

Tennessee: An Abortion Destination

Tennessee is the only state in the Southeastern United States that does not have at least an abortion-related informed consent law or a law requiring a waiting period (period of reflection) between being informed and having an abortion. As a result, women from surrounding states come here to have abortions. Among the states, Tennessee's percentage of abortions provided to out-of-state residents is the 3rd highest in the country.* In other words, Tennessee is a leading "importer" of abortions — an **abortion destination** for those who want a quick abortion.



Abortions: How Tennessee Compares

How Does Tennessee's Abortion Rate Compare?



The graph at left shows the percentage of women in each state, per 1,000 women age 15 to 44, who had abortions in their home state.*

If Tennessee was allowed to regulate abortions as these states do, the number of abortions performed in Tennessee would fall significantly.

Myths About The Amendment

► "The Amendment will ban abortions in Tennessee."

FALSE! Absolutely nothing in the amendment would ban any abortion. Furthermore, nothing in the amendment would empower the Legislature to make laws that violate the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion rulings. It should be noted that in the entire history of the State of Tennessee abortion has never been banned.

► "The Amendment needs to contain exceptions for incest and rape, or to save the life of the mother."

FALSE! No provision is needed since the amendment does not ban any abortions. But additionally, the amendment itself makes it clear that the Legislature can provide for abortion in these circumstances. Lastly, the U.S. Supreme Court rulings would prohibit states from banning abortions in these situations.

► "This Amendment will put us out of step with other states."

FALSE! Two-thirds of our sister states (34) have no state constitutional right to abortion.

Requirements for Amending the Constitution

In order for the amendment to be added to the constitution, the amendment must get a number of "yes" votes equal to 50% of the votes cast in the Governor's race *plus one*. **A majority vote is not enough.** Say, for example, 2,000,000 people vote in the Governor's race. If 1,000,000 people vote in favor of the amendment, and only 600,000 vote against it, the amendment fails! In this example, the amendment must receive at least 1,000,001 "yes" votes to pass.

AMENDMENT 1

"NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SECURES OR PROTECTS A RIGHT TO ABORTION OR REQUIRES THE FUNDING OF AN ABORTION. THE PEOPLE RETAIN THE RIGHT THROUGH THEIR ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND STATE SENATORS TO ENACT, AMEND, OR REPEAL STATUTES REGARDING ABORTION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CIRCUMSTANCES OF PREGNANCY RESULTING FROM RAPE OR INCEST OR WHEN NECESSARY TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER."

The amendment is needed because Tennessee's state Supreme Court "found" a "right to abortion" in our state constitution. Our abortion-specific informed consent law and waiting period law were ruled unconstitutional.

Vote "Yes" on Amendment 1.

How Many Babies Could Be Saved?

If Tennessee's abortion rate per 1,000 women had been as low as the abortion rate in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky or Mississippi, then fewer abortions would have been performed here, saving babies' lives. This graph shows the number of babies which would **not have been aborted in Tennessee*** were our abortion rate the same as:

Alabama's rate: 978 babies saved

Arkansas' rate: 3,558 babies saved

Kentucky's rate: 7,211 babies saved

Mississippi's rate: 7,620 babies saved

The greatest obvious difference between Tennessee and these states is their pro-life laws. Laws that are no longer constitutional here.

Abortion regulations save lives.

* Based on C.D.C. 11/29/13 report & corresponding U.S. Census data.

To learn more about Amendment 1, the Yes on 1 campaign and campaign activities, and what you can do to help, go to www.yeson1.org.