truth.

We are called to defend human life by standing up against the proposed ballot initiative to put a right to abortion in the Missouri Constitution.



IV. How does the Church help mothers and fathers choose life for their children?

The Church's pastoral response will continue to focus on the needs of women facing unexpected or challenging pregnancies. We must and will answer Pope Francis' repeated challenge to go to the margins and bring help to those in need.

There are abundant ministries and agencies in the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph that support women, children, and families. Please learn more and get involved.

- The Gabriel Project - supports women with a friend for the journey.
- Walking with Moms in Need - is a parish-based ministry to assist pregnant mothers. Many parishes collect funds for baby bottles, donate diapers, partner with a local pregnancy resource centers and more.
- Meet Life with the Knights of Columbus - offers ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) and the ultrasound initiative which gifts pregnancy resource centers with technology to view preborn babies and hear the heartbeat.
- Catholic Charities Moms Empowerment Program - equips mothers with knowledge and material support.
- There are over 20 Pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes in the Diocese that work with the Office of Life and Justice and the Knight of Columbus. To learn more, please scan the QR code.



V. What does the Church do to help those wounded by abortion?

Research shows that by the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved.

Sadly, these numbers generally remain consistent for both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Many Catholics who have participated in abortion believe they have committed the "unforgiveable sin."

However, the Church does not abandon women and men who have experienced abortion and then find themselves in spiritual, emotional, and psychological turmoil. All who are touched by abortion are invited to go to a priest for the sacrament of reconciliation. Additionally, Project Rachel and Project Joseph ministry offer local, confidential, healing retreats known as Unfailing Mercy.

For more information, please contact Deb Sheppard at sheppard@diocesekcsj.org.



"The Child Who Was Never Born,"
by Martin Hudáček. Located in Slovakia.

