

KYGA 2024 DIGITAL TOOLKIT

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

ACLU
Kentucky

2024 DIGITAL TOOLKIT

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ABORTION ACCESS

OVERVIEW

The *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization* decision forever changed the nature of our abortion access work in Kentucky. Kentucky is now a forced birth state, where abortion remains inaccessible under almost all circumstances in the commonwealth.

Even before the fall of *Roe*, the ACLU-KY's Reproductive Freedom Project fought for the rights of pregnant people to make the best decisions for them and their families. We will continue that fight, ceaselessly, until every person in Kentucky can make those choices for themselves.

Without the federal protections of *Roe*, the fight for abortion access has moved to the state level. Although the makeup of the Kentucky General Assembly is increasingly comprised of anti-abortion legislators, the few instances of moderate success in recent years followed testimony from Kentuckians who would be directly impacted by proposed anti-abortion laws.

Historically in Kentucky, the fight for reproductive rights excluded Black and Brown Kentuckians who did not have the same limited rights and already narrow access to reproductive health as their white counterparts. It is imperative that Kentuckians who have life experience with abortion, pregnancy, parenting, and a lack of access to reproductive health care lead reproductive rights work moving forward in a post-*Roe* Kentucky.

NO ON 2

We know abortion is a winning issue in Kentucky. Even before the fall of *Roe*, Kentucky lawmakers were clawing at reproductive rights by attempting to amend the Kentucky Constitution during the 2022 Kentucky Midterm Election by adding language that could legally prohibit abortion.

We worked with Protect Kentucky Access' "No On 2" campaign by knocking on thousands of doors, sending thousands of emails,

ABORTION ACCESS

text messages, and phone calls to encourage Kentuckians to reject that language. We're proud to say the No On 2 campaign was successful, and the legal path for abortion access in Kentucky remains open.

This vote reflected sentiments from other states with similar proposed amendments, and the message was clear: lawmakers have gone too far in stripping their constituents' freedoms.

IN THE COURTHOUSE

Just days after Kentuckians voted No On 2, we argued before the Supreme Court of Kentucky that while our abortion access lawsuit against the state makes its way through the court system, abortion care should remain accessible in the commonwealth. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court of Kentucky did not grant our request.

While we've since moved to dismiss this case due to an extraordinary ruling by the Kentucky State Supreme Court that we lack standing to bring a lawsuit on behalf of patients seeking an abortion, we remain open to hearing from patients who are in Kentucky and need to access an abortion. Those patients can pursue a challenge to the state abortion bans and help restore abortion access in the Commonwealth.

JOIN OUR LAWSUIT

The ACLU-KY is committed to restoring abortion access in Kentucky, and one path forward is litigation. If you are, or someone you know is, in Kentucky, seeking an abortion, and wants to know more about possibly being a plaintiff in a lawsuit like to restore abortion access, call or text (617) 297-7012 for more information.

TALKING POINTS

TOP LINES:

- Kentucky is a forced pregnancy state, and Kentuckians deserve the freedom to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.
- The government doesn't belong in private medical decisions.
- Abortion is essential healthcare and our constitutional right.

KENTUCKIANS WANT ACCESS:

- Abortion access is a winning issue in Kentucky. Nearly 750,000 Kentuckians voted to keep access to abortion by voting down Amendment 2 in 2022.

YOU CAN'T LEGISLATE PREGNANCY:

- Every pregnancy is different; one-size-fits-all health care policies like abortion bans are impractical and dangerous, and impossible to legislate. The only practical solution is to keep access to abortion to ensure Kentuckians have the liberties guaranteed to them in both the state and federal constitutions.

KENTUCKY IS ALREADY AN OB/GYN DESERT:

- More than half of Kentuckians don't have access to reproductive care providers within 50 miles.
- Abortion bans are driving OB/GYNs away from the state and keeping new OB/GYNs from practicing here, further exacerbating the OB/GYN desert and making pregnancy and birth more dangerous, especially for rural Kentucky residents.

ABORTION ACCESS IS A JUSTICE ISSUE:

- Abortion access is a health and equity issue most likely to affect our state's most marginalized and vulnerable, like young, low-income, LGBTQ+, and Black and brown Kentuckians. A lack of abortion access keeps them trapped in cycles of poverty.

TALKING POINTS

COMMON COUNTERPOINTS AND HOW TO RESPOND

Abortion should be illegal, with only exceptions for rape and incest.

- Exceptions aren't applicable in reality. To obtain an exception, a victim must not only report the assault, but it must be proven or accepted by police.
- Statistics say around 63% of rapes or sexual assaults go unreported. Only around 12% of child sexual assault is reported, and only around 10% of incest cases are reported.
- It should not be incumbent on the victim to prove their assault. This only retraumatizes them.

Why can't we just ban abortion after 12 - 15 weeks?

- Abortions after this timeframe are rare (less than 1.5%) but must remain accessible.
- Now that abortion is inaccessible in large swaths of the country, obtaining an abortion usually takes more money, planning, and ultimately, time. This can mean that a person who wants an abortion at 6 weeks can't logistically obtain one until 13 or 16 weeks. Time limits are impractical.
- It's impossible to anticipate all the circumstances that unfold during a pregnancy, and important to acknowledge the complexities of pregnancy, medical decisions, and personal circumstances.

Do you support abortion until the moment of birth?

- This is a misleading question. It isn't accurate of the realities of medical and abortion care. This hypothetical situation just distracts from reality.

Birth control should eliminate the need for abortions, right?

- Birth control may fail to prevent pregnancy—medication interference, sexual assault, etc.—that abortion care must remain accessible as part of full spectrum pregnancy health care.
- Birth control isn't equally accessible to all, and therefore not a viable alternative to abortion care.

SOCIAL MEDIA

When posting about legislative issues, always check the ACLU of Kentucky's channels for content to share! We are @ACLUofKY on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Threads](#). Following our feed is the best way to find up-to-date information and graphics. If you want to make your own posts about this issue, here is some sample text. Add personal stories and details for more impact!

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: FACEBOOK

Kentucky is a forced pregnancy state, and Kentuckians deserve the freedom to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

Fight back with us to restore abortion access in Kentucky.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: TWITTER/X (280 CHARACTER LIMIT)

The government doesn't belong in our private medical decisions.

Join us in the fight to restore abortion access in Kentucky.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: INSTAGRAM (VISUAL FIRST)

Kentucky is a forced pregnancy state, and Kentuckians deserve the freedom to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

Abortion is essential healthcare and our constitutional right. Fight back with us to restore abortion access in Kentucky.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST: THREADS (500 CHARACTER LIMIT)

Kentucky is a forced pregnancy state. We deserve the freedom to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

Abortion is essential healthcare and our constitutional right. Fight back with us to restore abortion access in Kentucky.

ABORTION ACCESS: GRAPHICS

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

To use these images, right click on them and select “save as image” or “copy image” and save the graphic to your phone or computer.



TRADITIONAL MEDIA

SAMPLE OP-ED - AIM FOR 500-750 WORDS

A variety of individuals write opinion articles, or op-eds, for news media to share. Sometimes they are certified experts, sometimes they are everyday people who feel strongly about an issue.

These brief essays can help the audience better understand a complicated issue or help them relate to something they haven't personally experienced. These pieces can be extremely powerful and persuasive.

If you would like assistance reviewing, drafting, editing, or pitching an op-ed to newspapers, reach out to someone on the communications team. We are happy to help!

FORMS OF PERSUASION (USE ONE OR MORE):

- a. **Personal Experience:** The writer describes an experience he or she has had.
- b. **Expert Opinion:** The writer draws on the opinion of an expert—someone trained in a particular area, or someone who has relevant personal experience.
- c. **Example:** The writer provides an example that supports a larger idea or pattern.
- d. **Analogy:** The writer compares the situation to another similar situation.
- e. **Facts and Statistics:** The writer uses facts or numbers to prove their idea. Often this information comes from other sources, such as books, newspapers, or websites.
- f. **Logic:** The writer uses reasoning or logic to argue their point.
- g. **Emotion:** The writer makes an emotional appeal to the reader.

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. **Hook:** The beginning is your chance to capture your reader's attention. What can you start with that will compel your audience to pay attention? Perhaps an anecdote or surprising fact?
- b. **Context:** Now back up a little bit. Explain what the issue is at hand. In a few lines, provide some background and context.
- c. **Thesis:** Finally, make an argument. Tell your reader where you

HOW TO WRITE AN OP-ED

stand on this issue.

- **Example:** Nearly one in four women in the US have had, or will have, an abortion. In a room of four women, I would be that one.

II. FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Evidence #1:** Describe the central piece of evidence that supports your position.
- b. **Tie Back:** Make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.
 - **Example:** My abortion story isn't the kind you usually hear. I wasn't a teenager or a young adult who wanted an abortion to follow my dreams. I was already a mother, and I knew I couldn't afford to care for another child.

III. SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Evidence #2:** Describe a second piece of evidence that supports your position. Try using a different type of persuasion (see list below).
- b. **Tie Back:** Again, make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.
 - **Example:** My story isn't unique. In fact, nearly six out of 10 people who get an abortion are already parents, and many say they want to be better parents to the children they already have.

IV. THIRD BODY PARAGRAPH

- a. **Counter Argument:** What would be the main argument of the opposing side?
- b. **Rebuttal:** What is your response to this argument? Why doesn't it apply to this situation/context?
 - **Example:** Without access to paid leave and other financial and physical supports, I knew I could not have another child. Even the costs of obtaining an abortion — traveling out of state, taking time off of work, and several nights in a hotel room — threatened my financial health.

V. CONCLUSION

- a. **Summary:** In just a few lines, remind your reader of the main argument and evidence.
- b. **Thesis:** No need to repeat your thesis word-for-word but remind readers what you're arguing and why they should care.
- c. **Personal Comment, Call to Action, or Question:** The last few sentences of your essay will linger in your reader's mind? What do you want to leave them with?
 - **Example:** There are so many reasons people need access to abortion that it is impossible to legislate or regulate pregnancy and parenthood. We need to restore abortion access for all.

SCRIPTS

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Every call counts! When you call legislators to tell them how you would like them to vote on a certain bill, they receive a physical piece of green or red paper, representing your view. Many lawmakers say they are influenced by how many green or red slips they receive. These slips are what make phone calls so effective.
- Calling the legislative message line is toll-free and only takes a few minutes. Call every day if you have the time. You don't even have to know your legislators' names but be prepared to share your address so operators can send your message to the right place.

1-800-372-7181

TELEPHONE SCRIPT

- My name is [NAME] and I am your constituent. I am calling to voice my strong opposition to/support for [BILL NUMBER], or any legislation that threatens freedom of speech and expression in Kentucky. Thank you.

EMAIL SCRIPT

- My name is [NAME] and I am your constituent. I am emailing to voice my strong opposition to/support for [BILL NUMBER], or any legislation that threatens freedom of speech and expression in Kentucky. Thank you.

TESTIMONY

TELL YOUR STORY

Have you ever wondered who the people are who sit in front of lawmakers in Frankfort to talk about issues affecting our communities? They're everyday Kentuckians who are passionate about making Kentucky a better place for their families, helping communities thrive, and moving Kentucky forward.

Anyone can testify at a committee hearing in Frankfort. Committee hearings are where bills are discussed and voted on, so they can move from their committee assignment to the full legislative chambers. Amendments and bill language can change all the way up to the full vote, and testimony can influence legislators' opinions on how our laws should read.

Everyone is passionate about something, and Kentucky's General Assembly conducts business in committee hearings with real-world implications for everyone who lives here. And while it may seem like a lot of work to prepare testimony, travel to Frankfort, and spend time in a hearing room waiting for lawmakers to hear from us, it is vital to our democracy.

Take abortion access, for example. Lawmakers need to hear from people who are be impacted by a lack of abortion access and how their lives would change if they could make private decisions about their own health care. Lawmakers can only work with the information they have, and if the people of Kentucky don't talk about how bills will impact them, the legislature will write the laws governing our people without the complete picture.

If you're interested in testifying in Frankfort, let us know! We can help draft, edit, and polish your testimony and even attend the hearing with you (as long as we have available staff that day).

2024 DIGITAL TOOLKIT

Our work and our democracy depend on participation from all Kentuckians. Help protect democracy in the commonwealth and make your voice heard.

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The Legislative Research Commission was created in 1948 as a fact-finding and service agency. The Commission operates as the administrative and research arm of the General Assembly. At the LRC website, <https://www.legislature.ky.gov>, you can find out who your legislator is, see who has filed bills, read the draft of bills under consideration, view committee schedules and agendas, and more!

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-372-7181

WATCH LIVE LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE ON KET

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) is Kentucky's largest classroom, serving more than two million people each week via television, online, and mobile.

Most Kentuckians can't travel to Frankfort to testify or meet in person with legislators. KET live streams committee hearings and activity on the House and Senate floors for free, so anyone can watch and listen to the issues being discussed first-hand. Learn more at www.ket.org.