

Pro-Life Candidates Fare Very Well in West Virginia

By Mary Anne Buchanan

The most exciting race of the November 8 election was the 13th Senatorial District nailbiter between the winner, former Senator Mike Oliverio, and Delegate Barbara Fleischauer, with only a 162-vote difference. She has never cast a pro-life vote in over two decades. With that win, candidates endorsed by the West Virginians for Life Political Action Committee (WVL-PAC) won in all 17 senate races.

Endorsed pro-life incumbents U.S. Representatives Carol Miller (First District) and Alex Mooney (Second District) handily won reelection on Tuesday, November 8, with 67% and 65% of the vote respectively.

In the 94 House of Delegates races where the WVL-PAC made endorsements, there were 83 wins.

All in all, the rate of success of candidates endorsed by West Virginians for Life was an unprecedented 90%.

Sadie Keaton, WVFL Legislative Director, said, "The people of West Virginia spoke loud and clear on their pro-life values when they voted in a pro-life super majority in both the House and Senate. This is an exciting time. Now that The Unborn Child Protection Act (HB 302) has been passed, and West Virginia has freed itself from the grip of the abortion industry, the legislature can focus on passing laws that create a culture of life that more accurately reflects the values of the people of West Virginia."

According to Wanda Franz, Ph.D., president of WVL-PAC, "We are very happy about the success of the many candidates we endorsed. The vote confirms the recent poll (Triton Polling, 10/18/22) that West Virginians are pro-life, and they want their legislators to represent their pro-life values."



Recapping the 2022 Elections: The Fight for Life Goes On

By Karen Cross, NRL Political Director

The most important result of the 2022 midterm elections for the pro-life movement is undoubtedly that the Republican Party [has retaken the U.S. House, and seized the gavel from pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi].

This key victory gives the pro-life movement the opportunity to stop pro-abortion measures coming from the Biden Administration and the Democrat-controlled Senate dead in their tracks. Republicans will have the power to prevent the passage of radical pro-abortion legislation like the so-called Women's Health Protection Act, which aims to permanently enshrine abortion in federal law and policies, and strike down virtually all state-level protections for

unborn children and their mothers like parental involvement and informed consent laws.

When the Democrats held the majority, they voted numerous times to eliminate longstanding pro-life policies and appropriations riders like the Hyde Amendment, which prevents the use of American tax dollars to pay for abortions in many federal programs. The Democrat vision of unlimited abortion nationwide for any reason until birth, funded with taxpayer money, is now far less likely to become a reality. Study after study confirms that pro-life measures like Hyde save lives. So, it is not an exaggeration to say that lives have been saved as a result of these elections!

Yet, some may look at the results of the 2022

elections with disappointment. They were not characterized by the kind of sweeping gains we saw in 2010, 2014, 2016, or even 2020. The Republican House Majority will be a narrow one, likely reminiscent of the thin majority the Democrats have held since 2020.

In the Senate, Democrats picked up one open seat (Pennsylvania) and defended all of their incumbent Senators. (With the exception of pro-abortion Senator Raphael Warnock who faces a December runoff against football legend and pro-life Republican Herschel Walker.) Every Democrat incumbent hailed from a state that Biden carried

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A publication of

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From the President



Poll Confirms That Abortion Law Reflects What Voters Want

Dear Friends,

We have had a wonderful year with the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, which set the stage for the passage of our new law here in West Virginia. On September 13, the legislature passed the Unborn Child Protection Act, HB 302, which protects life in the womb from the beginning of pregnancy, with exceptions to save the life of the mother and in cases of rape and incest when the crime has been reported to public authorities.

We have since commissioned a poll (Triton Polling, 10/18/22), which demonstrates that West Virginians support this new abortion law passed by the West Virginia Legislature.

The question: "...do you support or oppose laws that prohibit abortions from conception forward, except when necessary to save the life of the mother, as long as there are exceptions for rape and incest as well?" resulted in 61% in support of such a law, 30% opposed and 9% don't know. This question perfectly describes the law recently passed by the State Legislature during the Special Session. It makes clear that the members of the state legislature were well-atuned to the position of their constituents on the abortion issue. They recognized that the majority of the people are pro-life and wanted to see legislation that reflected their values.

In addition, the poll asked: "Do you support or oppose your taxpayer dollars being used to pay for abortions?" The responses to this question were 37% support, 59% oppose with 4% don't know. It is gratifying that 59% of West Virginians oppose tax-payer funded abortions, which mirrors our law here in West Virginia.

Clearly, here in West Virginia, our pro-life laws reflect the pro-life positions of a majority of our citizens. However, this doesn't mean that our work is finished. The pro-abortion forces are pushing back hard against us, and we cannot allow them to gain control of the legislature. If they do get enough votes, they will change our laws. That is what the reversal of *Roe* actually means. We must be vigilant to protect our pro-life supermajorities in the legislature.

We also have a very important educational effort before us. Our poll asked the public if they had heard of a number of pro-life facts relating to the confusion over definitions of abortion and of medical care. In nearly every case, the majority indicated that the fact was "...news to me." The first such question said that WV state laws guaranteed the right of women to obtain abortions if they miscarried their pregnancies. This was news to 62% of respondents. A similar question regarding ectopic pregnancy was also news to 62%. Responses to other questions included: the great variety of services provided by Pregnancy Resource Centers was news to 50%; a higher risk of getting breast cancer and premature births in a subsequent pregnancy following abortion was news to 62%, and a worldwide research study showing that 51% of women who had abortions have severe, long-lasting mental health problems was news to 49%.

Our opposition has always hidden behind the lie that abortion is all about health care "between the patient and her physician." However, this has never been true. Abortion is the killing of the child in the womb; it is almost always done by abortionists in special killing centers. The patient's physician rarely performs her abortion. If a woman is having a miscarriage, she never goes to an abortionist. That is when she consults her physician. Our opposition has been very effective getting Americans to believe that "abortion is reproductive health care." The West Virginia abortion law clearly specifies that reproductive health care, including treatment for miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy and stillbirth, are not abortions. Since 62% of respondents did not fully understand WV law concerning medical care for miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy, we have a lot of work to do to educate them with the truth.

West Virginians for Life congratulates the members of the Legislature who voted for the strong pro-life laws they have passed in support of the views of most West Virginians. We look forward to continuing to work with our pro-life legislators in the next session of the Legislature.

Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

Wanda Franz, Ph.D., President

Contact Your Members of U.S. Congress

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito - (202) 224-6472
172 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
email: www.capito.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion

Sen. Joe Manchin III - (202) 224-3954
306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
email: senator@manchin.senate.gov

Rep. David McKinley (WV-1) - (202) 225-4172
1232 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
email through website: <https://mckinley.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Alex Mooney (WV-2) - (202) 225-2711
2366 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
email through website -
<https://mooney.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Carol Miller (WV-3)
(202) 225-3452
1605 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
email through website -
<https://millerforms.house.gov/contact/>

2023 Legislative Agenda

By Wanda Franz, President,
Karen Cross, Political Liaison, &
Sadie Keaton, Legislative Director

West Virginians for Life is excited to announce our upcoming legislative agenda, which includes two bills. The first will provide money to Pregnancy Resource Centers in West Virginia. The second will reinstate the Women's Right to Know Act, which will inform women about the consequences of, and alternatives to, abortion.

The Supporting Mothers and Babies Act will provide \$1,000,000 in funding to pregnancy resource centers across West Virginia. A pregnancy resource center, otherwise known as a Pregnancy Crisis Center, or PRC, is a non-profit that offers support and services free of cost to mothers and their babies in need. They do not perform or refer for abortions. PRCs can apply for this funding via a grant. The cost of operations, new equipment, personnel, free resources for clients, and more can be covered by the grant. For example, a PRC that wishes to offer medical services can apply for money to buy an ultrasound machine, or a facility can purchase new car seats to give to mothers in need.

A recent poll asked West Virginians if they knew of the services offered by PRCs. The poll found that less than half of West Virginians knew of the services that these centers provide. Pregnancy resource centers reportedly provided over \$600,000 dollars' worth of free services to women in West Virginia last year. Funding these centers offers women real support to care for their families in the absence of abortion in West Virginia.

The Women's Right to Know Act will reinstate two bills that were repealed when the Unborn Child Protection



Delegate Caleb Hanna is one of many pro-life legislators who received a special certificate from WVFL at the November Interim meetings. Shown here with President Franz, Legislative Director Keaton, and NRL Political Director Cross. More pictures are forthcoming in the next issue.

Act (HB 302) passed. It is intended to aid the small percentage of women who qualify for abortion exceptions. It would require that women be informed about the harm that can occur from having an abortion. This includes the risks of infection, hemorrhage, danger to subsequent pregnancies, infertility, detrimental psychological impacts, and increased risk of breast cancer. It would also educate patients

regarding the dangers of the abortion pill, along with the fact that the effects of such a chemical abortion can be reversed.

The Women's Right to Know Act would also provide for educational materials to be given to parents at the time that they are informed that the baby in the mother's womb has a disability. The doctor would be required to provide information putting the parents in touch with organizations able to support them in planning for their disabled child.

Thanks to the Unborn Child Protection Act, the vast majority of abortions have ceased in West Virginia. West Virginians for Life can now work to pass legislation that will support women and their families. It has never been so good to be pro-life.

Supporting Pregnancy Resource Centers has always been an objective of local WVFL chapters.



Mary Anne Buchanan (center), of the Monongalia County chapter, delivered hand-made items to the Compass Women's Center (CWC). She is pictured here with CWC Executive Director Angie Hikes and CWC Executive Assistant Lisa Liberda.

Pro-Life Teens Organizing In Weston, WV

By Sadie Keaton

The pro-life teens in Weston are on fire! After attending the first annual West Virginia For Life Teens weekend retreat held in August, and the WVFL State Convention in October, a number of teens have banded together to start their own pro-life group within their church – St. Patrick's Catholic Parish.

Brady Jordan, a freshman at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, pushed his mother to help him start a pro-life group, along with the other teens who attended the events mentioned. When speaking to his mother he said, "Roe v. Wade has been overturned; we have to do something in our community!"



At the WVFL State Convention, teens participated in special workshops hosted by Delegate Riley Keaton & WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton. Keynote Speaker Olivia Gans Turner joined them in the afternoon.

The teens at Saint Patrick's, along with other members of the parish community, are looking forward to writing their club agenda. They understand the importance of providing support for mothers and their babies, so as to create a culture of life. Sadie Keaton, the Legislative Director for West Virginians for Life, has offered to help start this new group, and direct them towards Pregnancy Resource Centers in their area that need support. They will be looking for ways to serve by volunteering at local PRCs.

This group will be well-rounded. In addition to community service, Mrs. Keaton will help them learn about opportunities to support pro-life laws in West Virginia. For example, the upcoming legislative agenda for West Virginians for Life includes a bill that will support Pregnancy Resource Centers. These teens are excited to interact with their parish about such laws.

Are there teens in your community who would like to start their own group? The young people in West Virginia want to live in a place where mothers and babies are supported, and freed from the hands of the abortion industry. Forming a pro-life group is a great way to accomplish that! Reach out to legislative director Sadie Keaton to find out how they can help to create a culture of life for the families in their community.

2022 State Convention

Alicia Martin, WVFL Program Director

On Saturday, October 1, West Virginians for Life held their annual State Convention in in Fairmont. Keynote speaker Olivia Gans Turner provided the attendees with time-proven techniques for communicating pro-life truths. Her instructions built a foundation from which listeners could more effectively minister to both the obvious and the less-recognized victims of abortion in our culture.

Dr. Byron Calhoun, using a professional’s medical perspective, masterfully showed how to dispel many of the myths surrounding abortion. Delegate Riley Keaton then took the stage alongside WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Shields, and together they addressed pro-life action points within the state’s upcoming regular session. Keaton and Shields also oversaw the Teens for Life workshops, some of which ran concurrently with the main convention.

After lunch, Turner was joined by Dr. Wanda Franz. They presented glaring evidence which illustrated the physical, emotional, medical, and financial damage that has been caused to women and children by abortion over the decades. Many of these suppressed statistics were summarized in a handout entitled “Risks After Abortion,” which is available for download under Resources\Publications on the WVFL website.

Missy Ciccarello closed out the day’s presentations with an encouraging testimony. The inspiring story of a baby adopted rather than aborted was featured on page 1 of the Fall Issue of Life Matters, the WVFL Newspaper.

Minutes after Ciccarello left the stage she was asked to return – because she had been chosen to receive the organization’s Angel of the Year Award. Last year, Ciccarello had spearheaded the God’s Battlefield project, which culminated in the purchase of a property across from West Virginia’s only remaining abortion facility. With the facility’s doors now closed, God’s Battlefield is slated to display a memorial for the babies.

The day’s events closed with a surprise Life Time Achievement Award for Mary Anne Buchanan. Buchanan has faithfully served WVFL in multiple capacities across several decades – a reality that was well-captured in a slideshow and commemorated in a beautifully-made shadowbox.

Please see State Convention Photos on pages 6-7.

Thank You Advertisers

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Christie, John, Morgantown
Choices Women’s Center, Clarksburg
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Wayside Southern Baptist Church, Buckhannon
West Virginia Pipeline, Princeton
Word of Faith Assembly, Daniels
WV Catholic Radio
WVU Mountaineers for Life, Morgantown

2023 Calendar of Events

January 11	WV Legislative Session Begins
January 20	March for Life, Washington, D.C.
January 22	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS)
February 13	Pro-Life Rally Day at the State Capitol
March 11	WV Legislative Session Ends
April 13	25th Annual Rose Dinner with Jay Sekulow as Keynote <i>Please note that the location has changed this year</i>
April - June	Annual Mother’s and Father’s Day Walks-for-Life
July 8	11th Annual Golf FORE Life Tournament Preston Country Club, Kingwood

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Michael & Mary Anne Buchanan
Sandy Gunther
Rick Hillenbrand

Will to Live: A Good Reminder

Mary Tillman, J.D.,
WVFL Vice President

Hurrah! After four years of educating our legislators, building alliances with other organizations, and fine-tuning language, the Health Care Decisions Act Amendments were finally enacted into law. No longer does the WV Code include vulnerable patients in a "persistent vegetative state" in the Living Will, which means they are now protected from being dehydrated or starved to death by the removal of a feeding tube.

Does this mean our work is done, in protecting elderly, disabled, or chronically ill patients? No!

First, it means that anyone who has signed the old Living Will form needs to revoke it. Could that be you? How about relatives who may

have been recently hospitalized? Then, obtain a life-affirming Medical Power of Attorney form from one of the organizations listed below. Consider who would serve well as your health care decision-maker, should you become unable to do so yourself. Fill out the form, observing all the requirements of witnesses and notary, and then give copies to your doctor, the persons you have asked to represent you, and (of course) keep one for yourself. Put it in a safe but accessible place, and tell your loved ones where it is.

Another practical action that most of us can do is to visit elderly or disabled persons. Stop by with some baked goods. Offer to drive them to the grocery store or doctor appointments or church. Take a moment and give them a telephone call. If their family is far away, invite them for a holiday meal. We all need to feel – indeed, BE – a part of a community that cares. Older people have marvelous memories and wisdom, and you will be benefited as much as the person you are visiting.

We are blessed to live in a state where unborn life is cherished and respected. Sadly, the lives of elderly, chronically ill, or disabled persons are NOT respected in, now, ten states and the District of Columbia, where physician-assisted suicide has been legalized. Data from Oregon, where this evil practice started, indicates that people do not choose to kill themselves because of unrelenting pain. Rather, the primary reasons to obtain a lethal prescription are psychosocial factors such as loss of autonomy, or fear of being a "burden."

Our efforts to form sincere friendships and provide assistance to lonely and sick persons will help keep our state pro-life from conception to natural death.

Pro-life Medical Power of Attorney Forms:

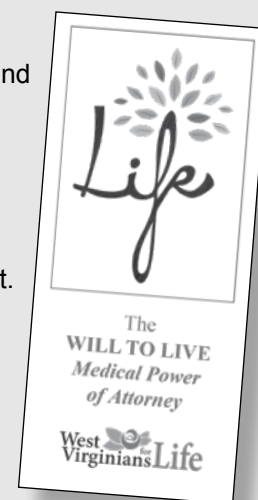
West Virginians for Life "WV Will to Live." Available at WVforLife.org, resources tab, then select pro-life resources. Scroll down to "WV Will to Live Document." Clicking on it will open a document, with instructions,

which can be downloaded and used.

National Right to Life Committee "Will to Live." Available free on the Internet. Request the form for the state in which you reside. Go to www.nrlc.org.

"Protective Medical Decisions Document," from the Patients' Rights Council in Steubenville, Ohio. Call 800-958-5678, or 740-282-3810 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Request the form for the state in which you reside.

In Canada, order the "Life-Protecting Power of Attorney for Personal Care" by calling the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: 1-877-439-3348.



25th ANNUAL PRO-LIFE ROSE DINNER

Featuring

JAY SEKULOW

Director of the American Center for Law and Justice

Thursday, April 13

5:30 p.m. Reception • 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Lakeview Resort, 1 Lakeview Dr., Morgantown, WV

West Virginians for Life
Educational Trust Fund

25TH ANNUAL ROSE DINNER

Thursday, April 13, 2023

I/we will be happy to support the Dinner at the following level (your gift is tax deductible less the actual cost of the meal):

- ☐ Co-Chairman* \$2,500
☐ Benefactor* \$1,500
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☐ Patron \$500
☐ Sponsor \$250
☐ Other \$
☐ Ticket(s) at \$50 each

Please indicate if you will be attending the Dinner
☐ YES, I/WE WILL BE ATTENDING WITH _____ GUEST(S)
☐ NO, I/WE WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE 4/13 DINNER
***Includes 8 Dinner Reservations**

*Please make checks payable to WVFL Ed. Trust Fund and return with this form to: West Virginians for Life, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508
Phone (304) 594-9845, Fax (304) 594-9849*



Jay Sekulow is Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), one of the most prestigious law firms in the country. He is an accomplished Supreme Court advocate, renowned expert on religious liberty, a number 1 New York Times bestselling author, and a respected broadcaster.

For regular attendees of the Rose Dinner: Please note that the location has changed this year.

2022 State Convention



Mary Anne Buchanan with Presenters Calhoun, Franz, & Turner



Buchanan holds Life Time Achievement Award beautifully crafted by Pastor Doug Joseph (left). Also pictured are LaDonna Joseph & Wanda Franz



C1 Sadie Shields w Candidates Street, Pettito, Coop Gonzalez, Summers, Keaton, Taylor, & DeVault



C2 Wanda Franz & Mary Anne Buchanan with Candidates Mike Oliverio and Delegate Phil Mallow



C3 Congressman Alex Mooney on video



College Students from 3 different campuses



Audio Recordings courtesy of Mr & Mrs Kay Lowther



Numerous Door Prizes won



Convention Attendees



Ganz - WDTV Interview



Cindy Mansberger & Nancy Sellers provided music



Teen Day Camp



Attendees Mr. & Mrs. Evans, Will Reilly and Steve Milinovich



Kanawha County Chapter



Registration Table - Cindy Mansberger



WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Shields presents 2023 Legislative Agenda with Delegate Riley Keaton



Convention Attendees



Attendees Mary Tillman and Chuck & Martha Northrop



Registration Table - Cheryl Carr-Brown & Sherri Stevens



Convention Attendees



Fr. Phillip Szabo provided luncheon blessing



Wanda Franz presents Angel of the Year plaque to Missy Ciccarello (left)



Gorgeous decorations courtesy of Linda Day (left), here with Mary Anne Buchanan



Attendees Ayers, Shorter, Fuller, & Keatley



Convention Attendees

10th Annual GOLF FORE LIFE TOURNAMENT

July 9, 2022



Ayden Shepard-Jim Calain-John Warbel-Jeff Stanley



Garrett Fetty-Treg Spicer-Jason May (Bartlett missing)



James Lawson-Randy Wolfe-Blake Wolfe-Mark Wolfe



Tom Sieben-Joe Kanosky-Chris Roe



Hunter Cottrill-Elias Costello-Ben Costello-James Pheasant



Andy Silberzahn-Hope Bolyard-George Dunbar-Rich Street



Bob Watts-Kenny Ryan-Bruce Clinton-Bill Wilkins



Gary Dubois-Jacob D-Jim Lester-Pete Pelechutte



John Christie-Jeff Rossy-Dave Johnson-Dennis Kelley



AG Com Kent Leonhardt-Scott Clarke-Amanda-Brian Jarvis-Robert Kincaid



Shane Wiles-Mike Davis-Joe Johnson-Tyler Eddy



Chris Oliver-Don Oliver-Kim Sanders-Dave Sanders



Chris Alasky-Verlin Porter-Larry Denoon-Christian Denoon



Gary Kessler-Randy Meadows-Keith Lewis-Joel Lewis



Mark Burke-Josiah Caldwell-Jerry Buckland-Tim Fout



Elliott Edwards-Arya Sattariapor-Ethan Rotruck-John Bryan



Zac McCullough-Keith Baker-Dakota Tasker-John Boye

Pro-Life Profile

By Patricia Johnson

Mary Anne was born while her career Army father was stationed in Munich, West Germany in the late 50's. At seven months of age, the Zbans were sent stateside to Kentucky, followed by Virginia. Two years later her youngest brother was born, making her the fourth of five children and the only girl. She had a lovely childhood and loved school. Skipping ahead to 1967 when Mary Anne's father passed away from heart disease, a move to southwestern Pennsylvania was necessary to be closer to her mother's family.

A degree in Speech Communications from Penn State was earned in 1979 and led to radio announcing jobs in Uniontown and then Morgantown.

She had strayed and ended up pregnant the spring before her final year in college. The abortion didn't solve anything. It only made her realize that she had played God and taken her unborn child's life. She says, "It would be years later that I experienced a cathartic crying episode like none that I have ever since gone through which left me feeling completely cleansed. I knew that I was forgiven as sure as anything."

Having been raised in the church, she didn't really have the salvation experience until 1993 at a revival. She is a member of Covenant Evangelical Methodist Church. This was even several years after she'd gotten involved with the pro-life movement in Morgantown in 1984 when she had found a pro-life tract on her vehicle after a WVU football game and a few days later heard the local pro-life chapter president on a Morgantown talk show. Mary Anne knew that she was being called to get involved and did so in early 1985 by joining the Mon County Chapter.

God was gracious to provide a husband in 1984 and later two children. Mary Anne was blessed to be a stay-at-home mother until 2005 when she was hired by West Virginians for Life.

Over the decades, she has seen so many ups and downs from the Freedom of Choice Act being defeated during the Clinton years to several bills passing in the West Virginia legislature to the election of pro-abortion Barack Obama to the overturning of Roe and the passage of the Unborn Child Protection Act this past September.

Semi-retirement has her in the position of Office Manager at West Virginians for Life. The very competent Alicia Martin is being trained as the replacement Program Director. The Pro-Life Angel Lifetime Achievement Award was a total surprise to her at the 2022 State Convention in October.

The biggest challenge she sees the pro-life movement facing now is to think that the work is done since Roe fell in June of 2022. It's only just beginning in the individual states now and pro-lifers will be defending the Unborn Child Protection Act moving forward. There are also battles in the end-of-life realm (doctor assisted suicide, euthanasia). This is no time to become complacent.

Mary Anne's hopes for the movement are being realized in that there is a younger generation rising up to carry on the work.



Mary Anne Buchanan receives Lifetime Achievement Award; pictured here with husband Michael and daughter Kaitlin

Federal Election Recap, continued from p.1

in 2020. Republican incumbents also won their re-election bids, including Senator Ron Johnson in Wisconsin, the only one running for re-election in a state carried by Biden.

Republicans began the cycle at a disadvantage despite 2022 being a midterm year with a sitting Democrat president, factors which historically worked in their favor. Republicans had the task of defending more Senate seats, including seats in battleground states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Florida, Iowa, and Ohio. The only seats in play for potential pickups were Arizona, Georgia*, New Hampshire, and Nevada – all states that Biden carried in 2020 and all states with Democrat incumbents. In 2018, despite Democrats winning toss-up House races and ultimately the House Majority, Republicans flipped 4 Senate seats (in Florida, Missouri, North Dakota, and Indiana). This year, Republicans are on track to take control of the House, and Democrats flipped one Senate seat.

Some may be inclined to point the finger at the pro-life movement as the cause of Republican underperformance in the elections.

Contrary to what you may hear in the media, standing up for unborn babies and their mothers did not encumber Republican candidates in the 2022 midterm elections. For decades, abortion has played a decisive role in U.S. elections, impacting how millions of both pro-life and pro-choice Americans cast their votes. The Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* in June amplified the importance of the issue in 2022. In some battleground states and toss-up House districts, abortion even ranked among the top issues on voters' minds.

Pro-life Republican candidates fared best when they acknowledged the heightened importance of the issue and clearly articulated their position while contrasting it with the extremism of their pro-abortion opponents. Conversely, Republicans who attempted to hide from the issue squandered their opportunity to accurately convey their position to voters. By not taking a position or going radio silent, these candidates allowed their pro-abortion opposition to define them on the issue. It also allowed the abortion extremism of their opponents to go unchallenged. Virtually every Democrat running for federal office embraced a policy of unlimited abortion for any reason until birth and paid for with tax dollars.

In many races, pro-abortion Democrats who support abortion without limits, even late in pregnancy, were able to gain the upper hand on the issue by portraying Republican candidates as "extreme" on the issue. Yet, polling consistently shows that the Democrats' stance in opposition to any and all limits on abortion is the one that is most at odds with the views of the voters. Many Republicans, possibly out of fear or following the recommendation of unknowledgeable campaign consultants, opted not to seize the opportunity to defend themselves and shift attention to their opponents' out-of-touch views.

Pro-life candidates also had to contend with massive, well-funded onslaughts of misinformation and outright lies by the abortion industry that went unchecked by most members of the press. In Congressional races as well as state referendum and ballot initiative fights, pro-abortion forces made outrageous, factually inaccurate claims, including: that the pro-life movement advocates for the punishment of women who have abortions (see the NRLC open letter condemning any such statute); that treatment for miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies would become illegal; and, that access to contraceptives would be threatened. This was the same playbook used during the fight over the Love Them Both Amendment in Kansas this summer. Members of the media, many of whom do not even try to hide their pro-abortion leanings, proved to be uncritical or just uninterested in correcting the erroneous claims coming from the pro-abortion side.

With the *Dobbs* decision granting states greater opportunities to pass protective measures for unborn children and their mothers, abortion became a central issue in many of the most competitive



WVFL Treasurer
Pastor Doug Joseph

WVFL Treasurer's Article

“We’ll be defending this law for the rest of our lives”

After the Supreme Court finally overturned *Roe* and *Casey*, WV won a pro-life legislative victory in HB302, now governor-signed and in force. Karen Cross (NRL legislative liaison and WVFL board member) said, “We’ll be defending this law for the rest of our lives.” We’re all celebrating, yet keenly aware that we can never “rest on our laurels.” As a cautionary tale, consider Ireland, which had an abortion ban not only in law but in their nation’s constitution. However, their victory was short-lived, lasting only from 1983 until 2018 (35 years). They did not maintain enough persuasion for the next generation to be pro-life, and their victory was voted out of existence. In the same year they lost their constitutional pro-life stance, we managed to move our WV state constitution from “pro-abortion” to “abortion-neutral” – and our current victorious stance is code law, not a constitutional position.

Code is easier to change than a constitution! We must educate, educate, educate! We must convince oncoming generations of the truth on life and related issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, etc. Our work goes on. Truly we ought to be, and God willing we will be, “defending this law for the rest of our lives.” Get involved. Show up at county chapter meetings. Start a chapter if there is not one. Donate time, talent, and treasure. Be passionate!

Join us: **wvforlife.org/membership**

Better yet, step up to **Rose Society Membership** while you’re there!

Already a member? Give here: **wvforlife.org/donate**

Pastor Doug Joseph
WVFL State Treasurer

gubernatorial races.

Republican governors with strong pro-life records, who advanced protective measures for unborn children and their mothers in their states, scored decisive wins at the ballot box. Among these were Governor Mike DeWine in Ohio, Governor Brian Kemp in Georgia, Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida, Governor Kim Reynolds in Iowa, Governor Greg Abbott in Texas, Governor Henry McMaster in South Carolina, Governor Kevin Stitt in Oklahoma, Governor Kristi Noem in South Dakota, Governor Bill Lee in Tennessee, Governor Kay Ivey in Alabama, Governor Brad Little in Idaho, and Governor Mark Gordon in Wyoming.

Notably, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, who signed the Ohio law protecting unborn babies when their heartbeat can be detected, won re-election by a 25-point margin. In Georgia, Governor Brian Kemp, who signed a similar bill into law, defeated well-funded Democrat rising star Stacey Abrams by more than 8 points. In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis, who signed a law protecting unborn babies 15 weeks and older on account of their capacity to feel pain, won by nearly 20 points. In fact, not a single incumbent pro-life governor lost his or her bid for re-election. Additionally, pro-life candidates prevailed in two gubernatorial races with open seats: Sarah Huckabee Sanders in Arkansas and Jim Pillen in Nebraska.

While the results of the 2022 elections did not exactly match the “massive red wave” predictions of many conservative media personalities and right-leaning pollsters, there is a lot to be thankful for. The importance of retaking control of the House alone, even if by a small margin, cannot be overstated. This shift in power all but ensures top pro-abortion priorities like passage of the so-called Women’s Health Protection Act and the elimination of the Hyde Amendment are dead on arrival in the new Congress.

The fight for life goes on! We have come far, and life is still worth defending!

*Georgia is not yet decided. Neither Raphael Warnock nor Herschel Walker passed the 50% threshold in the general election so they will face off in a runoff election on December 6th. If you live in Georgia, your vote is crucial (yet again)!

NEW WEST VIRGINIANS FOR LIFE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

You may place your orders at the state office at 304-594-9845 or send the order form with your payment to West Virginians for Life, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508 or email info@wvforlife.org.

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YES! You can count on me to help save unborn children from abortion. Enclosed is my **Basic membership** contribution of \$35 () or a **GOLD membership** contribution of \$50 (). One statewide pro-life t-shirt at no additional cost is an optional gift to those who pay the **GOLD membership**. Adult sizes are: S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL. Indicate size here: _____

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(Rose Society members receive a monthly update from the President and do not receive other fundraising mailings or calls other than fundraising for the political action committee.)

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Because in addition to educating, we are involved in trying to change the law, contributions to West Virginians for Life, Inc., are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. *West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.”

*A maximum donation of \$5,000 per Primary or General Election from an individual to the WVFL State PAC or \$5,000 per person per year to the WVFL Federal PAC is allowable. Please include occupation and employer when donating to the PAC. Corporate and church contributions to West Virginians for Life PAC are prohibited by law. Contributions to West Virginians for Life PAC are voluntary. Please disregard if you are a public employee or not a WVFL member.

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Cabell Pumpkin Festival



Doddridge Apple Butter Festival



Chuck, Marge, & Mike Allen



The Northrops and Allens



Kelly Allen at booth with kids

Lewis Outreach Events



Monongalia



WVU Homecoming Parade



Regina Smith Passing Out Candy at Parade



Compass Women's Center Executive Director Angie Hikes, Mon County VP Mary Anne Buchanan, and CWC Executive Assistant Lisa Liberda.

Monroe Gospel Sing & Auction



Ohio Dinner



Brooke McArdle, Faith Meyer, Elgine McArdle, Judi Varner Meyer, and Helen Rentfrow

Raleigh Celebrates Life!



Senator-Elect Laura Wakim Chapman and Karen Cross





Doddridge County

Doddridge Chapter WVFL had a booth at the Salem Apple Butter Festival Oct. 6-9. There was a good crowd this year, as they had not been able to have the festival for two years. Plenty of pro-life balloons were given out to the children. Many adults showed the children the fetal models, explaining how they were that small at one time. Voter recommendations were made available, and free bumper stickers, pens, etc. were given out, along with educational pamphlets and articles.

Greenbrier County

Greenbrier County is thrilled with WV election results, especially since they replaced a pro-abortion senator with a strong pro-life one. Some members attended a zoom class entitled, "Love All Three," which emphasized the importance of listening, along with dialogue, on abortion issues. They are excited that their website (MiracleOfLife.us) is up and running, thanks to Angelo Malo and Carolyn, who meet at the McLaughlin home every Monday to create, strategize, and work on it. Their meetings in 2023 will include a power-point presentation from their education director, Carolyn Lehrke. This will allow them to evaluate their chapter, and make some important changes.

Harrison County

The Harrison County Chapter had a booth at the Lost Creek Festival in September. A second outreach featured a letter to pastors in the county, inviting them to the WVFL State Convention as their guest. The pastors were also given information on upcoming pro-life events, such as the Charleston Rally and the Rose Dinner (with keynote speaker Jay Sekulow).

Lewis County

Lewis County WVFL had three events that gave away about \$900 of diapers and wipes. The first was the Fall Festival in Weston, where Tina Casto helped. A few weeks later was a block party at the middle school, in conjunction with the high school homecoming. The third event was the Farmers' Market. The first two events were great; attendees were very appreciative. The third event was good, but not as well-attended. At the outreach events, one table had diapers and wipes, and a second one included pro-life literature and give-aways (which both kids and adults liked). Information about the pregnancy center was also shared.

Monongalia County

Mon County Right to Life Chapter bought a hole for the WVFL Golf FORE Life Tournament, and provided a number of people to help work the event. They participated in the WVU Homecoming Parade, where Vice President Mary Anne Buchanan was joined by a number of WVU students.

Mary Anne also delivered a gift to Compass Women's Center, the local Pregnancy Care Center in Morgantown (on Don Knotts Blvd). The Knots of Love ministry at Covenant Church, where Mary Anne attends, blessed the Center with hand-crocheted/knitted hats. "What a remarkable thing these women are doing at Compass in helping mothers to choose life! May God bless them and the work of their center," said Mary Anne.

President Wanda Franz drove down to Huttonsville to spend a day with the teens at the first Teen Leadership Weekend, run by Sadie Shields and Riley Keaton. She welcomed the students to the event and gave her own pro-life testimony.

*Congratulations,
Mr. & Mrs. Keaton!*



On Saturday, October 8th, WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Shields was married to Delegate Riley Keaton in Charleston, WV.

Photo courtesy of Karen Cross

Monroe County

The WVFL Monroe County Chapter benefit gospel sing/soup dinner was held Saturday, September 17 at the Elmer Galford Training Center in Lindsie. It was a day filled with fun, friends and fellowship, as the community came together to celebrate the gift of life. Several gospel singers provided all-day entertainment, while everyone enjoyed a delicious meal, prepared by the great cooks in Monroe County. Children in attendance enjoyed face painting, carnival games and an

inflatable slide. Several door prizes were awarded throughout the day, and two handmade quilts with quilt racks were auctioned by Kevin Galford. Local and state political candidates were in attendance. Vince Deeds (candidate for WV State Senate), Roy Cooper (WV House of Delegates), and Jack David Woodrum (WV State Senate) spoke about recent pro-life legislation on the state and national levels. Also in attendance were County Commission candidates Kevin Galford and Kevin Glover, and Circuit Clerk candidate Daniel Tickle.

The WVFL Monroe County Chapter would like to thank everyone that came out in support of this event, and everyone who donated items for the auction/dinner. Proceeds will be used to support local pregnancy centers, as well as the state and local WV Chapters for Life. Mark your calendar to be in attendance next year, as this will be a yearly fundraiser.

Ohio County

The Ohio County Chapter of WVFL had a wonderful pro-life dinner on Thursday, October 6th, where approximately 70 people came to give their support. Attendees were educated by keynote speaker Karen Cross, the National Right to Life Political Director and WVFL Political Liaison. She was able to bring the crowd up-to-date on WVFL's agenda, now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned. Additional information included one of her favorite Bible verses, 2 Chronicles 7:14, which says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." The great evening also gave participants an opportunity to hear from WV GOP State Chair Elgine McArdle and two WVFL PAC-endorsed candidates. Candidates Laura Wakim Chapman and Brooke McArdle both had a few minutes to speak, encouraging the audience to know that "life matters" to them! The dinner also included special music from Dave Stiles, and a silent auction – both of which were enjoyed by the attendees. For those interested in becoming involved in the Ohio County Chapter of WVFL, or for those who would like to attend future events, please contact Judi Varner Meyer by calling or texting 304-639-3041.

Raleigh County

A recent Raleigh County meeting theme was CELEBRATE LIFE! They sought to recognize the over-turning of *Roe*, and special guest speaker Kayla Kessinger spoke on life after *Roe*. Another guest was young Rowdey Williams. His mother, Audrey, spoke on how Rowdey had surgery in her womb for spina bifida. He is doing very well, and amazes all the doctors! God is good!

Pro-Life Rally Day will be Monday, February 13th in the lower rotunda of the Capitol. Please come and receive a free t-shirt, meet with your legislators (by appointments that you have prearranged), take in the Rally at noon, and carry a cross during the Prayer Processional.



West Virginians for Life

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The 25th Annual Rose Dinner, with Keynote Speaker Jay Sekulow, will be held at a new location. Register early for guaranteed seating. **See p.5 for details.**

Life



Matters

Winter 2022

Vol. 44, Number 4

*Merry
Christmas*
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Several pro-life Delegates after the passage of The Unborn Child Protection Act.

After celebrating The Unborn Child Protection Act, West Virginia voters send a pro-life super majority to Charleston