

STATE: California

BALLOT: Vote YES on Proposition 1, Right to Reproductive Freedom

Proposition 1 would amend the California Constitution to guarantee the fundamental right for patients to make and clinicians to carry out reproductive decisions without medically unjustified legislative interference.

What does the California ballot initiative do?

- The proposed initiative would make sure that no one is penalized or criminalized for making decisions about reproductive health care.
- Voting yes on this initiative would protect Californians' health care decisions related to abortion and contraception.

What is at stake?

- The United States Supreme Court's ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade* has opened the door to abortion bans in states across the country.
- The California Constitution needs clear, explicit protections to ensure reproductive decision making remains protected from government interference.

What can you do?

- [Learn more about California's Proposition 1, Reproductive Freedom](#) and vote yes on November 8.

Text of Proposed Amendment

The California Constitution declares that defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy are inalienable rights, and that a person may not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or equal protection of the laws. Existing law, the Reproductive Privacy Act, declares that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions and prohibits the state from denying or interfering with a person's right to choose or obtain an abortion before viability of the fetus, or when the abortion is necessary to protect the life or health of the person.

That Section 1.1 is added to Article I thereof, to read:

SEC. 1.1. *The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection.*

Voter Information

Go to the [California voter registration website](#) to register to vote, check your registration status, or learn how to apply to vote by mail.

ACOG's Position on Abortion

- **Medical decisions are personal.** Like all medical matters, decisions regarding abortion should be made only by patients in consultation with their physicians and health care professionals.
- **Abortion is a safe medical intervention.** The vast majority of abortions are safely performed in outpatient nonhospital settings. [The risk of maternal death associated with childbirth is approximately 14 times higher than the risk associated with abortion.](#)
- **Restrictive laws criminalize physicians' duty of care.** Restrictive laws on abortion place physicians in an ethical dilemma of choosing between their obligation to provide the best available medical care and substantial legal—and sometimes criminal—penalties.
- **For information on ACOG's position,** visit our [Abortion Is Essential Health Care hub](#).