

Proposal 3 at a Glance

Proposal 3 would allow:

- Abortion at any time in pregnancy for any reason.
- Children to undergo abortion or sterilizing transgender procedures without their parents' consent.
- Elimination of the state's partial-birth abortion ban and late-term abortion ban.
- Anyone to perform an abortion—even those without a medical license
- Abortion providers to be shielded from consequences for injuring or killing women.
- Elimination of all current health and safety regulations on abortion clinics.

Help Defeat Proposal 3

- Vote **NO**, either in person on Tuesday, November 8, or by absentee ballot beforehand.
- Check your voter registration status and learn how to vote properly by visiting [the Michigan Voter Information Center](#).
- Encourage your relatives, friends, coworkers, and parishioners to register to vote for the election and vote **NO** on this proposal.
- Pray that the outcome of election may be one that will protect and uphold the dignity of human life.

The Rest of the Ballot: The Faithful Citizen's Approach to Voting as a Catholic in the November Election

Along with the portion of the ballot where you vote **NO** on Proposal 3, there will be many other voting decisions in this upcoming general election.

As Catholics, we are obligated to live out faithful citizenship. The bishops tell us that “responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”

But what does faithful citizenship mean? The Church has said the lay faithful “are not only bound to penetrate the world with a Christian spirit but are also called to be witnesses to Christ in all things in the midst of human society.” That includes participating in political life, and for most people, that means exercising the right to vote.

With the November election approaching, we encourage all Catholics to be “guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group” when discerning their choices to vote. The Church is nonpartisan and “our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable.”

Further, living out faithful citizenship requires us to go beyond cable news networks and social media feeds. To truly cast an informed vote, we must make the intentional effort to become informed on Catholic social teaching with regard to policy issues and where candidates and ballot proposals stand on those policy issues.

The U.S. bishops have said it is “essential” that Catholics are “guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight,” and in particular, “the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions.”

The decision on whom to vote for “should take into account a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue.” Ultimately, the decision is “to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.”



Opposing Proposal 3

Vote NO on Proposal 3

Opposing Proposal 3 by the Michigan Catholic Conference

This is now our 6th week discussing the startlingly broad language of Proposal 3 (the “Reproductive Freedom for All” proposal). In addition to violating the Church’s teaching that every human life is sacred and must be protected from conception, the proposal allows minors to obtain sterilizations as well as abortions without parental consent or even notice, effectively allows abortion on demand through 9 months of pregnancy, prevents the State from protecting unborn life or stopping discrimination based on a baby’s sex, race, or disability, and effectively exempts abortionists from health and safety regulations.

It gets worse. In subsection (3), Proposal 3 says that the state shall not “penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone for aiding or assisting” a mother in obtaining an abortion. That means if a teacher or counselor takes a student to obtain an abortion without notifying the child’s parents, there are no legal consequences. If someone assists with an abortion—even if they have no medical license or training whatsoever—there can also be no legal consequences. Most bizarrely, if an abortionist engages in gross negligence and severely harms or kills the mother as well as her child during an abortion, he will have a constitutional defense to any malpractice claim: Michigan’s Constitution would prevent the State from imposing an “adverse action,” i.e., a state-court judgment, against him. No matter how a voter feels about abortion, Michigan’s Constitution should not be amended to allow non-medical providers to assist in abortions and to absolve abortionists of medical-malpractice liability. Please tell everyone you know: vote “**NO**” on Proposal 3 on November 8th.

John Bursch is a constitutional lawyer and former Michigan Solicitor General. Through Alliance Defending Freedom, he represents the Michigan Catholic Conference and Right to Life of Michigan in court to uphold Michigan’s pro-life laws.