



**MY VOICE: LAURIE MILES**  
**DON'T BELIEVE THE LIES: VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL 3**

The forced birth crowd has misrepresented what abortion looks like in America for decades, while also passing laws that have made it more difficult for women to access abortion. They coined the term “partial birth abortion” and portray abortion as the killing of full-term babies. In reality, more than half of abortions are now medication abortions done in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. The vast majority of abortions are performed in the first trimester. Abortions can only be performed after fetal viability in dire medical situations. In 2019, less than 1% of abortions nationwide were performed beyond 21 weeks.

Thanks to Trump and the Republicans, we have a Supreme Court that struck down the constitutional right to abortion that women have had for the past 49 years. Although we have lost federal protection for abortion, Michigan voters have an opportunity to enshrine reproductive rights in our state constitution. If we don't do this, we will be left with a 1931 law that makes performing an abortion a felony, except to save the life of the mother.

The anti-choice contingent is apparently afraid that the majority of Michiganders support abortion rights, because they are coming up with some absurd predictions about what will happen if Proposal 3 passes. They would like us to believe that 10-year-olds are going to be able to start taking hormones, get themselves sterilized and get abortions while parents stand by helplessly because this amendment has taken away their parental rights. Somehow, we are to believe that statutory rape will be legal, that Catholic hospitals will be forced to perform abortions (why that hasn't happened in the last 49 years?), that people who are not medical professionals will be performing abortions and that doctors will be encouraging women who are feeling a little anxious to let them abort that baby in the third trimester.

Do not believe the lies promulgated by the forced birth crowd. Proposal 3 will restore the rights we lost when Roe was overturned. It will enshrine reproductive rights in our state constitution and invalidate the 1931 ban that makes performing an abortion a felony. There will be court cases after it passes to determine which laws currently on the books are constitutional and which ones are not. Parental consent laws will remain unless they are later challenged or changed by lawmakers. The state will still be able to regulate abortion clinics and providers. Abortion will still be regulated after fetal viability. The amendment has nothing to do with statutory rape or gender reassignment.

Proposal 3 is not too confusing or too extreme. The extremists are the people who want to force their religious views about abortion on those who hold different beliefs. The extremists are people like Matt DePerno, who wants to ban Plan B, which prevents pregnancy by preventing the fertilization of the egg. The extremists are people like Tudor Dixon, who would force a 10-year-old impregnated by rape or incest to be further traumatized by being forced to give birth.

Don't let the misleading ads funded by Right to Life of Michigan and the Michigan Catholic Conference convince you not to support this amendment. I want my daughter and granddaughters to have the same right to privacy and the same right to make their own decisions about having a child or not that I had. I am voting Yes on Proposal 3. I sincerely hope that you will join me.