
June 8, 2022

Reproductive Rights: Overview and Advocacy



Advocacy and Litigation Department
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S.

Agenda

- Housekeeping and Community Norms
- Presenters
- Poll

Part I. State of Play

- The Constitutional Right to Abortion
- Federal Codification of Reproductive Choice
- State Abortion Legislation

Part II. Action and Resources

- Advocacy
- LWVUS Reproductive Choices Position
- Advocacy Resources
- Organizing Opportunities
- Communications Resources
- Q&A

Housekeeping



All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.



If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.



Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions



Staff will be monitoring the chat box. If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



Use the chat box to add thoughts, experiences, and/or questions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



Assume best intentions

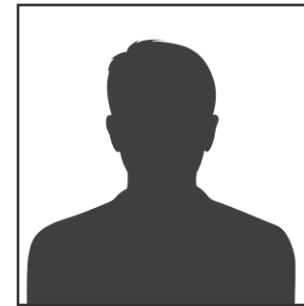
Presenters



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Part I: State of Play



Photo: Anadolu Agency - Yasin Ozturk via Getty Images

The Constitutional Right to Abortion

Precedent:

- [Roe v. Wade](#) (1973)
- *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992)

Threat:

- [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#)
 - Challenging Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban
 - Leaked [draft opinion](#)

Federal Codification of Reproductive Choice: U.S. Congress

The Women's Health Protection Act

- Federally codify right to receipt and provision of abortion services
- House of Representatives
 - 2021: passed ([H.R.3755](#))
- Senate
 - Feb. 2022: blocked ([S.1975](#))
 - May 2022: blocked ([S.4132](#))

LWVUS Filibuster Stance

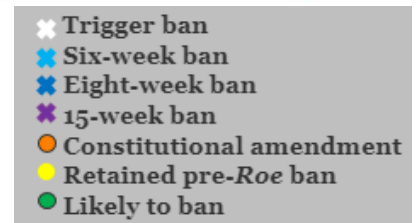
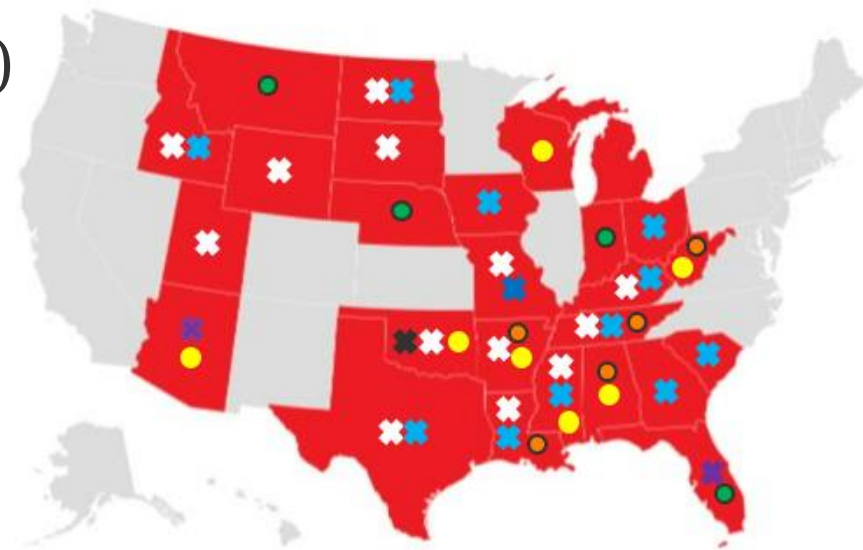
May 2022

*In light of the League's position on voting rights and **reproductive rights** and the current roadblocks preventing the passage by Congress of critical legislation on our priority issues, the LWVUS board of directors hereby supports filibuster reform including the elimination of the filibuster.*

State Legislation: Banning Abortion

26 states prepared to ban abortion

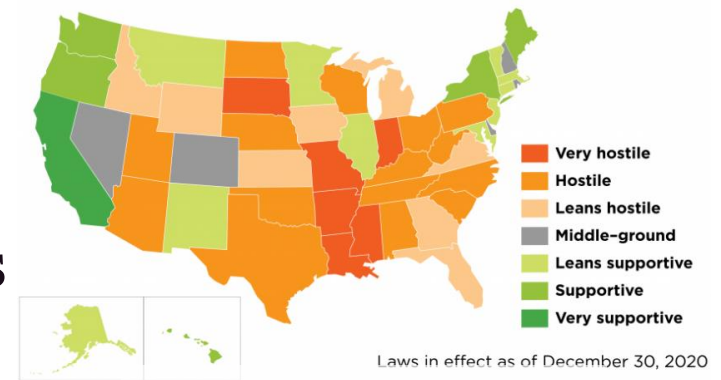
- 22 states certain to ban abortion
 - **State constitutional amendments** (5 states)
 - **“Trigger” bans** (13 states)
 - **Near-total bans**
 - **Gestational limits**
 - **Six-week bans** (11 states)
 - **15-week bans**
- 4 states likely to ban abortion



State Legislation: Restricting Abortion

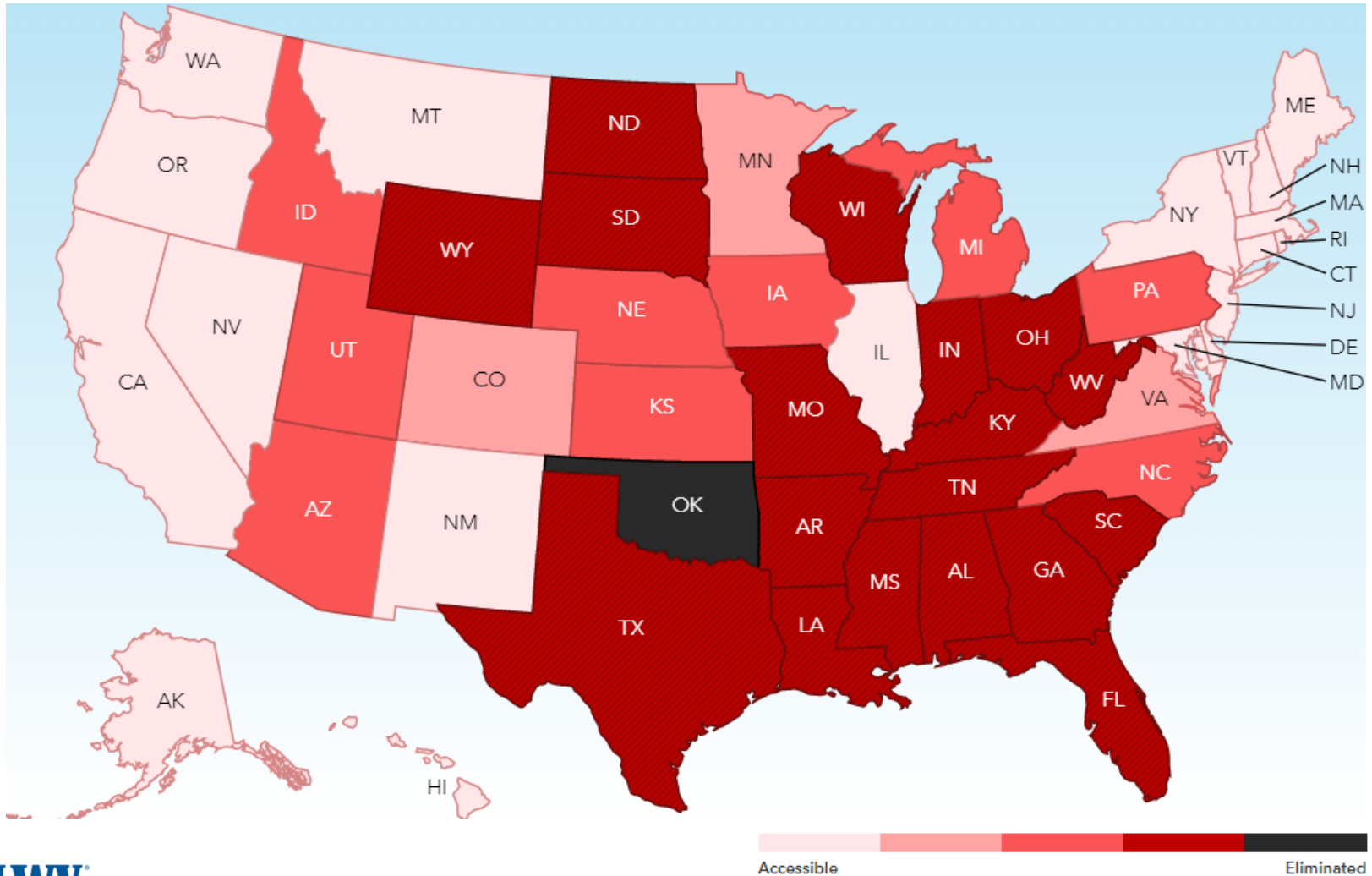
- Gestational limits
- Constitutional amendments
- Clinician and facility requirements
- Abortion method bans
- Parental involvement requirements
- Mandated counseling, ultrasounds, or waiting periods
- Public funding and private insurance restrictions

In 2020, 29 states demonstrated hostility to abortion rights, while 16 states demonstrated support



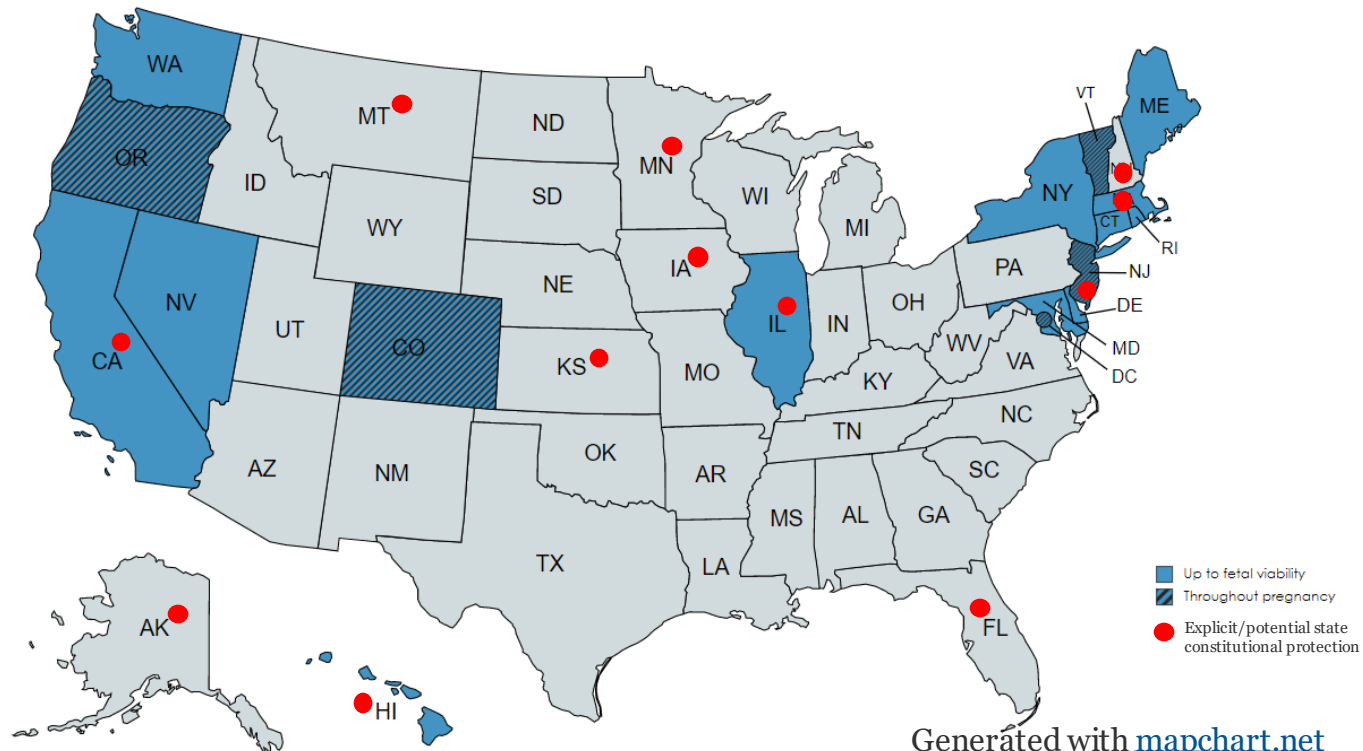
Source: [Guttmacher Institute](#)

State Abortion Laws and Restrictions



State Legislation: Protecting Abortion

- 16 states and the District of Columbia
 - Throughout pregnancy (4 states and D.C.)
 - Up to fetal viability (12 states)



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Action and Resources



Photo: Associated Press-Damian Dovarganes

Advocacy

Goals:

- To educate and influence public opinion
- To influence local, state, or federal legislation

Forms:

- Social media
- Press releases
- Op-eds
- Letters to the editor
- Events
- Petitions
- Action Alerts
- Lobbying



Oklahoma Becomes First State to Entirely Ban Abortion

05.25.2022 - (PRESS RELEASE) Today, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed into law **H.B. 4327**, a citizen-enforced total ban on abortion that took effect today immediately upon signature. Oklahoma is now the only state in the United States to successfully outlaw abortion while *Roe v. Wade* still stands. A coalition of Oklahoma abortion providers and a reproductive justice organization will imminently file a challenge to the ban and seek to block it in court.

Source: [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)

Supreme Court Leak:
Our Worst Fears Confirmed

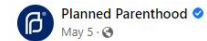
Abortion is still legal. It's still your right. But the Supreme Court is prepared to end your constitutional right to abortion. Our country is facing an abortion access crisis. By this summer, 26 states could move to ban abortion – affecting 36 million women, plus more people who can become pregnant. This is personal.

The #1 action we're asking abortion rights advocates to take is to host an abortion access house party.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#) [HOST A HOUSE PARTY](#)

The graphic features a group of diverse women in the background. The text is overlaid on a dark background with pink and green accents.

Source: [Planned Parenthood](#)



If our constitutional right is overturned the harmful results will be swift: For half the states in the country, people could lose power over their own bodies and their own lives.

What could this decision look like?

Overtuning Roe means 26 STATES COULD SWIFTLY MOVE TO BAN ABORTION.

BansOff.org **BANS OFF OUR BODIES**

The graphic features a map of the United States with 26 states highlighted in pink. The text is in bold, black and pink fonts.

Source: [Planned Parenthood](#)

Our right to abortion is under direct threat

The shocking, leaked draft of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is the most alarming and ominous sign yet of what's to come for the future of abortion rights and access in the United States. For now, abortion is still legal. **Roe has NOT fallen—but we need to brace for a future where more and more people are punished and criminalized for seeking and providing abortion care.**

Overtuning *Roe* is just the first step of the Radical Right's agenda to ban abortion nationwide. It's time to take unprecedented action against these unprecedented attacks on abortion.

[SIGN THE PLEDGE](#)

Source: [NARAL Pro-Choice America](#)

LWVUS Reproductive Choices Position

LWVUS believes...

- Public policy must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices
- Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost, including abortion
- Individual rights protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged



Advocacy Resources

Issue Statistics:

- Banning abortion could lead to a 21% increase in pregnancy-related deaths and a 33% increase among Black women ([University of Colorado Boulder](#))
- 61% of U.S. adults think abortion should be legal in all or most cases ([Pew Research Center](#))

Resources:

- State abortion bans and protections: [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- State abortion restrictions: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- State trigger bans: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- State gestational bans: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- Medicaid coverage of abortion: Guttmacher Institute ([overview](#), [state funding](#))
- Insurance coverage of abortion: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- Medication abortion: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- State abortion fact sheets: [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- State abortion ban/restriction/protection/without *Roe* breakdown: [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
- [LWVUS Blog Post](#): “What’s Going on with Reproductive Rights?”

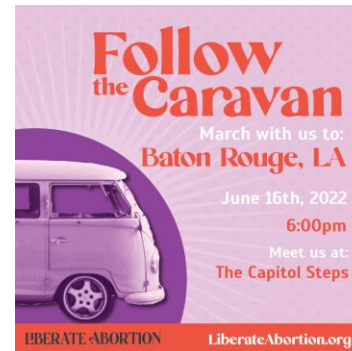


Organizing Opportunities

- **Connecting People to Care:**
 - Abortion continues to be legal and financial resources are critical to provide services to people with need.
 - Donate to the [National Network of Abortion Funds](#), a network of organizations working at the intersection of racial, economic, and reproductive justice that work to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access.
 - Some of them work with clinics to help pay for abortion; others offer support such as transportation, childcare, translation, doula services, or a place to stay for women needing to travel to get an abortion.
- **Supreme Court Decision Day:** rapid response actions at 5:00pm local time throughout the country, including the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.
 - More information to be shared by our national partners, including a digital toolkit and an interactive map of actions being planned.

Organizing Opportunities

- **Liberate Abortion Caravan, June 14-17 (TX, LA, MS):** a caravan through the fifth circuit to raise awareness, build community, and engage people on the abortion crisis in this country and how we're collectively fighting back.



- **Juneteenth Weekend for Black Bodies for Black Power, (one-pager) June 18-19 (Washington, D.C.):** This Juneteenth, a vibrant group of Black feminist and reproductive-justice leaders, accompanied by a range of civil-rights and Black-led organizations, will lead a rally and march to advocate for the biggest threat to Black womxn lives at this moment: attacks on their bodily autonomy and freedom.

Communications Resources

- Abortion Rights Messaging Guidance: [LMS](#)
- Lift up reproductive rights groups and their messaging
- Watch for LWFVUS press statement on *Dobbs* decision
 - Leagues may post LWFVUS statement on your website or in an email **with attribution to LWFVUS**
 - Please do not submit LWFVUS statement to your local media. It's ok to include quoted snippets in a piece of your own authorship.
- Watch LWFVUS social media for messages to re-share



Questions