

Frequently Asked Questions



Personhood Missouri Constitutional Amendment

To those that hear HIS voice,

Thank you for your willingness to obey HIS call in your life to serve HIM. The families and the nation are at such great risk, because as a nation we have turned our backs on God and the foundation of Jesus, as we murder our children. Personhood Missouri will continue the stand with other Christians against the powers and principalities that seek to kill, steal, and destroy.

Missouri Language for Initiative Petition: Be it resolved by the people of the State of Missouri that the Constitution be amended.

One new section is adopted to be known as section 35 of Article I, (or if section 35 of Article I already exists, then this proposal shall add a new section to Article I in the next available numeric order), to read as follows:

Section 35, Person defined. As used in sections 2, 10, and 14 of Article I of the state constitution, the term “person” shall apply to every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being.

We also gave a suggestion for a Ballot Title: Shall there be an amendment to the Missouri constitution applying the term “person”, as used in those provisions of the Missouri constitution relating to natural rights, due process of law, and access to courts of justice to every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being?

Q. What is the goal of the Personhood Amendment?

A. The goal is; “end abortion now” by protecting all innocent human life from the beginning of biological development.

Q. How can we achieve this?

A. By proclaiming the truth without equivocation or apology: all human beings are valuable individuals regardless of their age, stage of development, or disability. Therefore, all human beings must have the same rights under the law.

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It is a basic principle of American constitutional law, that the power to provide for the public welfare, security, health, and safety of individuals belongs to the state. While the federal constitution provides minimum standards through the bill of rights, the states have every right to provide greater protections. Missouri courts and Missouri lawmakers must obey the Missouri constitution. By amending the Missouri constitution, we will be ensuring that only those laws that do not discriminate against the pre born child meet the standard which the state courts are obligated to uphold.

Upon passage of the 2010 Personhood Amendment, all laws which clearly discriminate against the pre born child will be rendered moot, much like the 3/5 clause of Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution (which declared that African Americans were to be counted as only 3/5 of a person) was rendered moot by passage of the 13th amendment to the U.S. constitution (which outlawed slavery.)

Q. what does "Personhood" mean?

A. Personhood is a term used to describe the status of a human being vis-a-vis his or her individual human rights.

With respect to abortion, the term was used by Justice Blackmun in Roe v. Wade to create a class of human beings without the constitutional right to life: the pre born child.

Throughout history, when tyrannical rulers sought to dehumanize a certain section of their population, they would resort to stripping them of "personhood." This was the case with African Americans, who were deemed to be property instead of persons. It was also the case with Nazi Germany, which deemed minorities, the disabled, and above all Jewish individuals to be non-persons.

Q. What is the Beginning of Biological Development?

A. The beginning of the biological development of a human being who is created through sexual reproduction is the instant when the sperm and the ovum touch to form a unique human being. It is different from fertilization or conception in that it accounts for modern forms of asexual reproduction such as cloning. In the case of a cloned human being, his or her biological beginning is when the DNA in the cell/cells is deprogrammed or reprogrammed to the same state of differentiation as a human organism.

Q. Why do some pro-lifers not support Personhood?

A. A number of national "pro-life" special interest groups don't support Personhood. These are some of the reasons that are often circulated against Personhood Amendments:

1. Isn't Personhood a direct attack on Roe v. Wade at a time when we don't have the votes in the Supreme Court to overturn Roe. Isn't this imprudent?

The fundamental flaw behind this objection is that it doesn't recognize that the greatest enemy of the child in the womb, and of liberty in general, is inaction and lack of courage. Personhood is a leadership strategy in that it seeks to put principle over politics and Supreme Court predictions. Unless we are able to stand for a solid principle,

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we will never change the hearts of men and women. And unless we change the hearts and minds of citizens, judges and politicians (an unfortunate modern synonym) will continue to allow the slaughter of the pre born child in the womb.

Another flaw to this argument, is that there is no end in sight for people to fight for. The fact of the matter is that if we look at the judiciary as a whole, and even at the Supreme Court, so called "pro-life" Republicans presidents have seated pro-abortion judges like Harry Blackmun, the author of Roe v. Wade, and Sandra Day O'Connor, the author of Casey. In other words, if a Democrat is in office they will stack the court with pro-abortion justices, if a Republican is in office, we might get half and half, if we're lucky. Judging by the current make-up of our congress and the presidency, what in the world makes people think we will be able to get a majority to overturn Roe in the next years? We won't. The best we can do, is to put forth a strong case for our fundamental belief, and that is Personhood.

2. Passing a state personhood amendment could "set the pro-life movement back":

Many pro-lifers believe this, and yet it is hard to believe. Set us back to when? The number of children murdered in the womb remains pretty steady at over 1 million per year. Furthermore, the statistics are totally unreliable, since a) they are voluntary, b) many states don't report, and c) the recent and significant increase in the number of chemical abortions is not even taken into account.

Real pro-lifers are becoming more and more rare in mainstream politics, as evidenced by the growing number of prominent pro-abort Republicans (Arnold, Rudy, Laura Bush, Colin Powell, et .al.)

It is easier to find communists at our universities than outspoken pro-lifers.

Church leaders are more and more timid in their fight against abortion, as evidenced by the disgraceful honoring of abortion advocate extraordinaire, Barack Obama, at Notre Dame.

In other words, our culture of death has become the status quo, what in the world would be wrong with rocking the boat?

3. Even if a state passed a personhood amendment, it would immediately be overturned by a Federal court, and then the Supreme Court would not even consider the case:

Just because we live in a state of federal judicial tyranny doesn't mean we have to accept it. State personhood amendments are like a man standing in front of the proverbial tank. Surely, the tank can crush the man, but by that act of violence the real enemy is uncovered.

State personhood amendments rely on two very solid constitutional legal theories:

i. **Federalism and the Tenth Amendment:** The states have traditionally enjoyed the power to regulate health, safety, and morals. This is called the police power. The police power is dictated by the Tenth Amendment, which states that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." In other words, if it is not in the letter of the Constitution, then the states should deal with it. That is why theft, rape, and murder are dealt with at the state level. The U.S. Constitution's built in protection for life, liberty, and property, has been read out of the constitution by activist judges, but we can still assert the state's powers to say enough is enough, we will not kill more innocent children in our state.

ii. Direct challenge to Roe: Until now, no legislature, no law, has been brought to the Supreme Court completely rejecting Roe. Every law that pro-lifers pass is litigated as if it could be acceptable under Roe or Casey. No true pro-life law is compatible with Roe or Casey, because Roe and Casey are built upon the belief that a child in the womb is not a person. As such, Roe and its progeny, are unjust laws and an unjust law is no law at all. It is time we bring a case that actually represents our real beliefs and is a positive affirmation.

4. Personhood is a "waste of valuable resources":

This is the most ridiculous charge of all. Every person that is working on the Missouri Personhood Amendment is a volunteer. All that we require to put the amendment on the ballot is for churches to muster up the courage to

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simply spend thirty minutes at the end of two services or masses collecting signatures from the faithful. How is this a waste of valuable resources? In one hour, and without spending a dime, people's voices will have been given a platform, and the baby's will have found new advocates. How is this a waste of valuable resources?

In a political climate where so many are outspokenly pro-abortion, isn't it the perfect time for a popular initiative that goes straight to the people? Isn't it a bigger waste of resources to try to work within a political system completely dominated by pro-aborts? Regardless of how a human being comes about, he or she deserves the same protection and rights as the rest of humanity.

Q. WILL IT BAN ABORTION?

A. YES! The personhood amendment is different from measures that try to regulate abortion such as waiting periods or parental consent bills. Personhood confronts abortion head on and says **STOP IT NOW**. Personhood calls it like is: a human being is always a person, and you can never intentionally take the life of an innocent person.

Q. ROE V. WADE?

A. Justice Blackmun wrote that "if personhood is established, the case for abortion collapses." The very man who authored Roe v. Wade shows us the way. Are we sensible enough to try it?

Q. CHANCE OF SUCCESS?

A. YES! A majority of Americans now consider themselves pro-life. We deserve bold laws that represent our views. If we don't dare ask for what we want, how can we ever expect to achieve it? There is good law to support personhood. Why work to regulate the killing of innocent people when we can work to **STOP IT NOW!**

Q. BAN CONTRACEPTION?

A. NO! This is a scare tactic used by the abortion industry. Contraception is anything that prevents the creation of a human being, and personhood only deals with human beings.

Q. LIFE OF THE MOTHER?

A. The doctor's goal should be to save mom and the baby if possible. The goal should never be to kill the mother to save the baby, nor to kill the child to save the mother. Personhood does not value the life of the child more than the life of the mother. Quite the opposite, it prohibits favoring one person over another.

Q. RAPE AND INCEST?

A. Should we kill a child for the crimes of her father? **NO!** Victims of rape and incest who conceive a child need our law enforcement to punish the criminal not make the mother feel like one for killing her own child.

Q. HOW MANY SIGNATURES DO WE NEED?

A. 225,000

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Q. WHERE CAN I GET THE MOST SIGNATURES?

A. CHURCH, First and foremost, go to your church, talk to your pastor, and ask to organize a personhood amendment signature drive. Refer to our church packets for great information and ideas. If you don't have a church packet, they are available on our web site.

Q. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO TURN IN SIGNATURES?

A. April 30, 2010.

Q. WHERE ELSE CAN I GET SIGNATURES?

A. You can also get many signatures at big events, especially Christian events, but also concerts, sporting events, local fairs, grocery stores, farmers markets, and any other public event or space. The key is to go to places where there are a lot of people so that you maximize your time. Going door to door, for example, is not a good way to get signatures.