

**BPW/OH LEGISLATION UPDATE  
TAKE ACTION  
www.bpwohio.org**

### **Reproductive Choice**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the Supreme Court ruled that the constitution does not provide a right to abortion. The ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization allows states to regulate abortion and state legislatures can pass laws that restrict abortion before viability.

On the same day, a federal judge lifted an injunction on Ohio's heart beat bill which was signed into law in 2019.

In short, Ohio has banned abortions at approximately six weeks gestation. If any cardiac activity is detected, abortion is prohibited except when there is serious risk of death or substantial impairment of a major bodily function. The bill makes no exceptions for rape or incest. Other bills introduced:

House Bill 598 and companion Senate Bill 123. They will without exception, charge doctors with felonies for terminating a pregnancy, no matter the reason.

House Bill 480 would create a financial incentive for individuals to turn in friends, family and neighbors if they know they performed or even helped someone obtain an abortion or used certain forms of birth control like an IUD and Plan B that prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg.

The Columbus Dispatch reported that the Ohio General Assembly is expected to pass a full ban on abortion later this year. Lawmakers are on an extended break until September, and some think it'll be at least November or December before a full ban bill is considered. Gov. Mike DeWine, a consistent supporter of abortion restrictions, would sign a ban into law.

### **What you can do:**

1. Make reproductive choice a focus for the 2022 midterm elections. Find out if those running for the U.S. Senate and House, Ohio Governor and your Ohio House and Senate representative support reproductive choice. Vote for candidates who support choice.
2. Participate in rallies across the state and let your voice be heard.

*BPW/OH's Legislation Platform on Health: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including reproductive choice, funding for research into the protection for women's health care and educational programs concerning women's health issues*

### **Equal Rights Amendment**



THE ALICE PAUL EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:  
*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.*

The House voted in February 2020 to remove the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. The House Joint Resolution 79 passed by a vote of 232-183. The companion bill is Senate Joint Resolution 6 and no action has been taken.  
**We need the ERA more than ever!**

### **What you can do:**

1. Contact Senator Portman and ask him to co-sponsor and vote for removing the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. Call the Capital Switchboard at 202-2243121 or send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics. Go to: [www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922](http://www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922)
2. Make the ERA a focus for the 2022 mid-term elections and Senator Portman's replacement. Ask candidates if they support the ERA being in the Constitution. Vote for candidates who support the ERA.
3. Tell others about the ERA, give them the link to Elect Equality and encourage them to make the ERA a focus for the mid-term elections.

The Elect Equality Campaign provides voters with the opportunity to hear directly from candidates on their position on the ERA. Go to: <https://www.eracoalition.org/electequality>

### **Help Get Out the Vote**

Help people check online to make sure their voting information is current and find their new district. Go to: <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/get-your-voting-information>

You can also find new districts here: <https://findmydistrict.ohiosos.gov>

Encourage people to register to vote: Register online here: <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov>

To Vote in Ohio you must: be a citizen of the United States. • be at least 18 years old on or before the next general election. • be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days before the election.

You must register or update your voter registration no later than 30 days before an election. Upcoming voter registration deadlines:

- **July 5, 2022**, for August 2, 2022 Special Election - Ohio House and Senate
- **October 11, 2022**, for the November 8, 2022, General Election

To request an Absentee ballot application form. Go to: [www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot](http://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot)

**Help people get to the polls!**