Every election seems more critical than the last, and this year is no exception.

2022 has been filled with pro-life concerns; notably, a pro-abortion governor who brought a lawsuit to ensure the legalization of abortion in Michigan, an attorney general who vowed not to uphold the 1931 Michigan Abortion Ban, an activist judge who issued an injunction preventing the enforcement of the abortion ban, and a petition drive effort led by the ACLU and Planned Parenthood to enshrine unlimited abortion in the Michigan constitution.

This flurry of madness makes clear that politics matter and getting pro-life people elected to all levels of government is vital.

Vote Life is an opportunity to meet local candidates and other pro-life people. Bring a chair, beverages, and a picnic dinner. Grand Rapids Right to Life will provide snacks and lawn games.

Vote Life Summer Picnic
pursuing the protection of life at the ballot box

Thursday • August 4 • 6:00 PM
Cascade Township Park Pavilion • 3810 Thornapple River Drive SE • Grand Rapids
www.grrtl.org/picnic

Abortion Ban, an activist judge who issued an injunction preventing the enforcement of the abortion ban, and a petition drive effort led by the ACLU and Planned Parenthood to enshrine unlimited abortion in the Michigan constitution.

Did You Know. . .

In 2021 there were 1,408 abortions performed on Kent County women.

123 were under 20 years old
885 were 20-29 years old
365 were 30-39 years old
30 were 40+ years old

845 had no previous abortions
343 had one previous abortion
220 had 2 or more previous abortions
Shortly after the horrific killing of 19 children in Uvalde, Texas, a woman sent me an angry e-mail message. “I hear nothing from your powerful organization about the daily victims of gun violence. Do you only care about the unborn? [Being prolife] is a boldface lie until you take action on common sense gun control.”

Although we do not condone violence of any sort, and our hearts are with the victims of senseless tragedies, Grand Rapids Right to Life does not take a position on any issue outside of abortion, infanticide, doctor-assisted suicide, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. Our laser-focus on these identified life issues helps us be successful in our fight to protect the unborn and the vulnerable.

This argument follows the “consistent ethic of life” argument that to be truly prolife one must also defend the old, the young, the hungry, the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, and the unemployed worker.

Although this argument is irrational, it resonates with abortion advocates. No one demands that the American Diabetes Association take a position on cancer studies. No one admonishes Habitat for Humanity for not making a statement related to school choice.

We do not comment on gun violence, nor do we comment on deaths related to knife attacks, heart disease, or obesity. We do, however, stand firm in our resolve to fight against the violence perpetrated on the unborn. Planned Parenthood alone kills one child every 90 seconds. Every day, abortion kills 1,000 black babies. Locally, 4 women from Kent County take the life of their unborn child. Abortion remains the most prolific cause of death among children.

Vote prolife on Tuesday, August 2.
For a personalized list of prolife candidates visit: www.rtl.org/legislation/ballot

Life in the 616

For the fall edition of Life in the 616, Thomas Lawrence will discuss the importance of voting prolife and share vital opportunities to ensure a culture of life in the community, state, and country.

Elected officials at every level have opportunities to defend or deny life. It is imperative that men and women who will respect and protect the most vulnerable in society are placed in positions to lead the charge for life.

Life in the 616 is a relaxing setting for friends to gather, enjoy a cup of coffee, and comfortably discuss important life issues.
The Pain of Abortion

Science proves that the unborn child is a human being developing in the womb. Whether an abortionist violently sucks a baby’s body parts out of the womb, uses a knife to remove the child from the uterine wall, or employs forceps to tear the unborn baby apart limb by limb, the question remains whether or not the tiny human feels pain.

Research in the areas of biology, anatomy, and behavior have deduced that unborn children have the capacity to feel pain at 20 weeks of pregnancy, and perhaps as early as 12 weeks.

Biologically, pain must travel from the injured body part to the brain. Nerve fibers connecting pain receptors to the spinal cord begin developing at 8 weeks, and fibers to transmit signals to the brain inside the spinal cord begin developing at 13 weeks. The connection between the spinal cord and the thalamus begins developing at 14 weeks and is finished at 20 weeks. A baby’s brainwaves have been measured as early as 45 days after fertilization.

The anatomy exists for pain to occur, but because pain is a subjective experience, a person must be observed to see if they are exhibiting signs of pain.

Between 7 and 8 weeks, a baby begins reacting to stimuli. By 14 weeks, a child can be observed moving deliberately on her own. At 18 weeks, stress hormones in response to pain stimuli can be measured in the baby’s blood. Babies also vigorously react to being stuck with a needle.

Consciousness is also a subjective experience. Unborn children are aware of their environment and learn from it. They begin learning language in the womb and recognize their mother’s voice.

The science of fetal development clearly proves that unborn children can feel pain; therefore, abortion is an instrument of cruel torture, causing unimaginable pain.

Source: Right to Life of Michigan

Leadership for Life Base Camp

Leadership for Life Base Camp is a fun day of action-packed prolife training for current and incoming high school students.

Participants will tour a former abortion procedure room, enjoy activities, pray outside of a surgical abortion facility, and engage with compelling speakers.

Everyone will leave equipped with the tools to engage others, to defend prolife values, and to live prolife convictions.

Friday • August 5 • 9:00 AM • $20 Per Person
Life International • 72 Ransom Avenue NE • Grand Rapids
www.grrtl.org/camp

Calendar of Events

Next Steps for Church Reps
Friday, July 15, at 11:00 AM
Restlawn Memorial Park

Car Hop Coin Drop
Thursday, July 21, at 10:00 AM
GRRTL Parking Lot

Vote Life Summer Picnic
Thursday, August 4, at 6:00 PM
Cascade Township Park Pavilion

Leadership for Life Base Camp
Friday, August 5, at 9:00 AM
Life International

Life in the 616
Thursday, September 15, at 4:00 PM
RSVP Required

Fire Up for Fall
Thursday, September 22, at 12:00 NN
RSVP Required

RLM Annual Conference
Thursday, September 29, at 9:00 AM
Lansing

Life Chain
Sunday, October 2, at 2:00 PM
44th Street, Grand Rapids

40 Days for Life
Thursday, October 6
GRRTL Prayer Day at Vigil

Focus on Life Benefit Dinner
Monday, October 10, at 6:30 PM
DeVos Place Ballrooms

Holiday Auction
October 10 - 17
Online and Phone Bidding

GRAND RAPIDS RIGHT TO LIFE
protecting the precious gift of human life
2340 Porter Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49519
616-532-2300
info@grrtl.org • www.grrtl.org
Prolife Heroes

Students Speak for Life at High School Oratory Contest

The 33rd annual High School Oratory Contest featured three amazing competitors. Gabriel Zylstra, a homeschooled junior, won the competition and received a $200 scholarship.

Zylstra presented a bold defense of the prolife position.

“A lot of pro-choice people will bring up unfortunate circumstances to justify abortion. What if the mother is poor? What if she was raped? What if the child has a disability? To respond, it is critical to sympathize first and make it clear that you do actually care about these people’s suffering,” he explained. “If they seem calm enough to listen, ask them a simple question. Would you be okay killing a toddler if they had a disability? Would you be okay killing a newborn baby if their mother was raped? Would it be okay to kill a child if their family was poor?”

Emily Ranschaert, a homeschooled junior, placed second and received a $150 scholarship. Chayil Versluis, a homeschooled junior, placed third and received a $100 scholarship.

All contestants presented well-prepared speeches and passionately communicated the sanctity of all human life.