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Reproductive Health Voter Guide

2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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Abstract

Abortion and reproductive health have always been at the forefront of American politics, even more so now since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, 2022. With the election being incredibly close and abortion one of the top issues for young women (Kaiser Family Foundation Survey), each candidate is doing their best to win the vote of young women. Finding information on candidates' stances can be particularly hard if they are from a third party and major candidates don't put everything they say onto their website; because of these reasons, we have compiled a comprehensive document containing the four major candidates' stances on abortion.

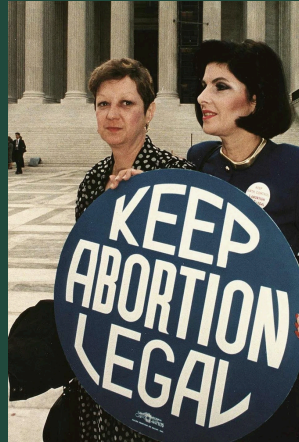


What is Roe v. Wade?

When discussing the upcoming election, many voters state that abortion, reproductive health and codifying Roe v. Wade are major issues that will determine how they will vote. Many left-leaning candidates state that if they are elected President, they will codify Roe v. Wade to protect a woman's right to an abortion. But what is Roe v. Wade? Roe v. Wade was a Supreme Court case from the 1970s, which started as a lawsuit in Texas by Jane Roe, an unmarried pregnant woman who filed a lawsuit to challenge Texas abortion laws, stating that they were too vague for doctors to follow. At the time, abortion was illegal unless it was done to save a mother's life; it was illegal to get an abortion or to attempt one (NPR).

When the case made its way to the Supreme Court, it became an issue of privacy. The Court decided that the constitution provides people a fundamental right to privacy established in the "due process" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and that this clause protects a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. The Court did a historical review of medical and legal documents regarding abortion and found that the papers were too recent and there was not a historical precedent that would not have made abortion a constitutional issue. The Court concluded that a person's right to privacy extends to a woman's decision to whether or not to carry a baby to term; however, the Court upheld that only a compelling state interest could justify state interference with abortion, and the state can restrict abortions post-viability. The case established a framework for trimester-based state regulation of abortions. During the first trimester, the state cannot regulate abortion beyond ensuring that it takes place by a licensed doctor in a safe environment, during the second trimester, a state can create regulations that are "reasonably related to the health of the pregnant person" and during the third trimester the state's interest in protecting a life outweighs a person's right to privacy however the state may only prohibit access to abortion unless an abortion is necessary to save the life of the pregnant person (National Constitution Center).

The decisions from Roe v. Wade were that the 14th Amendment provides a person the fundamental right to privacy; this privacy includes a woman's ability to access and have an abortion, and that having an abortion is not an absolute right and there is a balance between protecting the pregnant person's health and prenatal health.



Norma McCorvey also known as Jane Roe and her lawyer Gloria Allred on the steps of the Supreme Court in 1989

Supporters and protestors of abortion legislation outside Trenton New Jersey State House, in 1973



Protestors outside of the Supreme Court on the two year anniversary of Roe v. Wade being overturned

What does it mean to codify Roe v. Wade?

Roe v. Wade was a Supreme Court case that legalized abortion across the U.S., confirming that women had a constitutional right to access abortion, especially in the early stages of pregnancy. The decision protected the right to abortion before the point of "fetal viability," typically around 24 weeks, when a fetus can survive outside the womb. This meant states were unable to enforce bans on abortion before that stage, allowing women to make personal medical decisions with limited government control. In 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case, ending federal protection for abortion rights and leaving the issue to be decided by individual states. As a result, some states have implemented strict abortion bans, while others have passed laws to safeguard access.

Codifying Roe v. Wade would involve passing a federal law that protects the right to abortion nationwide, similar to how Roe initially did, regardless of state-level restrictions. By doing so, Congress would reinstate national abortion rights and prevent states from enacting laws that severely limit or ban access to abortion. This legislation would guarantee that women in all states, even those with restrictive policies, retain the legal right to abortion. Without this action, abortion rights will continue to differ significantly from state to state, depending on local laws.



VOTER GUIDE: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Top Four Candidates



KAMALA HARRIS

Current Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz are running as the Democratic picks for the next election. Harris takes a progressive stance on reproductive rights. Promising to protect access to abortion, IVF, access to birth control, and other forms of contraception and codify Roe V. Wade.



DONALD TRUMP

Donald Trump is running for reelection to be the President of the United States, With new running mate JD Vance running to serve as the 50th Vice President. Trump Is Running as a Republican and is described as a right-wing populist. Trump's campaign advocates for state-level abortion restrictions and for IVF treatments to be covered by insurance.

CHASE OLIVER

Chase Oliver is running as the Libertarian third party nominee, and Mike ter Matt is his vice presidential pick. Oliver takes a libertarian stance on the issue, promising to decriminalize abortions and promote alternatives to abortion, such as easing adoption regulations that make the process expensive, while stating that there should not be government-funded abortions. Oliver also supports access to IVF, making birth control accessible.

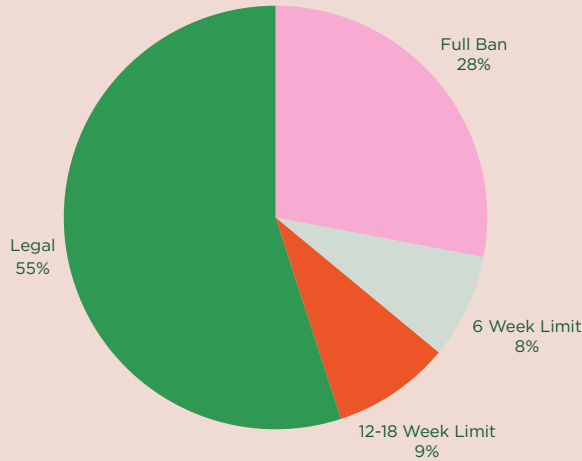


JILL STEIN

Jill Stein is running for president as the Green Party candidate with Butch Ware as her vice presidential pick Stein's campaign promises to codify Roe vs. Wade, decriminalize sex work, and federally fund rape kit testing and birth control

POST DOBBS ABORTION RESTRICTIONS

POST ROE V. WADE ABORTION RESTRICTIONS



WHAT STATES HAVE FULL BANS?

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- West Virginia

QUICK FACTS

A STATE COULD NOT OUTLAW ABORTION BEFORE FEETUS VIABILITY



NORTH CAROLINA RESTRICTS ABORTION AFTER 12 WEEKS



NEBRASKA HAS A BALLOT INITIATIVE TO ADD ABORTION RIGHTS TO ITS CONSTITUTION



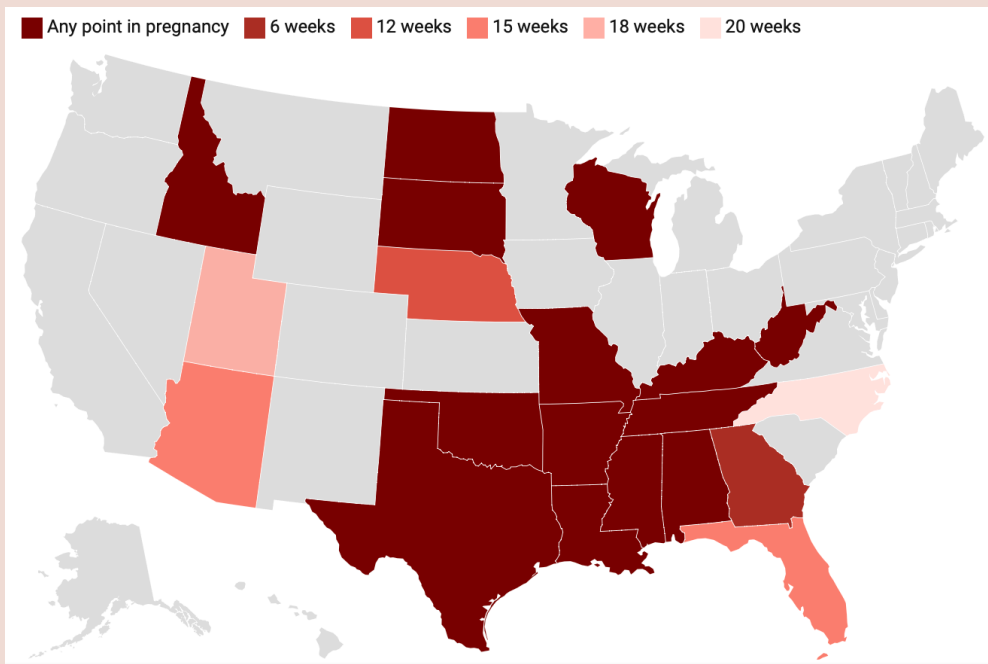
28 STATES HAVE ABORTION RESTRICTIONS BASED ON GESTATIONAL DURATION



9 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DO NOT RESTRICT ABORTION BASED ON GESTATIONAL DURATION.



MAP OF THE RESTRICTIONS BY STATE

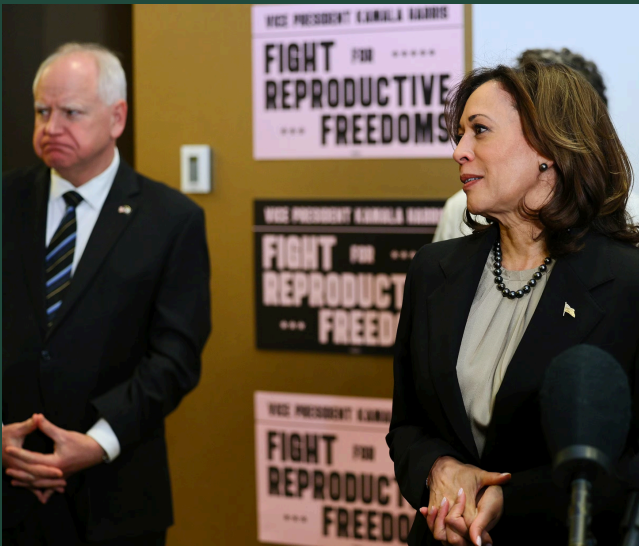


Kamala Harris and Tim Walz

Harris has made reproductive health and freedoms a major part of her campaign platform.

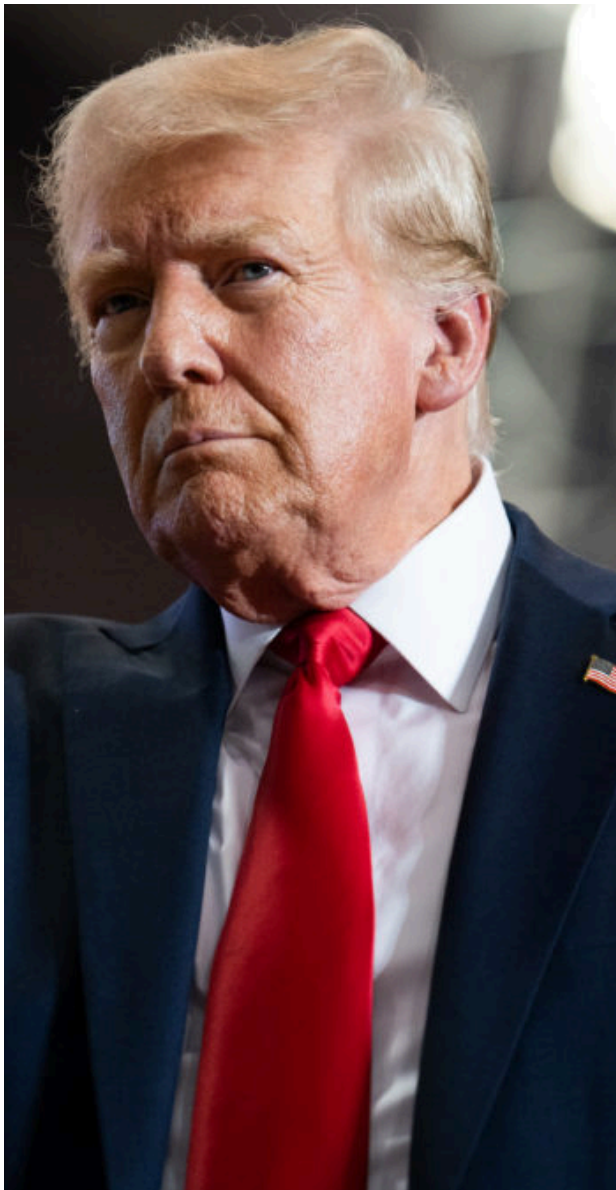
Harris has made abortion and reproductive rights a focal point of her campaign in hopes of gaining the votes of youth and those who care deeply about abortion. Early in her campaigning process, she made clear what her stance on abortion access was; while giving her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Harris stated that if Congress "Passes a law to restore reproductive freedom, as President of the United States I will sign it into law." Additionally, Harris stated that she supports eliminating the Senate filibuster to secure abortion rights nationwide by codifying *Roe v. Wade* (National Review). On her campaign website, Harris stated that if she is elected President, she will never allow a national abortion ban to occur.

Harris has also made claims to that as President she would protect access to In vitro fertilization (IVF), stating that it is a part of a woman's reproductive freedom and that women have the right to make decisions about their body and family planning. While Harris has stated that she would protect IVF she has not stated if she would implement Laws that would require insurance companies to pay for IVF (Healthline). Harris has also stated as president she will preserve access to the abortion pill known as mifepristone (Healthline).



Donald Trump and JD Vance

On abortion, Trump stated, "My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote or legislation, or perhaps both, and whatever they decide must be the law of the land" (AP, 2024). He mentioned a potential limit of 15 weeks, saying, "People are agreeing on 15, and I'm thinking in terms of that," and commented on Florida's law, indicating, "Going to be voting that we need more than six weeks" (CBS, 2024). Recently, he raised eyebrows by suggesting he was "looking at" restrictions on contraception but later assured the public he would never "ban" contraceptives (Politico, 2024). His campaign promises to protect access to in-vitro fertilization, advocating for government or insurance coverage for those who need it. Together, Trump and Vance aim to unite supporters around a vision of conservatism that addresses social and economic concerns.



The Third Party Candidates

Chase Oliver



Oliver has not made abortion and reproductive rights a focal point of his campaign, instead presenting himself as a middle-ground alternative to voters who don't like the major party candidates. Oliver has made it clear through his social media posts and his campaign website that he supports a woman's right to an abortion but has made it clear that he does not believe that the government should fund abortions. Oliver also supports codifying Roe v. Wade, stating that it's an issue of bodily autonomy and privacy, but believes that the government should take steps to lower the chances of needing an abortion by making birth control more available by creating laws to make it an over the counter drug, he has also made statements that he will protect access to IVF and surrogacy to help people have children. Additionally, Oliver has stated that he supports a woman's right to abortion until viability, with exceptions for the life of the mother.

Jill Stein

Following the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Stein prioritizes reproductive rights. She intends to "codify Roe v. Wade" and supports federal funding and expedited testing of rape kits. Additionally, she advocates for free birth control and menstrual products, decriminalizing sex work, and prosecuting sexual harassment and violence in workplaces and the military. Stein argues that access to abortion is a fundamental right and aims to protect and expand reproductive healthcare nationwide.



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