



*"Our mission is to promote and defend the right to life of all innocent human beings from the time of fertilization until natural death"*

The next Henry County Right to Life Meeting will be held January 15, 2024 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, New Bavaria at 7 p.m.

Just as many of you, we at Henry Co. Right to Life are heartbroken and dismayed at the passage of Issue 1 on November 7. We grieve the state supported violence toward pre born children and further erosion of our citizenry's moral fabric. While we are justifiably saddened for a time, we recognize the sanctity of human life most profoundly demands we not be defeated or silenced by this legislative setback. We are committed to continue the fight for life.

Pro-life activist, Mark Harrington, is Founder and President of Created Equal, a Columbus, Ohio based pro-life education and outreach organization. Mr. Harrington travels to universities across the nation reaching students, inspiring young apologists, mentoring future leaders, and introducing cutting-edge tactics to the pro-life effort. We encourage you to read his direct and impactful synopsis and strategic pro life advocacy plan (included with this newsletter) around the Nov. 7 ballot results.

Balloting results from our local northwest Ohio counties having hosted state "Town Hall" events sponsored by Henry County Right to Life were encouraging despite an overall statewide 57%/43% loss. Local prolife voters in Henry, Defiance and Putnam counties faithfully stood for pre-born children with 65%, 61%, and 83% "NO" votes, respectively.

There are many among statewide pro-life advocacy groups such as Protect Women Ohio, Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio and Created Equal who traveled throughout the state during much of this year to educate voters around the dangers of issue 1. Linda Theis and Gretchen Schellenger of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio as well as various speakers from Created Equal are just a few of the many LIFE warriors who have been on the road educating as many voters as would listen to facts around the dangers of the proposed amendment and of the perils to the health and well-being of those (mis)led to the tragedy of abortions. They gave it their all and deserve a great deal of respect and gratitude for the outpouring of life affirming compassion represented by the many "NO" votes garnered throughout the state.

We do see a glimmer of hope on the horizon with the recent reopening of the Heartbeat case. Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy issued an order giving state Attorney General Dave Yost and plaintiffs until Dec. 7 (which is the date Issue 1 would go in to effect) to file written arguments stating what effect they think Issue 1 has on the case. Because Issue 1 changes Ohio's main governing document while not repealing an specific law, any individual abortion law on the books would have to be the subject of a specific lawsuit challenging it. It then will be up to courts—with the Ohio Supreme Court potentially having the final say—to decide how Issue 1's passage affects that law. Pray and stand by for upcoming details.

**We will again be sponsoring a Pro-Life Signature Ad in both the Crescent News and the Northwest Signal on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the sign up sheet to be used for the ad. Deadline for submission of signatures is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Kindly send your contribution of signatures to the address noted on the signature sign up sheet. Please be careful in ensuring signatures are legibly printed.**



We organized and sponsored two buses this year on Oct 6, 2023 to Columbus for the March for Life. The one bus included 44 high school students from Putnam County. It was great seeing the next generation get involved! We want to thank the Ottawa K of C who paid for one bus and to the Glandorf Outreach group who paid for most of the 2nd bus. It was so generous of them and it freed us up to send excess funds on to Protect Woman Ohio to help pay for TV ads. It was a great day with 105 great pro-lifers.

By Mark Harrington from Created Equal after Issue 1



**WHY OHIO FELL** I was praying I would never have to write the following report. But here goes. Going into this campaign, we had some things working in our favor in Ohio: Ohio is a red state. Donald Trump carried the state in 2016 and 2020. Our legislature is controlled by the Republican Party. The Governor's Office is held by Mike DeWine, a Republican. However, despite these advantages, on November 7, Ohio's Issue 1 was approved by the voters. Legal abortion is now enshrined in The Ohio Constitution. According to the Ohio Secretary of State's website, the margin was 57% to 43%. If you compare the Ohio vote to last year's vote in Michigan, the numbers were almost identical. So, what went wrong?

**Politics are downstream from culture.** In the last several decades, we've been winning elections, but losing the culture. We've put Republicans in the White House. At times we've controlled either or both chambers of Congress. We've held a majority in most of the Statehouses and Governor's Offices. But recently, Americans have been voting in favor of unlimited abortion. The pro-life movement is now 0-7 in constitutional amendments and there are up to 11 states facing this battle in 2024. Unless we get back to the business of changing culture, we will face similar defeats in these states and beyond.

**We overturned Roe, but we did not overturn abortion.** While the pro-life movement celebrated the overturning of Roe, Rome was burning. We didn't foresee the storm cloud on the horizon. We were unprepared for what was coming.

**This is what democracy looks like.** After failing to raise the threshold to 60% in August, Ohioans were stuck with a 50% +1 vote threshold to amend the constitution. Manipulating the masses with huge amounts of paid advertising in blue cities isn't that difficult.

**We can't continue current messaging and expect a different result.** The Ohio campaign made removal of parental rights a main argument. That wasn't enough. If we don't make this debate about babies, we're going to keep losing. We need to prove to the American people that abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby.

**Lack of money wasn't the problem.** We need to close the fundraising gap, but we can't use lack of funding as the sole excuse for losing.

**We cannot count on GOP voters being pro-life.** Exit polls show there is a slice of the Republican Party that, while they are against abortion and think abortion is wrong, hold that the government has no right to "tell women what to do with their bodies." That sentiment is not just found in Ohio – it's everywhere. Until we change this, we will continue to suffer losses in our attempts to restrain or regulate abortion, let alone end it.

**We have a church problem.** Many pastors didn't address Issue 1. Their silence contributed to the defeat. Christians need to be taught to be good stewards of our nation and vote based on biblical values. But too often Christians stay home, don't vote, or vote pro-abortion.

**State constitutional amendments need to be treated as national referenda on abortion.** The Ohio Constitutional amendment proposal was the only one in America in 2023, yet most national groups didn't commit funding or boots on the ground to help defeat it. Until we view these elections as national battles over abortion that we need to fight together, we're going to continue to lose.

**We need our Normandy Beach.** To reverse course in 2024, our movement needs to pick a state and put everything we have into it to win, thus establishing a beachhead to export that victory to other states. This may mean moving resources out of the states we've lost to hold ground in pro-life states.

**Preparing for the future.** I know it's difficult for our movement right now, but we need to pick ourselves up and get back to work because the children deserve our defense. If we improve in the above areas, we can have victory in 2024.



#### Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

## 2024 SIGNATURE AD CAMPAIGN

*We would appreciate you sharing this form and collecting names for our Signature Ad Campaign*

I, the undersigned, do agree that my name is to be included in the Right to Life newspaper ad to be placed in the Defiance Crescent-News and the Napoleon NW Signal on January 22, 2024. This will indicate my support for all pro-life legislation . My donation to help defray the cost of this ad is attached. The ad cost is expensive so we ask you to donate as generously as possible - a donation of at least **\$3 or more** per name would be appreciated. The deadline for this ad is January 15, 2024.

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY.** We cannot publish if we cannot read it. Thanks.

NAME	Phone #	DONATION
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		
7. _____		
8. _____		
9. _____		
10. _____		

**WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE.**

Names can be emailed to [emw@bright.net](mailto:emw@bright.net) or [HCRTL@righttolifehenryco.org](mailto:HCRTL@righttolifehenryco.org) than send check made out to "Henry Co. RTL " to Carol Schroeder, 11761 Road Y, New Bavaria, OH 43548 or send both names and money together no later than the deadline of January 15, 2024.

# THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU!

If you wish to become a **Henry Co. Right to Life Member** and receive our newsletter, fill out the information below and mail to:

Carol Schroeder, 11761 Road Y, New Bavaria, OH 43548

**Make checks payable to Henry County Right to Life**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Information

- ( ) Individual Membership \$5.00
- ( ) Couple Membership \$10.00
- ( ) Family Membership \$20.00

**Henry County Right to Life**

**12222 Rd A**

**Leipsic, OH 45856**

I would be able to help with:

- ( ) Flower Sale
- ( ) Signature Ad
- ( ) Ohio March for Life Columbus
- ( ) Fair Booth

Suggestions? Let us know

I wish to receive my newsletter by email: Circle YES or NO

I wish to receive my newsletter by U.S. Mail: Circle YES or NO



VISIT US AT [www.righttolifehenryco.org](http://www.righttolifehenryco.org)

*Just a friendly reminder...*

**2023 Dues are due Dec 31, 2023. 2024 Dues can be paid anytime during the year.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED