

Pro-Life Presentation at St. Patrick Church on Counteracting Amendment 3 – June 17, 2025

(Prepared by Samuel Lee, Campaign Life Missouri, P.O. Box 142585, St. Louis, MO 63114-0585, samuelhlee@mindspring.com)

- **What has happened since Amendment 3 passed in Missouri in November 2024?**
 - Amendment 3 passed by a slim margin of votes (51.6% to 48.4%) on November 5, 2024. Planned Parenthood filed suit the next day to strike down many of Missouri’s pro-life laws.
 - In December and February, Jackson County Judge Jerri Zhang issued preliminary injunctions prohibiting enforcement of many of Missouri’s pro-life laws, including bans on most abortions and important health and safety measures regulating doctors and clinics where abortions are done. Planned Parenthood in February started performing abortions at its facilities in Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis.
 - Since Day 1, the Missouri Attorney General’s office has aggressively defended the state’s health and safety abortion laws (while conceding that the [ban on most abortions is no longer legally valid under Amendment 3](#)) and asked the Missouri Supreme Court to vacate (overturn) the preliminary injunctions – which [the court did on May 27](#). Planned Parenthood has now (temporarily) stopped aborting babies.
 - Missouri legislators enacted House Joint Resolution (HJR) 73 to counteract Amendment 3, and it will be on the November 3, 2026, ballot. The Missouri Catholic Conference and other major pro-life organizations support HJR 73. Lawmakers also banned foreign interests from funding ballot initiatives ([SB 152](#)) because \$4.6 million in foreign campaign funds helped Amendment 3 pass. They also passed ballot measure reform ([SB 22](#)) giving more authority to the Secretary of State (and less to judges) to rewrite challenged ballot summary language and allowing the Attorney General to appeal cases earlier.
- **What does [HJR 73](#) do? (Constitutional amendment text [here](#).) If approved by voters, it would:**
 - Remove Amendment 3 ([Article I, Section 36](#)) from the Missouri Constitution.
 - Provide exceptions for abortion in cases of rape or incest (up to 12 weeks gestation), medical emergency or fetal anomaly. (“Fetal anomaly” is defined as “a structural or functional abnormality in the unborn child’s gestational development that would make life outside the womb impossible.”) However, abortion of other disabled unborn children (e.g., children with Down Syndrome) would be forbidden.
 - Reinstate health and safety inspections at abortion facilities.
 - Return parental consent for minors receiving abortions.
 - Require physicians performing abortions to have nearby hospital admitting privileges.
 - Abortion can only be performed with the informed consent of the woman, given freely without coercion.
 - Guarantee women access to care for medical emergencies, ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages.
 - Ban fetal organ harvesting after an abortion.
 - End most taxpayer-funded abortions.
 - Prohibit use of surgeries or drugs to assist a minor child with gender transition (sex change).
 - “The general assembly shall have the authority to enact laws to carry out the provisions of this section.”
- **What should we do between now and the election in November 2026?**
 - **Pray.** Pray for the success of the campaign to pass HJR 73 (it will be given a name later, like “Amendment ___”). Pray for Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey and his legal team who will likely be fighting in court to keep HJR 73 on the ballot and/or to stop judges from changing the ballot summary in a way that confuses voters. Pray that those who voted for pro-abortion Amendment 3 now vote for pro-life HJR 73. (Post-election surveys indicate 48% of Catholics voted for Amendment 3.)
 - **Educate.** Educate ourselves and others on what HJR 73 does and why it should be part of the Missouri Constitution. Look in the future for educational resources from the Missouri Catholic Conference.
 - **Donate.** Donate our time, treasure and talent to pass HJR 73. That includes time spent working on the campaign, donating to organizations that will educate voters, and using whatever skills God has given us as part of the Body of Christ (e.g., writing, fundraising, organizing, speaking, preaching, etc.).