



Catholic Action Plan to Defeat Proposed Abortion Amendment to Ohio's Constitution

April 27, 2023

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator/Deacon:

As mentioned in the Ohio Bishops' [February letter](#), a proposed amendment to Ohio's Constitution for a vote on the November 2023 ballot expands and enshrines abortion at the expense of protections for preborn children and women. The Church must not be silent and cannot remain on the sidelines when confronted with such a clear threat to human life and dignity. We must engage and mobilize Catholics statewide to defeat this proposed amendment and its potential grave consequences for Ohio's future.

To encourage faithful citizenship on the amendment, the Catholic Conference of Ohio, in collaboration with the dioceses and eparchies in the state, is launching a statewide Catholic campaign specifically to ensure Catholics register to vote and vote no if the amendment appears on the November 2023 ballot.

Every parish in Ohio is asked to unite in prayer, distribute educational materials, and encourage voter registration to Vote NO on the abortion expansion amendment.

The statewide campaign is designed to assist you, your parish staff, and volunteers with running a prayerful and educational effort until voting ends on November 7. Each parish will be mailed a starter packet next week with the following:

- **Bulletin/Newsletter Post** – announces the proposed amendment, campaign, and materials.
- **Prayer Cards** – we encourage parishes to pray this as a community before or after Mass and distribute to every Mass-going parishioner.
- **Educational Flyer** – introduces the amendment and outlines the dangerous content; this can be inserted into your bulletin or set out in a gathering space for easy parishioner access.

Additional materials will be released in upcoming months, including a Parish Resource Kit to help coordinate your efforts. Each diocese will also produce unique resources. Digital copies of all campaign materials and other helpful resources can be found on the **Protect Them Both** campaign site:

www.ohiocathconf.org/protect

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (CCC 1913-1915). Please make it a priority to implement this campaign at your parish, stressing the necessity of Catholics to protect and promote the sanctity of life in all circumstances and stages of development. Please contact Brian Hickey, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, via bhickey@ohiocathconf.org or (614) 224-7147 with questions or concerns.

With you in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Most Rev. David J. Bonnar
Diocese of Youngstown

Most Rev. J. Michael Botean
Romanian Catholic Eparchy
of St. George in Canton

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy
of Parma

Most Rev. Bohdan J. Danylo
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
of St. Josaphat in Parma

Most Rev. Earl K. Fernandes
Diocese of Columbus

Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic
Diocese of Cleveland

Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton
Diocese of Steubenville

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Diocese of Toledo

Most Rev. Michael G. Woost
Diocese of Cleveland