



# The Abortion Battle Intensifies

*The battle over abortion has intensified with both sides attempting to gain the upper hand. Expect the fight to grow as states continue to challenge Roe V. Wade within their states.*

**By:** Yavapai County Republican Party

July 30, 2019

## Key Points:

- We oppose the morally abhorrent Democratic Party position of abortion-anytime, anywhere, for any reason, free.
- We oppose Planned Parenthood's core mission of "providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion".
- We are pro-life "from womb to tomb", conception to death.
- Since the passage of Roe V. Wade there have been more than sixty-one million surgical abortions and approximately 250 million chemical (pill) abortions in the U.S.
- In 2017 there were 12,533 abortions in Arizona, including 222 in Yavapai County.
- We support the Georgia Heartbeat bill (and any legislation) that prohibits abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected (normally at six weeks).
- We are in a moral civil war, a battle we cannot and will not lose.
- The term "Pro-Choice" is a semantic gimmick to avoid saying "Pro-killing of children".
- It appears that younger people are beginning to join our battle.

Although there may be some debate that the country is in a political civil war, there is no debate that when it comes to abortion; we are in a full-scale war.

So, let us be clear: The Yavapai County Republican Party is Pro-Life.

We oppose the morally abhorrent Democratic Party position of, as Republican Senator Ben Sasse expressed it, "Abortion—anytime, anywhere, for any reason, for free".

What do we mean by pro-life? By pro-life we mean we believe in the dignity of every human life from conception to death. The sanctity of every human life is a core principle of our party. In short, we believe that human life is sacred and respect for human life should guide our lives.

## **How many abortions take place annually in the U.S.? How many have taken place since Roe v. Wade became law in 1973? How many have taken place this year?**

According to the U.S. abortion clock (<http://www.numberofabortions.com/>) on May 29, 2019, the number of **surgical** abortions:

In the U.S. since 1973 Roe v Wade decision: 61,325,851 9

- So far this year: 383,818 (average per day:2,576)
- This year after 16 weeks gestation: 18,423
- This year due to rape or incest: 3,723

By Planned Parenthood since 1970: 8,429,851

- So far this year: 141,605 (Average per day: 90)

Please note these are **surgical abortions**. It is estimated that another 250 million babies have been chemically (the abortion pill) aborted since 1973 in the USA.

### **Annual Abortions in Arizona:**

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services (<https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/public-health-statistics/abortions/2017-arizona-abortion-report.pdf>), “during the 2017 calendar year there were a total of 12,533 **abortions** reported in **Arizona**, of which 12,336 were to **Arizona** residents. The total number of reported **abortions** to **Arizona** resident women between the ages of 15 and 44 years was 12,271”.

In Yavapai County, the same Department of Health study reported 1796 live births for 2017 and 222 abortions.

### **OK, but are we really in a civil war?**

Recent events help us to determine if we are, in fact, in a civil war in a war.

On the left, abortion advocates have finally revealed their true beliefs. Democrats, who told us since Roe became a law in 1973, that abortion was not killing a baby, but was only removing fibrous material, a “blob of tissue” now support full term abortion, or abortion up to the point of delivery or, in some cases, after delivery if the child survives the abortion/delivery. Or to look at it another way, abortion regardless of the detection of a child’s heartbeat (usually detectable at six weeks).

New York’s “Reproductive Health Act” was passed on January 22 of this year to a tremendous ovation and speeches; to celebrate Governor Cuomo ordered the World Trade Center and other landmarks to be lit in pink.

What does the bill do? It allows abortion for any reason up to 24 weeks (considered the point of viability in Roe) and after 24 weeks “if the abortion is necessary to protect the patient’s life or health” or there is an absence of “fetal viability”.

Note that another Supreme Court decision, Doe vs. Bolten, says “health” refers to “all factors, including “physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age relevant to the well-being of the patient” as determined by the doctor and the patient. In other words, there is no restriction on abortion in the state. New York Republican Legislators demanded that a record of each decision be kept, but this requirement was stripped from the legislation.

The law also allows practitioners other than doctors to perform abortions, and moves the consequences of flawed abortions from the state’s criminal code to its public health law.

Multiple states are now considering implementing the New York law in their states. Vermont has already implemented its law; Virginia introduced the legislation, but postponed its approval due to controversy over the law in the state.

On the conservative side, several states have passed laws restricting abortions. According to the Wall street Journal:

“Republican led states have signed bills to challenge Roe in Court, and Governors have been more willing to sign them. Alabama enacted a near total ban on abortion, with an exception that applies only when a woman faces a serious health risk; ...and four southern states plus Ohio have banned abortions after six to eight weeks or pregnancy or when a **fetal heart beat can be detected.**”

In May of this year, Georgia’s Governor signed the state’s “Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Law”. The law bans abortion after the detection of a fetal heartbeat, except in cases of rape or incest or if death or serious harm could come to the mother.

Similar laws, according to the New York Times, have already been found to be unconstitutional in Iowa and North Carolina; however, Tennessee and South Carolina are considering bills based on the Georgia law.

The ACLU and various abortion rights groups are challenging Georgia’s law. “Hollywood” activists and entertainment companies have brought intense publicity and pressure on the State of Georgia, threatening to pull movie/TV production from the state if the law is implemented. It is estimated that 90,000 people are employed in Georgia in the various production elements of movies; we pray Georgia remains strong in their fight against abortion.

The pace of the battle over abortion continues to quicken. There are several cases still pending for this year at the Supreme Court, but on May 28 the U.S. Supreme Court considered two sections of a recent Indiana law that Planned Parenthood and others sued to stop. First, the Court declined to make a decision on whether or not states could ban abortions based on sex,

race or disability selectibility. Justice Thomas, in his written opinion, however, indicated “we cannot avoid [these issues] forever”.

The court did rule, however, “for upholding a portion of Indiana law that safeguards the sanctity of human life by requiring that remains of aborted babies be treated with respect and dignity”. That is, the woman and/or the abortion clinic must either cremate or bury the child, rather than disposing of it as waste.

In other developments in late May, Democratic Presidential candidate Kamala Harris proposed a law requiring states to get permission from the Justice department before approving laws more restrictive than Roe. The law, the “Reproductive Rights Act” would create a “preclearance” requirement meaning states with a history of “violating Roe v. Wade would have to get approval from the Justice Department for any abortion related measure to be enforced.

### **Where are younger voters on the issue of Abortion?**

A final twist in the battle over abortion is the change in attitude by younger voters. As reported in National Review in February of 2018, a variety of polls found that “the current generation of young adults is far more skeptical about abortion than were their predecessors”.

A January 2017 Quinnipiac poll, National Review reported, found that “18 to 34-year-olds were more likely than other age groups to support a ban on abortions after 20 weeks gestation”. Separately 2013 polls by Rasmussen and National Journal reached the same conclusion. The “most compelling” evidence about the shift in millennial’s abortion attitudes comes, however, from the General Social Survey (GSS) which is released every two years and is widely used by public opinion scholars”.

The GSS has asked the same questions since the 1970s: Should abortion be a legal option if 1) The woman is raped, 2) There is a strong chance of a fetal defect, 3) The pregnancy poses a risk to the woman’s health, 4) the woman is low income, 5) The woman is unmarried and does not want to marry the man, and 6) the woman is married and does not want more children.

The author reports that during the 1970’s and 1980s young adults were more likely than other demographics to support abortion in each of the above circumstances, but beginning in 2000 the survey, “consistently shows that young adults are actually the age demographic most likely to oppose abortion as a legal option in nearly all of these circumstances although they are reluctant to identify as Pro-life or support pro-life candidates or ballot issues.”

Finally, here at home, **Arizona Republican legislators** lost their bid to fund “crisis pregnancy centers” (centers who offer counseling, medical assistance, material aid, such as clothes, food, etc., but do not provide abortions) in the state in the final fight over the state budget, but remain committed to a Pro-Life position.

In conclusion, we, the Yavapai County Republican Party is Pro-life. We believe that Pro-Choice is a semantic attempt to avoid saying pro-killing of children. We do not support the Planned Parenthood core mission of “providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion, nor do we support the Democratic Party position of “abortion—anytime, anywhere, for any reason, for free”. Ultimately, we believe in the dignity of every human life, believe that science has shown us that unborn babies are human, and we remain committed to protecting the unborn.

*This article written by Yavapai County Republican Party member Hal Bray. Mr. Bray moved to Prescott in April of this year. Mr. Bray was active in Republican Party and taxpayer organizations in California and is the founder of East County Voters for Equal Protection, a community activist group founded to adequately fund his local fire district without new taxes. Hal is also a former member of the NAACP. He is retired from AT&T where he was a Sales Director in the Government & Education Market.*