



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

November 2024

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We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Preparing for Change

We know the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood intends to reopen in the coming months. They have been fixing their foundation, gutting their building of practically everything (including the significant 2020 renovation that had little time to pay off), and intend to completely redo the interior to what they want long-term. When they reopen, it will absolutely change things in our local area.

The voting for the 2024 election is done. The people who represent our area have been determined. There are a few races still waiting for recounts, such as one Iowa district for U.S. House, and even some initial counts for some California districts. Some pro-life and some pro-abortion ballot measures in various states had mixed results. The government update later in this newsletter will step through some of the results. This election should bring notable changes across the country.

As announced in a recent email, there is a matching donation on donations to our organization between now and the end of this calendar year. Please consider donating. It allows you to play a bigger part in advancing the culture of life through these times of change.

Upcoming Events

First Mondays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays)
Get involved in our organization!
Where: Contact us.
More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Jan 24, 2025
All Day

National March for Life
People across the nation march for life in our nation's capital!
Where: Washington D.C.
More info: <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life>

Help us plan pro-life activities for the year ahead. Contact us to find out how.



Iowa Abortions

Iowa's Heartbeat Law went into effect in late July of this year. The effects of changes in abortion law, its enforcement, and other things that may affect the rate of abortion often take a while for the statistics to get reported. We used to have to wait until roughly a year after the end of a calendar year ended to get the vital statistics report from the state. Thus, we don't have the 2023 vital statistics report, yet.

In recent years, we started to see early statistics before the final report would get issued. The website that includes those reports even has more useful ways of depicting the data for the other statistics being reported. Abortion is not among the statistics on the webpage, but the media acquired the statistics following the enforcement of the Heartbeat Law.

In the month following the enforcement of the Heartbeat Law, the number of abortions in Iowa decreased by roughly 40%! Unfortunately, those statistics only measure the number of abortions that take place in Iowa. We know Planned Parenthood quickly

resorted to referring their clients to other states where abortions could be done.

When looking at the number of abortions last year versus this year, the numbers increased a little each month during the summer of 2023. This summer, the numbers went the opposite direction, dropping a little each month, and dropping even more significantly in August.

The statistics focus on clinician-provided abortions. Thus, if someone received abortion pills without visiting an abortion provider within the state, those numbers would not show up. That occurs whether the abortions are sought outside of Iowa, or if they get the abortion pill from other sources.

Abortion advocates have raised money over the years to pay for abortions. Now, some of the money is going to provide transportation costs to get women to where they can get abortions. It's hard to say how long people will fund the trafficking of women. Abortion advocates will make it sound compassionate and even heroic to

donate to help women get something they "need", rather than helping women nurture and later raise the child. Pregnancy Resource Centers do these better things, rather than funding abortion and the transportation to get them.

The fundraiser for the main organization to do this was in Des Moines this year. Planned Parenthood has fundraisers planned near the Roe v. Wade anniversary in January for both Des Moines and Cedar Rapids.

There is still much work to get done in Iowa. If people continue to support the abortion industry, and if the nation's largest abortion provider remains open in Iowa, then there is work to do. When we are successful, we won't see people supporting or funding abortions.

I still think it's critically important to learn good pro-life apologetics. I've encountered people who thought apologetics don't work, but they didn't apply the good systems that exist today. When the good methods are applied, people are much more receptive, and people are more reasonable. 🙏



Government Update

Election

The voting for the election is over. Some places are still counting their ballots, while some others are performing recounts.

The federal government yielded what appears to be a pro-life majority in the House, Senate, and Presidency. It looks like Iowa will continue to send lawmakers to D.C. who are more pro-life than their opponents were.

The following states had ballot measures relating to abortion: Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, Maryland, and New York. Most of those states voted to affirm abortion in their constitutions in some way.

Nevada requires another round of voting in order to amend their constitution. South Dakota and Nebraska rejected pro-abortion amendments, but neighboring Missouri approved one by a fairly small margin. Hopefully they push a pro-life amendment in the future.

Florida was the only other state where pro-abortion amendments failed. However, a majority of voters voted for the amendment, as anticipated. That state requires at least 60% of the votes to approve an amendment, which protects the most foundational level of the law from being too easily changed. It is very likely that abortion advocates will push for an amendment again in the future. When that happens, it's critical that the numbers move even more in the direction of protecting life, or they will keep trying until death prevails.

Iowa

In Iowa, we retained our judges and expanded the pro-life majority in the legislature. Some people have hoped for a life at conception bill to protect life from the start, rather than just at the detection of a heartbeat. Time will tell if that pans out or not. Linn County maintained the same party control over each office elected in this election.

Nebraska

The only state in the country daring to include a ballot measure that's more pro-life is Nebraska. They had two constitutional amendments proposed where one would have made abortions a right, and the other protected life in the last two trimesters, similar to their current law. The pro-abortion measure failed to pass; and the measure that protected lives passed.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states. Pray for the closure of the businesses that kill for money. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in the legislative sessions across the country. Although it's important to get people into positions where they can do the most good, there is always the chance that they may not take action to do the good things. It's also possible that others will prevent them from achieving good things. Minnesota had a good example earlier this year when a bad law was nearly passed, except that one lawmaker was absent. 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



Please pray for God to work in the lives of people, in particular:

For people to prioritize the value of human life;
 Students for Life in Iowa;
 lawmakers & judges;
 religious leaders

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Safe Haven Baby Boxes

A recent case of a teenager in Idaho has drawn some attention to the safe haven laws and baby boxes. A child was found dead in the baby box, which led to the arrest of the girl. Photo from Pulse Life Advocates of an Iowa box.

Baby boxes have been installed in various places around the country and even around the world. Iowa only has two at the moment. One is in Fort Dodge, while the other is in Des Moines. The boxes are intended to allow people to entrust their newborn to the care of others, making the child available for adoption.

This process is intended to be anonymous, for those people unwilling to make use of the safe haven laws that allow them to hand the child over at hospitals, other health care facilities, fire stations, adoption service provider, or giving physical custody to a first responder. In Iowa, parents have up to 90 days after the birth of the child to make use of the safe haven law.

Once a child is placed into the climate-controlled box, a short time is

allowed for the parent to leave the area, and typically three minutes or so later, the box will alert nearby responders to the presence of the child. The child is cared for within minutes of being placed in the box.

The Idaho case is very recent, and thus there is limited information available at this time. It would be nice for more information to come out quickly, since people already want to blame pro-life laws for situations like this.

In the Idaho case, a teen gave birth, and soon afterward drove two hours to bring the child to a safe haven baby box. Prior to placing the child in the box, the child died. The boxes are not meant for dead children. This led to an investigation and the identification of the mother. The identity of the person who places a child in the box is usually anonymous. However, since the child was dead, the normal protections do not apply, and the investigations that followed led to the identification of the mother. The boxes are good, but we need more of them, and people need to use them in the right circumstances. 🙏

CFLI Board

[one spot open]

Jim Burke (President)

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Pat Semelroth



Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Remember, Life Matters!

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com