



NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER
ACTION FUND



**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
& HEALTH EQUITY**

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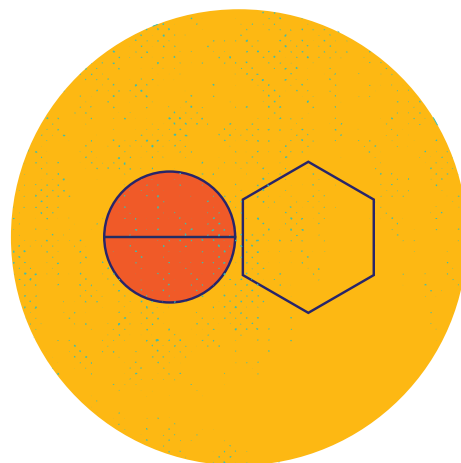
Abortion is an essential part of reproductive health care. Meaningful access to abortion is also fundamental to pregnant people's liberty, equality, and economic security. One in four women will need an abortion in her lifetime. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, should have access to abortion when they need it in their communities without stigma, shame, or barriers.

But abortion access is in an unprecedented crisis moment because, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court callously took away our federal constitutional right to abortion—a right that has been fundamental to our society for nearly 50 years. The impact of overturning our right to abortion has been immediate: within days of the decision, multiple states enacted total bans on abortion, and anti-abortion extremist lawmakers in other states proposed laws to criminalize those who provide abortions, those who seek them, and anyone who helps another person obtain one as well as restrict travel to access abortion care. Since June, 17 million women and counting have lost access to abortion. Nearly half of states have or are expected to ban abortion.

Banning abortion will ultimately mean that some people will not be able access abortion care and will be forced to carry their pregnancies to term. There will be lifelong consequences for them and their families. Denying a pregnant person an abortion creates economic hardship and

insecurity as well as health consequences that lasts for years. These impacts will be felt most by women of color, those who have low incomes, and people who already face challenges in accessing health care—the people who often lack job security and paid leave. This is especially key for Georgians. Georgia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates—and it is only getting worse—especially for Black women. It has never been more critical that lawmakers act boldly and swiftly to guarantee reproductive freedom.

Georgia's women and all pregnant people, especially those of color, need elected leaders who work to address systemic poverty, expand and protect access to abortion care and contraception, and safeguard high-quality care before, during, and after pregnancy.



Policies candidates & lawmakers should support:

- Guarantee the right to reproductive freedom, which includes the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth, in-state and nationwide.
- Ensure that everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, has access to health care—including abortion care, contraceptives, and maternal health care—that is free from stigma, barriers, and restrictions, when they need it, in their communities.
- Make sure quality low- or no-cost pregnancy supports are culturally competent and accessible for all—including protections and supports, like doula access, that promote the health outcomes of Georgia’s pregnant people, especially Black women.





Questions to ask candidates:

- ❑ Given the Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and extremist politicians' will to further ban abortion, how have you—or how will you—work to create and expand access to abortion?
- ❑ Will you commit to protecting pregnant people and those who help them, including abortion providers, abortion funds, and others?
- ❑ What will you do to guarantee our policies and budgets ensure affordable and available reproductive health care, including birth control, abortion care, and pre- and postpartum care?
- ❑ How have you advocated for women and pregnant people in Georgia? Will you commit to advancing policies and programs that improve the health outcomes of Georgia's women and pregnant people, especially Black women, without undermining access to other reproductive health care?
- ❑ What are you doing to learn about what is happening in Georgia for people who are seeking reproductive health care and those who are trying to support them? How are you making sure their needs are being reflected in the policies you support?

 **2022 Georgia Gender Justice Voter Guide**

