

The facts about AMENDMENT 1 in Tennessee

A Brief History of Abortion in Tennessee

During the last few decades of the 20th century, the Tennessee Legislature passed a series of sensible laws regulating abortion, including waiting period and informed consent laws, creating an environment in which women and innocent human lives were protected as much as legally possible.

That changed dramatically in 2000 when the

Tennessee state Supreme Court found a stronger right to abortion in the state constitution than exists under the U.S. Constitution and then struck down critical abortion regulations passed by the Legislature.

The decision shocked the state's pro-life community. In effect, the Court's ruling said that there can be no meaningful regulation

of abortion in Tennessee, no matter what the people want.

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remove from the people all power, except by constitutional amendment, to enact reasonable regulations of abortion."

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In response to the Court's action, state legislators adopted Senate Joint Resolution 127 (on the ballot as Amendment 1). This resolution will allow Tennesseans to amend the state constitution to again make it "neutral" on abortion while still subject to the abortion rights rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court. The amendment would once again allow common sense abortion regulations.

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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 period of reflection between being informed and having an abortion.

As a result, women from surrounding states come here to have abortions. 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.



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Language of 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."

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 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.

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.

Vote "Yes" on Amendment 1

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