

## TALKING POINTS

# Virginia's Proposed Constitutional Amendments

In November, Virginia's voters will face two proposed constitutional amendments concerning marriage and the sanctity of human life. The points below are intended to assist the Catholic faithful in clarity, charity, and fidelity.

## Summary of the Proposed Amendments

### ***Marriage Amendment (Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment)***

This proposal would remove the constitutional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman and redefine marriage as lawful between two adult persons regardless of "sex and gender."<sup>1</sup>

### ***Abortion Amendment (Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment)***

This proposal would establish a constitutional right to "reproductive freedom," which includes abortion and contraception, allowing abortions to be committed in the third trimester.<sup>2</sup>

## Catholic Teaching on Marriage

### ***Nature and Purpose of Marriage***

Marriage is understood in both natural law and divine revelation as the following:

- A foundational relationship that builds love and compassion between a man and a woman.
- An institution designed to bring two people together for the procreation of children.
- A union of two people who become, in a very real sense, one flesh, working together to embrace life's challenges (Genesis 2:24, "two become one").

### ***Marital Union and the Family***

- In a Lifelssues.net article entitled "What Is Natural Law?" Professor Janet Smith writes: "The fact that natural law is based upon reason, upon thinking about one's observations about reality, makes the ethics of natural law a universal ethics since all human beings by their nature are able to reason, are able to think and thus to arrive at some universal truths."
- Natural law and biology agree that there are differences between a man and a woman that define how the marital relationship will prosper.
- Within the context of the family unit that begins with the marriage of a man and a woman, children should be welcomed, nurtured, and learn the meaning of familial love.

### ***Legal Considerations***

- The law recognizes the validity of marriage between a man and a woman as a legally binding union.
- Redefining marriage alters its meaning in both law and culture.

### ***Care and Respect for the Human Person***

- The Church calls homosexual persons to chastity and teaches that they should not engage in homosexual lifestyles.
- The Church also teaches that persons with same-sex attraction "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" and that unjust discrimination toward them is unacceptable (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2358).

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## ■ Catholic Teaching on the Sanctity of Life as a Result of the Marital Act

### ***The Dignity of Human Life***

- Human life is sacred from creation until death (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2270).
- A child is not an object or product but a person with inherent dignity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1700).

### ***Procreation vs. Reproduction***

- Human beings procreate; animals reproduce.
- Eliminating the word procreation and substituting the word reproduction suggests that human beings are machines designed to reproduce—a function that can and is controlled.

### ***Moral Responsibility and Sexuality***

- The natural ability to control reproduction when procreation is not desired is abstinence from sexual relations. This requires self-control, respect for one's partner, and respect for one's own body.
- The Church approves and recommends that married couples practice Natural Family Planning to either achieve or avoid conception for serious reasons.

### ***Concerns with "Reproductive Freedom"***

- A child must not become a product that can be accepted or rejected. Rejection of that product means the elimination of the child by means of abortion.
- Reproductive freedom supports the idea that the creation of a child, which can naturally follow the marital act, is a burden rather than a blessing.
- The language of reproductive freedom, in the case of Virginia's amendment specifically, wrongly equates the use of contraception and the murder of the preborn through abortion with goods like miscarriage management, prenatal/postpartum care, and childbirth.

## ■ Actions That Catholics Can Take in Response to These Amendments

- Catholics have a moral obligation to vote: "Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to . . . exercise the right to vote" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2240).
- Voting is about supporting the moral good without betraying the truth of the gospel.
- A Catholic cannot vote for a moral evil: "One may not do evil so that good may result of it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1756).
- Prayer is necessary for the end of abortion and the end of attacks on the family and marriage. Prayer is also needed for the lawmakers, specifically those who call themselves Christian and who have written and supported these proposed amendments.

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1. Ballotpedia, "Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment (2026)," accessed May 1, 2026, [ballotpedia.org/Virginia\\_Remove\\_Constitutional\\_Same-Sex\\_Marriage\\_Ban\\_Amendment\\_\(2026\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Remove_Constitutional_Same-Sex_Marriage_Ban_Amendment_(2026)).
  2. Ballotpedia, "Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment (2026)," accessed May 1, 2026, [ballotpedia.org/Virginia\\_Right\\_to\\_Reproductive\\_Freedom\\_Amendment\\_\(2026\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Right_to_Reproductive_Freedom_Amendment_(2026)).