

It's On To November! Primary Results and Analysis

Michigan residents made their voices heard on August 4 when voters cast ballots on a variety of key races. Right to Life of Michigan PAC had a VERY GOOD NIGHT, winning 96 percent of all races it endorsed. Let that number sink in...96 percent! Every candidate running for state rep or state senate, every candidate running for Congress WON THEIR RACES and will face pro-abortion challengers this November. Our goal to retake the state Senate, hold the state House, and win the governor's seat took its first big step on August 4.

Here are the specifics. In the race for governor, both GOP candidates were RLM-PAC endorsed. By the end of the night Congressman **John James** had won the Republican nomination for governor getting 50 percent of the vote. He will now challenge current Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a radical pro-abortion politician.

In the 4th Congressional District, incumbent pro-life candidate **Bill Huizenga** easily defeated a minor challenger. He will face off against Kalamazoo State Senator Sean McCann, another very pro-abortion legislator. In the 5th Congressional District (which includes all the southern tier counties from Lake Michigan to Lake Erie, and includes the southern townships in Kalamazoo County), incumbent pro-life **Tim Walberg** won his race with no trouble.

The contest for an open seat in the US Senate was very expensive, controversial, with all the drama centered on the two Democratic candidates. Democrat socialist Abdul El-Sayed held a commanding lead of 15 percent early on over establishment candidate Rep. Haley Stevens but that lead evaporated through the night. By Wednesday morning El-Sayed held a one percent lead and less than 15,000 votes over Stevens. El-Sayed will face conservative GOP candidate and former congressman **Mike Rogers**. As we head toward the November election the big question is: will Michigan voters really want to elect a socialist and radical candidate who espouses things like abolish ICE, eliminate all aid to Israel, put restrictions on police, increase taxes, possibly eliminate the Electoral College, the Senate, and expand the Supreme Court? It's hard to believe that Michiganders will approve and support such an extreme candidate.

Locally, SW Michigan pro-life candidates won their races:

Matt Hall (42nd House District: all of Kalamazoo County EXCEPT the City of Kalamazoo, the City of Portage, and Oshtemo and Texas Townships + the three townships in District 45). If the GOP holds the House this November Matt Hall will retain his position as SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, a very influential politician in Lansing.

Sarah Lightner (45th House District: includes Charleston, Climax, and Wakeshma townships, and parts of Calhoun County).

Steve Carra (36th House District: all of St. Joseph County and half of Cass County).

Pauline Wendzel (39th House District: includes all of Van Buren County except townships along Lake Michigan, parts of Allegan County, and a small portion of Berrien County).

Steve Frisbie (44th House District: includes top townships in Calhoun County, Battle Creek and Marshall).

Thomas Albert (18th State Senate District: includes all of Barry County, portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties).

Chris Moraitis (20th State Senate District: from the southern suburbs of Grand rapids, to Allegan County, Van Buren County, and part of Berrien County). NOTE: this race was a real nailbiter. Moraitis defeated his closest challenger, Kenny Clevenger by 152 votes. There will probably be a recount. Both candidates are pro-life endorsed candidates so either way it ends up...we win!

KRTL Annual Business Meeting: September 17, 2026

The Board of Directors of Kalamazoo Right to Life invites all members to attend the annual business meeting. It will be held at Christian Assembly of God, 7835 Lovers Lane, Portage, MI 49002. The church is located about 100 yards north of E. Centre Street. The meeting will begin at 6 pm. We are excited to announce that Speaker of the House Matt Hall will be sending his legislative aide Mason W. Milks to the business meeting. He will speak on behalf the Speaker and talk about the current situation in Lansing. Come learn about the organization, sign up as a volunteer, and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded pro-lifers. Light refreshments will be served. We will elect the 2026-2027 officers:

President: Jean Talanda

Vice President: Rob Karrer

Treasurer: Connie Doorlag

Secretary: Katie Stowe

Lindsey Graham dies, was a pro-life crusader and hero

South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham passed away on July 11 from a sudden illness. He was 71 years old. His pro-life credentials are long. In 1999, then Congressman Graham introduced a new pro-life bill: the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. The proposal was simple. If an unborn fetus is killed when its mother had been assaulted or killed, prosecutors would be able to charge the alleged assailant with two crimes—one for harming or killing the mother, the other for killing the baby in utero. Although Graham's bill did not pass in the Senate, the issue did not die. It was reintroduced in 2003 and incentivized when the Scott Peterson trial made front page news. The bill was actually renamed the Laci and Connor Act to honor the two victims killed by

Scott Peterson. The bill passed in 2004 and became law. Thank you Lindsey for having the courage to introduce the bill, and face the onslaught from pro-abortion lawmakers (and the liberal media) who would fight this bill to the end.

Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz Will Close Three Michigan Centers

condensed from LifeNews.com

On July 30, Planned Parenthood of Michigan announced that three centers (Lansing, Livonia, and Warren) would close following a \$4.2 million decline in patient care reimbursement and federal family planning funding as a result of President Trump's "big beautiful bill." Although the three centers did not perform surgical abortions, they sold the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol. Planned Parenthood has seven clinics remaining: Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Ferndale, Kalamazoo, Flint, and Traverse City.

Governor Whitmer blamed the closures on GOP actions in Washington, calling them the result of "historic attacks on reproductive freedom, healthcare access and Medicaid."

Right to Life of Michigan Amber Roseboom rejected the funding claim. "The suggestion that PP doesn't have money to provide local services, merely weeks after announcing a \$47 million effort to defeat Republicans in key races, is shameful political theater."

She continued, "With abortion legal through all nine months of pregnancy in Michigan, the Democrats are desperately trying to manufacture an issue of 'access' to turn out their base. Michigan voters will see right through this charade...If Planned Parenthood is facing closures, they should be pointing to mismanagement of their own national organization, not the government."

Gallup Poll shows pro-life sentiment is recovering

At one time, back about 30 years ago, 50 percent of Americans supported the pro-life position. Then support seemed to shrink. The murders of abortion doctors did not help! September 11, 2001 shifted focus off domestic issues to fight international terrorism. The pro-life movement had some victories in the 2000s with Congress and the Courts. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act passed. A federal ban on partial birth abortion passed and the Supreme Court upheld that law. But the popularity of medication abortion and the threats to defund Planned Parenthood made pro-abortion advocates more aggressive to protect abortion rights. While pro-lifers celebrated when Trump appointed three conservative justices to the Supreme Court, the other side cried foul. The Dobbs decision was the final straw. Many Americans who made have been uneasy with abortion now came to its defense. "I may not like abortion. but I can't deny it for someone else." Support for the pro-life side waned. Our loss in Prop 3 was proof that pro-abortion zealots (with a huge stockpile of cash from like-minded millionaires) could convince otherwise rational voters into enshrining abortion in our state constitution.

A new Gallup Poll shows that the pro-life slide may have bottomed out and we are slowly regaining support. When the Dobbs leak occurred in May 2022, 39 percent of Americans considered themselves pro-life. In the 2026 poll, those favoring the pro-life side has risen to 42 percent. Conversely, those who think that abortion should be legal in most cases decreased from 19 percent in 2025 to 15 percent in 2026. It is possible that the pro-abortion victories in state referendums in 2022-2024 made have been an over-reach. Too radical, too extreme, too fast! These are small gains but it shows that we are moving in the right direction.

Life Chain: Sunday, October 4, 2026

Pro-lifers will gather along South Westnedge for one hour declaring the simple truth: abortion kills children, or God heals and forgives. This annual event has been held in Kalamazoo-Portage for over 30 years. For more details contact

Life Chain Coordinator Deena Anderson.
Her phone is 269-303-8016.
You can also connect with her
at lifchain_490@yahoo.com.

Kansas judge scraps informed consent

On Monday, August 3, a judge in Kansas issued a 270- page ruling, writing that the state's Women's Right to Know Act was unconstitutional, thus ending 30 years of informed consent legislation. The pro-life Act imposed a 24-hour waiting period, a requirement that the doctor listen to the baby's heartbeat 30 minutes before the abortion, a requirement that women be told that medication abortion might be reversible through the Abortion Pill Reversal method, and a requirement that the abortionist ask women why they seek an abortion. They made have made sense to us...but not to this pro-abortion judge.

Massachusetts passes radical pro-abortion bill

In another disturbing development, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a new bill passed by the state legislature. The bill now allows abortions up until birth even on healthy unborn babies. Democrats rushed the bill so it could pass before the legislature adjourned. It passed in the state House by an overwhelming 119-33 vote. Abortion is now legal at any gestational age after 24 weeks for any reason. Lawmakers removed every objective limitation and give abortionists the ability to perform the procedure at any point in pregnancy. Massachusetts becomes the 11th state, along with the District of Columbia, to place no limits on abortion.

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Veep Corner Rob Karrer

Now that the August Primary is history, we turn our attention to the General Election in November. After eight years of Gretchen Whitmer, we are in desperate need to elect a pro-life governor. Congressman John James won his own grueling campaign to secure the Republican nomination to square off against pro-abortion radical Jocelyn Benson. This will not be an easy task. She has name recognition and the advantage of running for office in an off-year election. If voting patterns and traditions are legitimate indicators, the party in power (Republicans control US House, Senate, White House) loses seats in the midterm election. While Michigan has been governed by Democrats for eight years, it would seem logical that voters would throw the rascals out. But voting often takes on national significance. If voters are fed up with the GOP, with Trump, the “war” in Iran, high gas prices, more often they vote straight ticket for the other side. That might benefit Benson over James. But having El-Sayed on the ticket might change the narrative. If voters reject him because he is too extreme, too radical, too much out of the political mainstream, they may split their votes...vote for Dems for Congress but reject them at the top of the ticket: Benson and El-Sayed. Some moderate Dems may even vote for GOP candidates because of El-Sayed’s extremism.

Another thing to consider: pro-life voters in Michigan tend to stay home by huge numbers in midterm elections. As I wrote back in the June, 2026 KRTL newsletter, when comparing voting patterns in presidential election years, 508,000 pro-lifers stayed home in the 2024 midterm; 420,000 did not vote in the 2018 midterm; and 689,000 stayed home in the 2022 midterm. In all three examples, the pro-life candidate would have beaten the pro-abortion candidate running for governor. **THIS MUST STOP. IF WE STAY HOME WE WILL LOSE. IT’S VERY SIMPLE: VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. GET THE PICTURE?**