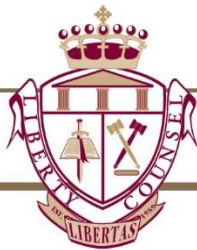


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TO: Ohio Pastors and Churches
FROM: Liberty Counsel
DATE: October 3, 2023
RE: [VOTE NO on Ohio Issue 1](#)

Dear Ohio Pastors and Churches:

Liberty Counsel is a national nonprofit litigation, education, and public policy organization established in 1989. Liberty Counsel provides *pro bono* legal representation and services within our mission of advocacy for life, religious liberty, and the family. All of Liberty Counsel's services are provided at no cost. Liberty Counsel has provided successful representation to numerous pastors and churches in matters of First Amendment and constitutional law.

Pastors and churches should oppose current [Ohio Ballot Issue 1](#). Voting begins October 11, and ends November 7, 2023. Ohio Issue 1, if passed, would enshrine into the Ohio Constitution a) abortion until birth; b) "transgender affirming" mutilation of children; c) both without parental notice or consent.

Liberty Counsel urges Ohioans to "VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1." Ohio pastors and churches may legally OPPOSE the current Ohio Ballot Issue 1, consistent with our *Political and Legislative Guidelines for Pastors and Churches* (attached for your ready reference). Children's lives and future are at stake. Churches may legally oppose this ballot initiative without fear for loss of tax-exempt status or baseless legal attacks. Consistent with the call by Faith2DirectAction to protect Life, in church services, Ohio churches may:

1. **Show the videos opposing abortion¹ and opposing mutilation of children²**
2. **Hand out "VOTE NO" literature & yard signs; and**
3. **Have people speak during the service and recruit volunteers to oppose Issue 1.**

Ohio Issue 1 must be defeated. Churches can protect the lives and futures of children by speaking out now and urging "VOTE NO on Ohio Ballot Issue 1," or the work of the last 50 years is at risk. If enacted, Ohio Ballot Issue 1 will result in unprecedented attacks on every pro-Life Ohio law and will enshrine into the Ohio Constitution abortion on demand until birth and the mutilation of children's bodies.

See "Vote NO on Issue 1," Argument and Explanation in Opposition to Issue 1, available at https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/ballotboard/2023/08.21.23_issue-1_argument-and-explanation-in-opposition.pdf.

¹ https://youtu.be/GBVSvOD17_O?feature=shared;

² <https://rumble.com/v3fkixv-transgender-nightmare-vote-no-on-issue-1.html>

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POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR PASTORS AND CHURCHES

by Mathew D. Staver, Esq.

SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATES	CHURCH	PASTOR
Endorsing or opposing political candidates	No	Yes
Contributions to political candidate	No	Yes
In-kind and independent expenditures for or against political candidates	No	Yes
Contributions to Political Action Committees	No	Yes
Appearance of political candidate at church meeting or service	Yes	N/A
Introduction of political candidates at church	Yes	Yes
Political candidate to preach or read scripture (contributions should not be solicited & message should not urge people to vote for the candidate)	Yes	N/A
Voter registration programs and campaigns (non-partisan)	Yes	Yes
Distribution of candidate surveys and incumbent voting records (avoid editorial opinions)	Yes	Yes
Distribution in church parking lot of political statements and opinions on political issues (so long as no church endorsement)	Yes	N/A
Rent or loan church mailing lists to political candidates (list must be made available to all candidates on similar terms and prices)	Yes	N/A
Church bulletin political ads at regular price and news stories	Yes	N/A
Church bulletin editorial where the pastor or staff member endorses or opposes a candidate	No	No
Church bulletin editorial regarding political issues or two different church members take opposing views on a candidate	Yes	N/A
Use of church facilities by political candidates (if all other candidates are allowed or invited)	Yes	N/A
Fund-raising for candidates	No	Yes
Campaigning for candidates	No	Yes
Educate members of the public about viewpoints of candidates	Yes	Yes
Discuss church doctrine pertaining to candidate views such as abortion, homosexuality and marriage	Yes	Yes
Granting use of name to support a political candidate	No*	Yes*
Support or oppose judicial, department or cabinet appointments	Yes	Yes
Support or oppose judicial candidates	No	Yes
Support or oppose other political appointments of non-elected officials	Yes	Yes
SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING LEGISLATION	CHURCH	PASTOR
Use of church facilities by lobbying groups to discuss social issues	Yes	N/A
Rent or loan church mailing list to lobbying groups	Yes	N/A
Preach sermons on social issues and political issues and activism	Yes	Yes
Educate on political process and political/social/legislative issues	Yes	Yes
Petition drives supporting or opposing legislation or citizen initiatives	Yes	Yes
Support or oppose legislation unrelated to the church organization	Yes**	Yes
Support or oppose legislation that directly relates to the organization	Yes***	Yes
Encourage people to voice for or against legislation or citizen initiatives	Yes**	Yes
Lobby candidates to support or oppose legislation or citizen initiatives	Yes**	Yes
Distribute position papers supporting or opposing legislation or citizen initiatives	Yes**	Yes

*A pastor may include title and church affiliation in a personal endorsement along with the following notation: "Title and affiliation for identification purposes."

**Churches and other 501(c)3 organizations may support or oppose legislation so long as such activity comprises an insubstantial part of the overall operation. A 501(c)4 organization may support or oppose legislation without any limitations.

***A church or any other 501(c)3 organization may without limitation support or oppose legislation that directly affects the organizational structure and operation of the organization. For example, a church may without limitation oppose legislation attempting to repeal the tax-exempt status of the church.

Argument and Explanation in Opposition to Issue 1

Vote NO on Issue 1

Save Life, Protect Women, Defend Parents' Rights

Issue 1 is a dangerous attack on the unborn, women, and parents. It's an extreme attempt to create abortion-on-demand and to eliminate reasonable health and safety standards for pregnant women. It ends parental notification and excludes parents from their child's medical decisions.

At its core, Issue 1 allows for-profit abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, to self-regulate and perform abortions up to viability and beyond at the sole discretion of the abortionist.

Don't enshrine late-term abortion in Ohio's Constitution. Don't erase parental rights. Don't subject women to dangerous, unregulated medical procedures. **Vote NO.**

When casting your **NO** vote, remember that Issue 1:

Establishes abortion-on-demand through all nine months.

- Removes even basic limits on abortion. It allows for-profit abortion providers to make the final call on procedures, standards, and timing.
- Allows dismemberment abortions; painful, late-term abortions; and abortions after a child is born alive by overriding current laws.
- Permits abortion because of the child's sex, race, or disability.

Erases parental rights.

- Ends parental notification and prevents parents from being involved in their child's medical decisions, like an abortion or irreversible sex-change operation.
- Cuts parents out of the most important decisions in their children's lives, while allowing abortion promoters to pressure those children behind closed doors.

Eliminates basic health and safety protections for women.

- Abolishes care and safety standards for treatment of pregnant women, like requiring that abortions must be performed in-person by a licensed doctor who can transfer a woman to a hospital if something goes wrong.

A **NO** vote protects Ohio's Constitution from a dangerous amendment that creates abortion-on-demand and eliminates parental rights. Issue 1 hurts women and removes parents from their children's medical decisions.

Save human life, protect women, and defend parental rights.

Vote NO on Issue 1.

Prepared by: Senator Kristina Roegner, Senator Michele Reynolds, and Representative Melanie Miller