

# Missouri Amendment 3, Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative



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This measure would:

- Guarantee a constitutional “right” to abortion up to viability (24 weeks), with exceptions after this point for the life or physical or mental health of the mother (this could result in later-term abortions)
- Protect abortionists and mothers from being prosecuted for abortion

## **MISSOURI'S CURRENT LAW:**

Abortion is illegal in Missouri except in medical emergencies that affect the life of the mother or that pose a “serious risk” to her health.

# Catholics should vote **NO** on Missouri Amendment 3

A human being's life begins the moment the sperm fertilizes the egg. This is now a unique and unrepeatable person.

Abortion is the intentional killing of a human being before he or she is born. The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is never morally licit.

The Church teaches that neither rape nor incest justifies the taking of an innocent human being's life.

Doctors never need to intentionally kill the baby to save the mother's life; therefore the "life of the mother" argument is invalid. In his address to midwives, Pope Pius XII taught that a physician should do all he can to preserve both lives. If the baby dies while the doctor tries to save the mother, this is not considered an abortion.

Any formal cooperation in abortion constitutes a grave sin. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human beings (CCC 2272).



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