



Elections matter!
Protect all human life
Vote November 2020

Right to Life
of Shelby County



Extra!
Election
insert

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Voter Registration Info For November General Election

Voter registration deadline is October 5. **Minors turning 18 between October 6 and November 3** can register in advance by October 5, but must *activate* their registration after their birthday. If your soon-to-be 18-year-old would like to vote in the **general election**, please inquire at your board of elections office: Shelby County BOE 230 E. Court St. Sidney (937) 498-7207 Mon - Fri 8:30am-4:00pm, shelby@ohiosos.gov or Ohio Elections <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>. **If you've moved**, you must update your voter registration. Forms are available at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>.

Absentee ballot **application forms** can be submitted now through October, but we recommend having the **application turned in by October 16** to allow time for mailed ballots to be received and completed ballots returned by the deadline. (Officially, however, absentee applications must be received at the board of elections by noon on Saturday October 31.)

Completed ballots should be returned to the board of elections by the close of polls on election day (November 3) or postmarked "no later than Nov. 2." Do not procrastinate. This is an important election. Don't assume others will be determining the results; your vote counts!

Registered voters in Ohio also have an early voting option, in person, at the Board of Elections.

Each of the 6 contested races on the Shelby County ballots include an incumbent. Voters should research the positions of candidates in the contested races for: US President, two Ohio Supreme Court Justice seats, one State Senator (12th District), Ohio House of Representatives (84th District/western Shelby County and the 85th District/eastern Shelby County) and one US Rep. Each contested incumbent is Republican.

[Ohio Right to Life](#) and [Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio](#) have issued endorsements.

Please vote, but do not vote blindly. Do your research early and well. Discuss the issues and candidates with others; vote and encourage others to vote; pray and pray some more with hope!

A Prayer for National Elections

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically, and of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.



We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law. We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts before us, to exercise our solemn duty not only to vote, but to influence countless others to vote, and to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world, but rather a community of faith renewing the world. Awaken your people to know that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; that the same eyes that read your Word are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, and that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth. Awaken your people to a commitment to justice; to the sanctity of marriage and the family, to the dignity of each individual human life, and to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin, and not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your kingdom. May that make us all the more committed to being faithful citizens on earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pro-life attitudes benefit everyone! That's the undeniable message of Shelby County Right to Life which serves Ohio communities in many ways, accepting that we're mortal, but insisting that no human person should be intentionally killed by abortion, infanticide, homicide or suicide – doctor-prescribed or otherwise. RTL runs recovery programs for those suffering from previous abortions and serves needy families with free or low cost support through the downtown Sidney Thrift Shop. Donations to Shelby County Right to Life are always welcome. (SCRTL ad on TAM Radio in June.)

To Be Pro-Life, What it Means

Increasingly, there is misinformation about what being pro-life means. These ill-informed notions are spread on college campuses, social media and mainstream media. However, there are clear reasons abortion is the predominant focus of the pro-life movement.

The direct effect of an action, along with the intention of the doer, is the primary consideration of the morality of an action.¹ Abortion is a clear-cut case, where the direct effect is the killing of an innocent human being and the death of the pre-born child is always the intended result of an abortion, even if those involved do not acknowledge or consider the innocence or the factual presence of human life.

Any deliberate taking of innocent human life is reprehensible, but it is even more alarming when the practice is actually legal and widely practiced, as is the case with abortion. Doctor-prescribed suicide and euthanasia are also practices directly resulting in the destruction of human life and the legality of such practices is spreading in individual states, the nation, and worldwide, making doctor-prescribed suicide another weighty issue.

Any public figure, medical professional or anyone else who promotes abortion or the assisted-killing of a patient as acceptable gravely calls into question their own integrity and capability for right judgment. It matters not whether they promote abortion out of political expediency or a personal advocacy of abortion. Those who confuse and repeat the notion of ever-so-many “pro-life issues” stand in confusion or rejection of the moral principles found in natural law, and they undermine efforts to abolish gravely unjust practices such as the type of infanticide we call abortion and the type of homicide some call assisted-suicide.

Policy issues such as housing, immigration laws and welfare programs are important matters to address, but they are not life-and-death matters that directly result in a human person's life being deliberately terminated. There are varying approaches to such policy issues that are complex and seek a balance between personal responsibility and outside assistance, effectiveness and available resources. No serious proposals regarding how to manage immigration, for example, aim to jeopardize the safety or wellbeing of any individual or group of people. So claims that issues like immigration are “life issues” are contrived, yet many writers and reporters deviously categorize those issues as “life-issues,” pretending they have the same weight and clarity as efforts to abolish abortion. The same is true of claims that wearing or not wearing a mask is a “life-issue” where, in either instance, there is no direct impact on the continuation of anyone's life (and arguably a low probability of even an indirect impact, as there are too many other factors involved.)

As noted on SCRTL's abortion recovery page, the pro-life community is above all a loving community. Many—or dare we say most—people involved in the pro-life movement are also actively involved in other ministries for the needs of others. They are wide-awake to human suffering and



are willing to make significant sacrifices to alleviate that suffering and assist those in need; however, they recognize that an issue which directly imposes death upon millions of boys and girls worldwide each year needs to be a very high priority.

¹A structured study of established Christian Moral Principles helps clarify whether any given action is right or wrong.