



## *Judge Beetem sides with pro-abortion ACLU Strikes down Ashcroft's truthful ballot language*

On September 25, Judge Jon Beetem struck down Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's truthful ballot language for 6 pro-abortion initiative petitions that were filed in March (Fitz-James vs. Ashcroft, Case No. 23AC-CC03167 et. al.). Judge Beetem's order included new rewritten ballot language declaring that Secretary Ashcroft's language was "problematic" and "argumentative" or unfair, which was what the ACLU had argued. Judge Beetem ruled in favor of the pro-abortion petitioner and her ACLU attorneys. Judge Beetem's ruling certified new summary statements that minimize the devastating impacts of these pro-abortion initiative petitions that would support a Constitutional right to abortion on demand all nine months of pregnancy.

Secretary of State Ashcroft's truthful ballot language that Judge Beetem ruled against and removed from the ballot summary statement are the following phrases:

- "dangerous, unregulated, and unrestricted abortions"
- "from conception to live birth"
- "without requiring a medical license"
- "without...potentially being subject to medical malpractice"
- "nullify longstanding Missouri law"
- "the right to life"
- "partial-birth abortion"
- "including a minor"

- "end the life"
- "unborn child"
- "at any time"
- "potentially including tax-payer funding"
- "prohibit any municipality, city, town, village, district, authority, public subdivision, or public corporation having the power to tax or regulate the state of Missouri from regulating abortion procedures"

With Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's ballot summary language removed, Judge Beetem has decreed that the people of Missouri will not have the clearest picture of the dangerous consequences when considering whether or not to sign the petition to put this amendment on the ballot. Likewise, the new ballot summary language Judge Beetem ordered that would amend our Missouri Constitution does not convey to Missouri voters the actual impact of the petition, should voters pass it into law.

Furthermore, Judge Beetem issued a separate ruling against pro-life petitioners in a separately filed case (Kelly v. Fitzpatrick, et. al., Case No. 23-AC-CC04802)

*Keep  
Missouri  
Pro-Life!*

who had argued the fiscal note summary part of the ballot language written by the State Auditor was insufficient and unfair.

Missouri Right to Life is extremely disappointed that Judge Beetem would rule in favor of extreme pro-abortion advocates at the expense of language that accurately portrays the devastating effect these petitions would have on Missouri women and children and Missouri's balanced budget.

Missouri Right to Life expects that the rulings on these cases will be appealed and prays a higher court will support Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's truthful ballot summary statement and rule in favor of pro-life petitioners in supporting an accurate fiscal note.

# 10 Action Steps to Victory!

Since the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, Missouri Right to Life, and you our members, have been working diligently to ensure that protections for unborn babies and women stay in place in Missouri. Pro-life Missourians are preparing to ensure that the general public knows the truth about what the passage of a pro-abortion initiative petition (IP) would do in Missouri. Below are ten steps that we all can take to “Keep Missouri Pro-Life.” Let’s get going!

## 1. Prayer

Be pro-active and bold! Pray and ask others to pray to stop these pro-abortion initiative petitions so we are able to continue to save babies and protect moms.

## 2. Be A Pro-Life Voice

Send emails and make phone calls to your Missouri legislators calling for Initiative Petition (IP) reform.  
Write Letters to the Editor/Op-Eds to your local newspapers

## 3. Engage Youth

Host a youth group at your home to discuss life. Invite Missouri Right to Life to speak to your high school or college youth group.

## 4. Decline to Sign Campaign

Let your friends/family know not to sign pro-abortion petitions. Let us know where signature-gathering efforts are occurring.

## 5. Voter Registration Drives

Ask your Pastor if you may set up voter registration tables at your church. Contact the MO Secretary of State’s office on guidelines for a voter registration drive.

## 6. Invite MRL to Speak

Invite us to speak to your pro-life and your local community groups.

## 7. Pro-Life Lobby Day

Join us at statewide Pro-Life Lobby Day on March 12, 2024, at the Missouri Capitol.

## 8. Pro-Life Banquet

Save-the-Date and plan to join us in Springfield on June 1, 2024, for our Pro-Life Banquet.

## 9. Absentee Voting

If you qualify to vote absentee, do so! Don’t miss your opportunity to share your voice with your vote!

## 10. Get Out the Vote on November 5, 2024

Schedule Election Day to:

- Drive people to the polls
- Make calls to remind people to vote
- Polling place sign waves (25 feet away)

# She’s counting on us!



Contact Missouri Right to Life for more information about how you can be a pro-life voice!

E-mail MRL at [righttolife@missourilife.org](mailto:righttolife@missourilife.org) or telephone at 573-635-5110

Missouri Right to Life's most priceless resource -



From the President ~

## Who Do You Know??

When the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, our phones and computers burned up with congratulatory messages. And we celebrated...for about 10 minutes. And then it hit us that pro-abortion activists would be coming at us with everything they had.

And they did.

We are now fighting the greatest pro-life battle in Missouri since 1973. In those intervening years, Missouri Right to Life helped to pass more than 50 laws regulating abortion with the effect that we now have a ban on virtually all abortions in Missouri.

But those 50 laws are in incredible jeopardy. Pro-abortion activists have filed Initiative Petitions that would bring abortion back to Missouri from the moment of conception to the moment of birth — paid for with your tax dollars. We must fight this insanity with everything we have.

We've met with pro-life leaders across the state — and beyond. We know people of faith all pulling in the same direction will be the difference in winning this battle. And we *will* win!

We've met with St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Kansas City Missouri Bishop James Johnston, Kansas City Kansas Archbishop Joseph Naumann, St. Louis Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson. Additionally, we've talked with Raymond Cardinal Burke about the initiative petitions at our Missouri Right to Life Eastern Region "Keep Missouri Pro-Life" Banquet -- attended by 1,600 people from across the state.

We've reached out to pro-life leaders from Lutherans for Life, the Missouri Baptist Convention, Evangelical Churches, and denominations across the spectrum. We are hosting monthly Zoom meetings with over 150 pro-life organizations and leaders from every corner of Missouri.

Knowing we will need tens of millions of dollars to fight this battle, we have met with business and civic leaders across the state. When we meet someone who is interested in helping us, we always ask, "Who do you know that might be able to help as well?" That creates a ripple effect that will be essential to raising the funds needed to win this battle.

So we ask, "Who do YOU know that might help?"

With the stakes so high and untold numbers of babies and mothers at risk, we are asking every pro-life Missourian to help.

Please keep us in your prayers. And pray that God will lead us to people who will lead us to other people who will yet lead us to others. Together, with His blessing, we will win.



Steve Rupp  
Missouri Right to Life President

Thank you and God bless you!

*Steve Rupp*

# *We must ensure Missouri remains a leader in protecting life*

Jay and Katie Ashcroft

**“The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government”**

Thomas Jefferson, 1809

A common theme from America’s inception is the importance of a government that will protect life and take steps at every stage to create an environment for Americans to live free and prosperous lives. Most Missourians would easily recognize the unalienable rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” which serve as the foundation for our republic.

We believe Missouri’s pre-born children are entitled to that protection of life too, regardless of the circumstances of their conception, and since taking office, I have striven to protect them. Missouri led the country to enact and sustain pro-life legislation in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to return the regulation of abortion to states, and I am grateful to have earned the sole endorsement for Governor from Missouri Right to Life.

But while we have made progress, there is still much work to be done to promote life in Missouri.

First, we must ensure Missouri remains a leader in protecting life. There are currently efforts to enshrine in the Missouri constitution abortion on demand until the very instant before birth, removing parental consent, and opening the door for taxpayer funding of abortions. While abortion rights activists have been successful in other states by misleading with regard to the scope and intent of ballot proposals, my office is committed to protecting voters from misinformation. Any initiative put before voters will be factual and transparent and the professionals in the Secretary of State’s office will continue to provide guidance that gives voters the most accurate election information.

Second, we must take steps to create an environment in which women and children, some of whom are born into very tough circumstances, are able to pursue fulfilling lives. This means supporting mothers through every step of pregnancy,

assuring them they are not alone. Missouri has more than 70 pregnancy resource centers across the state, which come alongside young mothers to offer healthy pregnancy and life-skills classes, counseling services, and support to mothers and children on average for the first two years of a baby’s life. Missouri currently supports these organizations through the Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credit program, which allows donors to qualified nonprofits to claim tax credits. As governor, I will prioritize the funding incentives for these crisis centers that support women and children.

We also need to strengthen Missouri’s foster care system, which oversees the care of more than 10,000 children. The best way to reduce the number of children in foster care is to focus on preventative services that help families work through difficult situations before they escalate into the necessity for foster care services. When these preventative measures fail, we must prioritize the good of the child and focus on finding forever homes outside of the state system. Other areas ripe for improvement are our hotline and case management systems – we must ensure concerned Missourians get valid responses and appropriate follow-up when they report child abuse. We can also do a better job tracking money the state spends to support children in the foster care system, ensuring the funds are going to those actually caring for our foster children.

Missouri is full of generous-hearted individuals who serve as foster parents, counselors, and volunteers to support our most vulnerable citizens. As Governor, Jay will ensure the state partners with them to ensure all Missouri women and children have an opportunity for “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” at every age and in every circumstance.

## *NARAL Pro-Choice America re-brands as ‘Reproductive Freedom for All’ in an attempt to appeal to more Americans, LifeSite News reports*

On September 20, NARAL Pro-Choice America announced that it is undergoing yet another re-branding – this time to “Reproductive Freedom for All.” America’s “oldest membership-based abortion rights group,” which has been fighting for unfettered feticide for 54 years, is embarking on this re-brand as an attempt to appeal to more Americans – especially as their values are out of step with the views of the majority. The name is new – the mission, abortion on demand throughout all nine months and funded by the government – is the same.

The organization was founded in February 1969, when 350 people from 21 sponsoring organizations gathered in Chicago for a conference titled “First National

Conference on Abortion Laws: Modification or Repeal?” Their conclusion could be found in the name of the new group: the National Association to Repeal Abortion Laws (NARAL).

In 2003, NARAL dropped its name (which had been rendered moot since *Roe v. Wade* had forcibly repealed abortion laws across the United States in 1973) in exchange for NARAL Pro-Choice America. The abortion wars were heating up and activists were concerned. In 2008, former NARAL Pro-Choice America president Kate Michelman co-authored an editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* admitting that the more pro-life activists shifted the focus from “choice” to what is being chosen, the more the public’s views changed.

“Advocates of choice,” the editorial noted, “have had a hard time dealing with the increased visibility of the fetus.” Additionally, they noted, “In recent years the anti-abortion movement successfully put the nitty-gritty details of abortion on public display, increasing the belief that abortion is serious business and that some societal involvement is appropriate.”

In 2013, with record numbers of Americans rejecting the “pro-choice” label, Planned Parenthood – the country’s largest abortion provider – decided to abandon the term “pro-choice” entirely in order to focus more specifically on the personal circumstances surrounding each abortion.

NARAL Pro-Choice America is making a similar decision with their new pivot.



Houck, or even a very liberal, progressive pro-life group” the Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising (PAAU).

On September 15, a jury convicted two elderly pro-life advocates of violating the FACE Act. Jean Marshall, age 73, and Joan Bell, 74, each face an 11-year jail sentence and a \$350,000 fine for allegedly blockading the Washington Surgi-Center, where the bodies of five viable babies, potentially victims of illegal late-term abortions, were found. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a Clinton appointee, ruled the defendants must remain in prison until the sentencing hearing.



<https://www.liveaction.org/news/va-abortions-opportunities-for-growth/>

### Leaked Veterans Affairs Training Promotes Abortions as “opportunities for growth”

CatholicVote has recently obtained a leaked memo from the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs which shows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been promoting abortion to its members. CatholicVote also viewed a VA training video in which abortions were promoted as “opportunities for growth,” while methods for suggesting abortion to pregnant mothers in a “sensitive, inclusive, and affirming” way were encouraged.

One of the training presentations was called, “Reproductive Health Education and Training,” and included 10 training videos on “abortion, reproductive care, and mental health, as well as a handout on chemical abortion.” A video within the presentation promoted abortion as a form of support for struggling mothers.

Under the Biden administration, the VA has worked to expand abortion. In September 2022, it created a rule allowing pregnant veterans and their dependents to receive abortions at VA hospitals in cases of rape, incest, or if the health of the mother is in jeopardy, even in states with protections for preborn human beings. These concessions were put in place despite a 1992 law prohibiting the VA from committing abortions, and the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortions. Reports show that since that time, 34 abortions have been committed in VA facilities.

“While unsurprising, these materials confirm that the Biden administration’s

VA is thumbing its nose at long-standing federal law and not only funding abortions with taxpayer dollars but promoting the murder of American children,” said CatholicVote Director of Government Affairs Tom McClusky.

“We will continue to urge the Biden administration to enforce the Hyde Amendment and other laws that definitively ended federal funding of abortion over 40 years ago,” added CatholicVote President Brian Burch. “But at this point, it’s clear that the current White House is occupied by people who are absolutely hostile to human life and the rule of law.”

Pregnant service members have long reported feeling pressure to abort their children in order to be considered “good soldiers” — and these latest reports indicate that little has changed.



[www.operationrescue.org/archives/rescue-story-baby-saved-at-chicago-abortion-facility/](http://www.operationrescue.org/archives/rescue-story-baby-saved-at-chicago-abortion-facility/)

### Love Life Chicago Leader Shares his September 15, 2023, Rescue Story

As I approached a vehicle today at the clinic, a dad reached his arm out of the car to hand me a clipboard. Just a few minutes prior, I had the honor of sharing the good news about Jesus to him. But still, I was unsure as to why he was offering me this clipboard.

At first, I thought he wanted me to help him give his girlfriend’s completed paperwork back to the abortion facility, so I immediately said:

“No sir, I will not help you with your abortion procedure.”

He looked at me, and said, “There’s no paperwork on this clipboard, because we chose not to finish the paperwork anymore. We have decided to go home.”

Hallelujah! The message of Jesus Christ and His divine plan for their precious baby penetrated the hearts of this couple today and, by God’s grace, they chose life.

This is baby number 24 saved this year in Chicago. All glory be to God.

If you’re reading this, I want to thank you for believing in what God is doing here in the city. Despite the darkness that seems to abound greatly here, God is still moving mightily. This clipboard is proof. In Jesus name.

<https://washingtonstand.com/news/>

### Roy Introduces Bill to Repeal FACE Act and End the Persecution of Pro-Lifers

After receiving no satisfaction from Attorney General Merrick Garland, a conservative congressman has introduced a bill to “stop giving authority to the Department of Justice to be able to go after people like Mark Houck,” the pro-life activist and father of seven arrested by armed federal agents before being acquitted of all charges.

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) introduced a bill to repeal the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, which allows the federal government to prosecute anyone who blocks any reproductive health center. Although the Act applies equally to abortion facilities and pro-life pregnancy resource centers, “of all of the prosecutions under the FACE Act, 126 were against pro-lifers; four were against people that were contrary to life, or pro-choice,” Congressman Roy told “Washington Watch with Tony Perkins”. That makes the DOJ’s biased enforcement of the FACE Act “clear” and undeniable.

A jury subsequently acquitted Houck of the charges — which local authorities refused to file — after about two-and-a-half hours of deliberation. Roy pressed Garland, President Joe Biden’s handpicked chief law enforcement officer, about cases like Houck’s during congressional testimony on September 20.

“Did you investigate this or question the U.S. attorney why they wasted resources for such an obvious result?” Roy asked Garland, before demanding the attorney general answer whether the Houck prosecution represented “a good use of [the Department of] Justice’s authority”

“I pressed the attorney general, [asking,] ‘What are you doing?’” Roy told Perkins, yet Garland’s responses seemed evasive, he said.

“We need to repeal it and then stop giving authority to the Department of Justice to be able to go after people like Mark

# Missouri Celebrates Life

The events of the grand Missouri Right to Life “Keep Missouri Pro-Life” Banquet in St. Charles are best summed up with a beautiful collage of pictures from the evening and the touching opening prayer of Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson:

*Call the Assembly. Notify the Congregation. The Sacred Right to Life from Conception to Natural Death is under attack in Missouri, and we turn in humble prayer to Our Lord:*

*“Here we are Lord. We come to do your will” and that is our delight.*

*We believe you have taught us that each one of us was created in your image and likeness as we find in Psalm 139:*

*Loving God, “Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. My soul also you knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to you. When I was made in secret, when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.”*

*Lord Jesus everything is present to your eyes and all life is sacred.*

*We stand here today and proudly proclaim by our words tonight and our action tomorrow that we believe that each one of us was created in the image and likeness of God from the moment of conception to natural death — indeed all life is sacred!*

*We thank God for the blessings we have received allowing the laws of our state to protect the unborn from the moment of their existence, protecting them from the evil of abortion.*

*As the Lord said to the Prophet Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.”*

*However, today the storm clouds are gathering and outsiders are trying to change our laws and fool us into believing their lies as they sow their dollars as seeds of evil.*

*They can take their dollars and false words back with them, for tonight unequivocally here in Missouri we choose life.*

*Amen*



Raymond Cardinal Burke holds his Champion of Life Award



Missouri Right to Life President Steve Rupp greets the 1,600 guests at the banquet.



Featured guest Jim Caviezel speaks to the crowd about Life!



# Pro-Life Across Missouri

## save the date

Sept. 27 -  
November 5

**Fall 40 Days for Life** - Columbia MO and Overland Park KS. See [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) for info on these sites. MRL-Western Region will be at the Overland Park site from 1:00 - 3:00 on Sunday afternoons.

Saturday,  
November 11

**Missouri Right to Life Annual Membership and Statewide Leadership Meeting**

Thursday,  
November 16

**MRL-Western Region 2023 Thanksgiving Gala**, 5:30 p.m., Stoneycreek Conference Center, Independence MO. More information and registration at [www.mrlwesternregion.org/gala](http://www.mrlwesternregion.org/gala).

Tuesday,  
March 12, 2024

Plan to join MRL for **Pro-life Lobby Day** at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. More information will soon be posted at [missourilife.org](http://missourilife.org)

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”  
~ Dr. Seuss

We know you do!

Please return the enclosed envelope with your most generous donation.

Thank you!

## Missouri Right to Life Annual Membership & Statewide Leadership Meeting

Saturday, November 11 9:30 a.m. - 3: p.m.

Meadow Lake Acres Country Club

2600 Meadow Lake Drive

New Bloomfield MO

### Memorials

*In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

In memory of ~	Given by ~
A.J.	Tina Sue Patterson
Ann Morrison	Virginia Campbell
Mary Ann Wallenburn	Bruce & Suzann Bowser
	Annette Cornine
	Betty Meyer
	Leonard & Wilma Romig
	Wally & Ruth Ann Self
	Ellen Twyman
	Mark & Margaret Walje



Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.

“One life,  
a little gleam  
between  
two  
eternities.”

~ Thomas Carlyle

### Celebrate a lifetime of giving...

... by giving *beyond a lifetime!* Invest in your vision – a world in which every human life is protected and respected.

### Yours is a Legacy of Life and Love

Your decision to enact a planned gift to Missouri Right to Life (MRL) and/ or the MRL Education Fund (tax deductible) reflects your commitment to grassroots pro-life work across Missouri. It is a gift that lives on – and saves lives.

For more information or to request a confidential consultation, contact Missouri Right to Life at 573-635-5110.

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Inside ~

- **MRL files brief concerning initiatives**
- NARAL changes its name -- again!
- **Enjoy the Keep Missouri Pro-Life Banquet in prayer and pictures**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Missouri Right to Life Banquet & Program “Keep Missouri Pro-Life”**

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

**Registration opens March 1, 2024**

**University Plaza Convention Center Springfield MO**



#### ***Featured Speaker Kayleigh McEnany***

Kayleigh McEnany is the former White House press secretary and current co-host of “Outnumbered” on the Fox News Channel. Prior to serving in the White House, Kayleigh worked as the national press secretary for the Trump Campaign and was formerly the national spokesperson for the Republican National Committee. Before joining the RNC, Kayleigh worked as a political commentator at CNN.

She graduated from Harvard Law School and from Georgetown University School of Foreign Services. She also studied politics and international relations at Oxford University.

Kayleigh is a recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary’s Public Service Award. She is the author of the New York Times bestselling books, *For Such a Time as This* and *Serenity in the Storm: Living through Chaos by Leaning on Christ*.

*Kayleigh McEnany is appearing at this event only as a featured speaker, and she is not asking for funds or donations.*

***For more information, log onto [missourilife.com/banquet](https://missourilife.com/banquet)***