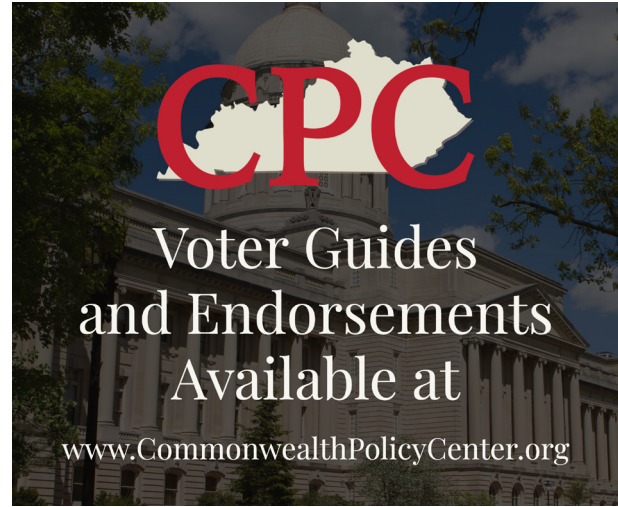


and it continues today. A group calling itself Protect Kentucky Access moved into the state to confuse and scare people to vote against an important constitutional amendment that says abortion is not a protected right under the Kentucky Constitution. They will misrepresent and point out tragic situations and circumstances that may sound compelling. But tragedy does not a principle make. In other words, hard cases cannot supplant the truth that the unborn are human lives worthy of being protected by law. Difficult pregnancies and tear-jerking examples of how a pregnancy was conceived cannot and should not undo basic protections for the unborn.

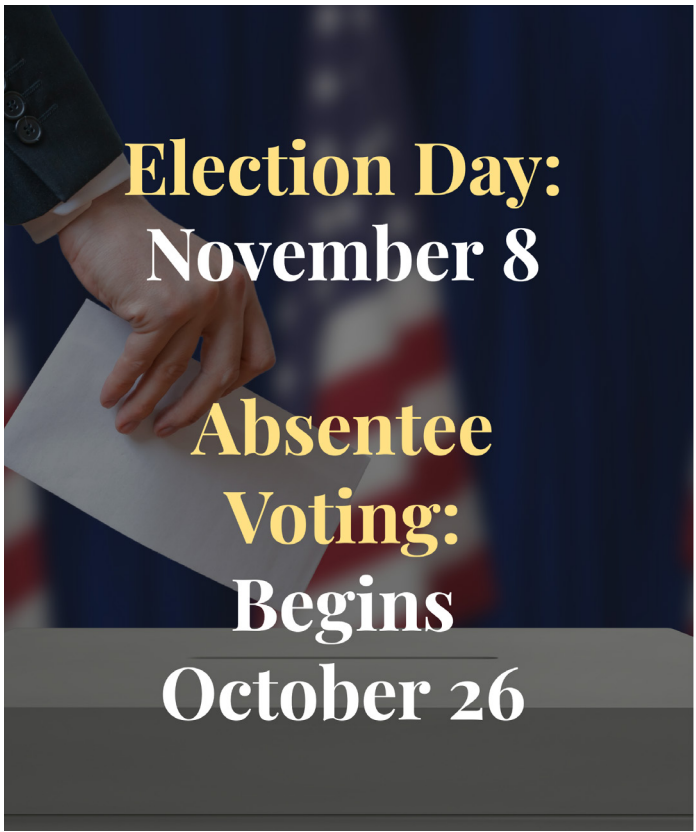
Judge Mitch Perry exemplifies why Kentucky needs to pass Constitutional Amendment #2. Perry, a Circuit Court Judge in Louisville, blocked a duly enacted Kentucky law that protected unborn human life as soon as a heartbeat is detected. He also blocked Kentucky’s Trigger Law which banned abortions except in cases to save the life of the mother. The bill had bipartisan support in the legislature, which is how we’re supposed to get laws to begin with.

If the constitutional amendment fails at the ballot box, we can expect more Mitch Perrys imposing their policy preferences into our laws and striking down any of the 13 pro-life laws that have been enacted since 2016. So the question is: will voters decide abortion policy through their elected representatives, or should unaccountable judges decide this issue for us? Whatever the answer, followers of Jesus will play a pivotal role in the outcome of the November 8 vote.

Richard Nelson is the founder and executive director of CPC. This article first appeared in Kentucky Today on September 22.



Visit CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org to read our blogs, commentary and listen to our radio programs.



CPC Releases Voter Guides and Endorsements

Commonwealth Policy Center released its voter guides and candidate endorsements. The several month process, which began with candidate questionnaires, extensive research, and interviews by the political advisory committee, resulted in voter guides for almost every state House and Senate race, 50 endorsements and 20 recommendations. Endorsed candidates commit to uphold the four pillars of society, including the sanctity of human life and religious freedom. Recommended candidates commit to upholding three of four pillars.

“We are pleased with so many good candidates that are on the ballot and have committed to upholding the conservative principles of the Commonwealth,” said CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson. “We are optimistic that the majority of our endorsed candidates will win on November 8 and look forward to working with them in the 2023 General assembly session.”

Go to www.CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org to view our voter guides and endorsements.

Answering Objections to the Yes for Life Amendment

In a recent conversation with a pastor, we discussed the Yes for Life Amendment that will be on the ballot in November. I (Justin) explained how the amendment makes it clear that abortion is not a protected right under Kentucky’s State Constitution. He informed me that he is “pro-choice” and posed objections to the pro-life position. This was shocking, but it gives an opportunity to briefly answer his objections and a few other common objections to the pro-life position and the pro-life Constitutional Amendment.

1. *“I am pro-choice but anti-abortion. I think it’s wrong, but the woman has to choose whether to get an abortion or not.”*

The first question to ask is, “What is the woman choosing to do?” There are some choices that people should never have a legal right to make and taking the life of another human being is one of them. God recognizes unborn human life in the womb (Jer. 1:5 and Psalm 139:13-16) and that human beings are made in God’s image (Gen. 1:26-27). There are also sanctions against harming unborn life (Exodus 21:22-23). Followers of Jesus are told to defend the cause of the weak and fatherless (Psalm 82:2). There is no moral or legal justification to take the life another human being.

2. *“A woman has a right to do what she wants with her body.”*

This is a true statement. However, we aren’t talking about what the woman does with her body. We’re talking about what she wants to do with someone else’s body—the body of the baby in her womb. The baby in the womb is a unique human being with its own genetic makeup. While for a time the baby resides within the mother’s body, it is very much its own body.

3. *“You can’t legislate morality.”*

All law is rooted in morality. All law is based on somebody’s beliefs about what should be allowed and what should be prohibited in society. God gives us his moral law in Exodus 20 with the Ten Commandments and establishes civil laws all throughout the rest of the Pentateuch that are derived from the moral law. One example is the commandment “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13). God is the author of life and gives us rules to live by. And we reject his rules to our own harm.

4. *“Pro-lifers only care about the baby until it’s born.”*

This objection is actually just a misdirection. Even if the statement was true, it doesn’t mean that killing unborn babies would be justified. The statement though, isn’t true. James 1:27, says “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.” Part of our calling as Christians is to meet the needs of women and children in their hardships. This includes babies after they have been born. Pro-life Christians have been obedient to that call. Crisis Pregnancy Centers are pro-life alternatives to abortion centers and offer various services throughout the pregnancy. These services can include counseling, medical services, and even providing material needs like diapers and formula after the baby is born. Some even provide parenting classes. Many churches have stepped up as well to care for women in crisis pregnancies. So, to say that pro-lifers don’t care about the baby after it is born is blatantly false.

5. *“Don’t force your religious convictions on me.”*

This objection assumes that the

pro-life position is religious and not a moral one. This objection falls apart when atheists protest abortion as well. Secular Pro-life is a non-religious pro-life organization. They say, “You don’t have to be religious to have a problem with killing humans.” While religion and morality are related, you don’t have to be a Christian to know that abortion is wrong.

6. *“The Yes for Life Amendment will force women to give birth to stillborn children and prevent treatment for ectopic pregnancies.”*

This is false. This amendment says nothing about abortion restrictions. It simply bans judges from finding a right to abortion in the constitution. This amendment ensures that the abortion debate will be decided in the legislature, not the courts. Kentucky’s current laws ensure that women can receive medical treatment for ectopic pregnancies and deceased children in utero.

7. *“This amendment forces women who are victims of rape or incest to carry babies.”*

The Yes for Life Amendment does not address the issue of rape, incest, or any other difficult situation involving a pregnancy. This Amendment ensures that legislators should create abortion policy instead of judges. Exceptions to Kentucky’s abortion laws can be addressed at any time whenever the legislature is in session.

Be prepared to answer these common objections. You’ll have an opportunity to be a voice for life on Tuesday, November 8th when you can vote Yes for Life, on Amendment 2. Early voting begins on October 26.

Justin Warriner is CPC’s Church Outreach Field Representative for Louisville.

Kentucky is Not Kansas When it Comes to Proecting Unborn Life

Earlier this year Kansas voters shocked the nation by voting down an amendment to their Constitution that simply says that abortion is not a protected right. The 60 to 40 percent margin of defeat was a wake-up call to pro-lifers in the Commonwealth. But Kentucky is not Kansas.

For starters the language of Kansas’ constitutional amendment was confusing. The explanation of the amendment and the amendment language contained 10 times more words than Kentucky’s Amendment. Kansas lawmakers, whom some asserted purposely confused the amendment, were unclear in parts and used a total of 254 words.

Fortunately, this is not the case for Kentucky where Amendment #2 is clear: “To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.” It’s a simple, straightforward 25 words.

Kansas also differs from Kentucky in that there was a state Supreme Court ruling in 2019 that found a right to abortion in their Constitution. Kentucky has no such previous ruling. The opposition told women a yes vote would take away their rights—a partial truth swallowed within a bigger lie. This underscores why the Yes for Life amendment is so necessary. The question is whether people should decide this issue through their elected representatives and through the legislative process? Or should judges decide this issue and impose their views on the populace?

The U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision, which overturned the notorious Roe v. Wade ruling, came down five weeks before the Kansas vote. Many Kansas voters wrongly believed that Dobbs banned abortion. Even though that wasn’t the case,

the main group opposed to the measure called Kansas For Constitutional Freedom (KFCF) stoked fear and peddled outright lies, including the charge that a “yes” vote would prevent pregnant women from life-saving medical help in a crisis pregnancy. This lie deserves five Pinocchios.

Value Them Both (VTB) was outspent by \$4 million. They raised \$9 million while KFCF raised \$13 million (as of the last campaign finance disclosure), mostly from outside the state. VTB’s fundraising efforts were laudable, but not enough



to overcome the scaremongering campaign. So much money and energy went into defeating the Kansas Amendment because it was the frontline in the war over abortion policy and how such policy should be decided: via judges or the people.

Brittany Jones, a spokesperson of VTB, told me that they were on defense the entire time. Pro-abortion advocates spread so much misinformation that they spent so much time trying to address the misinformation. But we all know that you cannot win anything when you are playing defense.

The confusion and scare tactics drowned out the science, the truth, and the legislative intent of the Kansas constitutional amendment. Yet, should we be surprised since this has been the modus operandi of pro-abortion forces from the beginning? I saw this firsthand at the Yes for Life rally at the Kentucky Capitol on October 1. Pro-lifers gathered to hear inspiring messages from the speakers who advocated for the Yes for Life Amendment #2. Down the Capitol steps

opponents blared music through a speaker and did their best to drown out pro-life messages. However, in an act of charity, Catholic Bishop John Iffert told the audience, “we will not respond in kind. We would love our enemies.” He was taking his cues from a different playbook.

At one point during the rally, there was a moment of silence to recognize all the unborn lives lost in the last 49 years since Roe v. Wade. An ultrasound of an unborn child’s heartbeat was played over the speakers while disrupters tried to drown out that heartbeat. Such contrast summarized the half-century fight for dignity and protection for the unborn. Kentucky voters will soon have an opportunity to bring clarity as to which side they agree with.

- Richard Nelson

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COMMONWEALTH ★★★POLICY CENTER★★★ *Director's Corner*

Greetings on another beautiful fall day in Frankfort! Rarely do Christians have a chance to influence public policy and intercede for vulnerable human beings as they do with this election. This is because the Yes for Life Amendment #2 is on the ballot on November 8. The amendment says “To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.” CPC is heavily engaged with this issue—sending mailers, doing radio spots, and interviews to promote the passage of the amendment. If you or your congregation need yard signs or bulletin inserts then please contact us.

We released candidate endorsements earlier in the week.

Altogether, CPC endorsed 50 candidates and recommended an additional 20. To see the endorsements go here. We also released our voter guides online. To see them, go here. Most Republican challengers with competitive races responded to our questionnaire. Yet some did not. In fact, some unfortunately were advised not to respond. I received a message shortly after we released candidate information that said “I couldn’t find my Republican candidates, _____ and _____, in your endorsed candidates list. Should I vote for someone else? It’s hard to get any information about these local candidates.” It’s clear that people depend on CPC election resources to make an informed decision about conservative candidates. The importance of this endeavor is not always clear to the candidates themselves. Regardless, we believe that we’re making a significant impact on behalf of principled conservatives.

I did a CPC Live program with pastors Bob Russell and Hershanel York on the Yes for Life Amendment #2 and the need for pastors to speak to this issue. Dr. Al Mohler joined me on the Commonwealth Matters program to talk about the same. We also shared the platform at the Yes for Life rally at the Capitol last week.

Our Christianity and Culture conference in Lexington on September 29 was another hit! We had around 200 in attendance to hear Andrew Walker and Jonathan Butcher talk about CRT and transgender ideology. Their message was well received. Attorney General Daniel Cameron also helped Commonwealth Policy PAC raise money for the upcoming election. The event, held at Wildwood country club in Louisville, was also a hit as we raised \$11,000 to help conservatives win at the ballot box. Thank you General Cameron for your help! Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles is headlining a similar event for us at the CPC office in Frankfort next week. If you’d like to attend or sponsor at some level, please let me know.

As you see, we’re heavily engaged in the election. So much is at stake. Allow me to double back to the Yes for Life Amendment #2. I’m convinced this is one of the most significant measures any of us will ever vote on in our lifetimes. Can I encourage you to talk to your pastor and encourage him to speak to the issue from the pulpit? Please share information on your social media outlets. And encourage two or three of your friends to vote on this measure as well? Thank you in advance for all that you might do to promote the cause of life and to elevate principled conservatives into office. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Richard Nelson

Richard Nelson
Executive Director



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COMMONWEALTH POLICY

Reinforcing the Commonwealth's Founding Principles - Renewing the Commonwealth's Future Promise

IS JESUS AGAINST ABORTION?

Is Jesus against abortion? According to talk show host Joe Scarborough the answer is no. Scarborough said on his Morning Joe program that “Jesus never once talked about abortion. Never once. And it was happening back in ancient times, it was happening during his time. Never once mentioned it.”

Bold statements indeed for someone who calls himself a backslidden Baptist and not practicing the faith. Of course, there’s a lot of things that are immoral that Jesus didn’t specifically speak to. But Scarborough’s accusation of pro-life Christians “perverting the gospel of Jesus Christ down to one issue,” and calling it “heresy,” ignores basic Christian doctrine and Christian practice throughout history.

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us we’re made in the image of God, endowing each of us with dignity and worth. Exodus 21:22-25 says that life in the womb has intrinsic value

and if that unborn life is injured, compensation to the family is required. Jeremiah 1:5 says God acknowledged the prophet before he was even a tiny embryo. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” Christians put such a high value on human life because God puts a high value on human life, and they’ve demonstrated this throughout history.

The early church in Rome was known for rescuing infants left on street corners to die of exposure.

This set them apart as a distinct people who dedicated themselves to care for the most vulnerable among them. The first orphanages can be traced back to the 4th century where Christians organized to provide for needy infants and children. One of the oldest childcare efforts in the commonwealth was started by the church. It’s called Sunrise Children’s Services and continues to place children in foster homes and finds forever homes for children.

Just as the church has a long history of caring for the vulnerable, it’s had its share of critics like Morning Joe throughout the ages. Romans spread stories about this new sect, called The Way, calling them cannibals who practiced incest. Few had personal contact with Christians, so the slander spread until their care for others overwhelmed the lies.

Part of Christian theology is that all of the Bible is authoritative—the Word of God spoken to mankind (II Tim. 3:16). It’s also true that Jesus didn’t specifically address every immoral act. If something was acknowledged in the Old Testament, as recognizing unborn life clearly is, then Jesus affirmed it in his words that he came not to abolish the words of the law but to fulfill them (Matt. 5:17-18).

Strong opposition to Christian theology on human life has existed since the beginning of the church

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The Commonwealth Policy Center is a non-profit public policy group helping Kentuckians value life, protect natural marriage, defend religious liberty, and promote fiscal integrity.

Learn more about our work at
CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

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