THIRD WAY

MICHIGAN

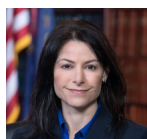## Election Day: November 8
Elections for U.S. House, statewide elected offices, State Senate, State House, and other local elections

ABORTION ON THE BALLOT — ABORTION RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

The November 8th midterm election marks the first time people across the United States have an opportunity to stand up for reproductive freedom following the landmark Supreme Court decision overturning the 50-year abortion rights precedent set by Roe v. Wade. Abortion is quite literally on the ballot and this fact sheet aims to inform voters about what is at stake in Michigan.

Michigan Government Make Up

Governor
Gretchen Whitmer (D)
Elected in 2019

Attorney General
Dana Nessel (D)
Elected in 2018

Legislature
State Senate
22 Republicans | 16 Democrats
State House of Representatives
57 Republicans | 53 Democrats

Current State of Abortion in Michigan

Abortion in Michigan is currently legal up until viability. An outdated zombie law, last updated in 1931, threatens to ban all abortions in Michigan if anti-abortion candidates win critical statewide and decisive November elections. Governor Whitmer and Attorney General (A.G.) Nessel have vowed to protect reproductive choice by not enforcing the abortion ban. On top of all that, Michigan Proposal 3, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative, is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights. In contrast to Democrat's protection-oriented legislation, Republicans in the state legislature have introduced two abortion ban bills. All Michiganders must vote to preserve the right to choose.

The Party Divide on Reproductive Rights Conversations

Democrats this election cycle are talking about protecting a person's reproductive rights and Republicans want to criminalize reproductive choice and prevent access to care.

Governor's Race

"I want every Michigander to know that no matter what happens in D.C., I'm going to fight like hell to protect access to safe, legal abortion in Michigan."
- Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Democrat

"Procedures needed to save the life of the mother should be the ONLY exception to abortion bans."
- Tudor Dixon, Republican Gov. Nominee

Attorney General's Race

"This law is dangerous. This law effectively strips women of their dignity and bodily autonomy, and in some cases, of their lives. I will not enforce it, and neither will I defend it. I will take no part of driving women back into the dark ages and the back alleys."
- A.G. Dana Nessel, Democrat

"You gotta figure out how to ban the pill from the state."
- Matthew DePerno, Republican A.G. Nominee

Pro-Choice Candidates

U.S. House:
- Scholten (MI-03)
- Rep. Slotkin (MI-07)
- Rep. Kildee (MI-08)
- Rep. Stevens (MI-11)
- Rep. Tlaib (MI-12)
- Rep. Dingell (MI-06)

Statewide:
- Gov. Whitmer (Gov.)
- A.G. Nessel (A.G.)

These candidates have been endorsed by reproductive rights groups such as NARAL and Planned Parenthood. This list is not inclusive of all pro-choice candidates in the state.

Sources: "2022 Planned Parenthood Action Fund Endorsed Candidates." https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/issues/act/2022-endorsements | Bayron, Carla. "MI AG reaffirms she will not enforce 1931 abortion ban," wzzm13.com, 3 May 2022. https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/politics/mi-ag-dana-nessel-reaffirms-she-will-not-enforce-1931-abortion-ban/69-f1812cea-c7bf-4321-97aa-aeb03b499b0b | Boucher, Dave . "Nessel cites own abortion, says AG's office won't defend Michigan in lawsuit." Detroit Free Press. 8 Apr 2022. https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2022/04/07/michigan-abortion-nessel-lawsuit/9498411002/. | Berwein, Richard."Michigan AG candidate says Plan B is like fentanyl and should be banned." Heartland Signal. 20 Sep 2022. https://heartlandsignal.com/2022/09/20/michigan-ag-candidate-says-plan-b-is-like-fentanyl-and-should-be-banned/. | "NARAL's Election Endorsements." NARAL Pro-Choice America. https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/elections/endorsements-2/ | "State legislation tracker." Guttmacher Institute. https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy | Bryan Pietsch. "Top GOP governor candidate: Mich. abortion ban should cover rape, incest." Washington Post. 21 Jul 2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/07/21/michigan-republican-tudor-dixon-abortion-ban-rape/.