



**“The fate of this amendment cannot come down to judicial bias or word games. The court needs to show deference to plain English and appreciate that voters are uniquely conversant on this issue. Floridians understand what’s at stake and deserve to have their say.”**

**[Tampa Bay Times editorial board](#)**

## **This Week’s Campaign Update**

Hi, Lori.

With Thanksgiving coming up next week I just wanted to take a moment to tell all of you how truly thankful we are for your support. Without your generous contributions of money, time and encouragement, we wouldn’t be in the final stretch of our petition collection effort.

Let’s take time next week to reflect on all we’ve accomplished so far and get the rest and rejuvenation we need to make the final petition push in December.

We’re making tremendous progress but we’ve still got a ways to go so enjoy your Thanksgiving and please know how grateful we are to have you as part of this historic campaign.

We couldn’t do it without you.

In Solidarity,  
Lauren Brenzel, Campaign Director

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## Campaign Highlights

Last Friday, Floridians Protecting Freedom and the ACLU of Florida filed a brief with the Florida Supreme Court in support of the “Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion.” Four support briefs were also submitted by Florida doctors, former Florida Republican elected officials, constitutional law scholars, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Taken together, the briefs demonstrate broad support for the amendment from Floridians, in stark contrast to the big-money anti-abortion interest groups trying to thwart the initiative against the will of the people. You can read our releases on this [here in English](#) and [here in Spanish](#).



Janice Drinkwine and Shelley Manes from St Pete LWV @ Festival of Reading in downtown St. Pete.

### Breaking News

#### **Abortion-rights backers urge Florida Supreme Court to OK amendment wording**

TALLAHASSEE — Supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ensure abortion rights in Florida have fired back at Attorney General Ashley Moody's arguments that the measure should be ...

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Volunteers from Temple Beth Am at the Pinecrest Farmers Market.

## In The Media

Our campaign has now generated 1,869 news stories about the importance of Floridians voting to limit government interference in abortion. Below, please find a representative sampling of our coverage over the past week.

The Tampa Bay Times becomes the second newspaper to endorse our campaign with this powerful editorial: [Let Floridians vote on abortion rights](#). Excerpt: Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody unholstered one bogeyman after another in urging the state Supreme Court to deny Floridians even the opportunity to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment enshrining abortion rights. Her legal brief in a procedural matter is a nakedly political assault on privacy, freedom, medicine — and even the English language itself. The court should see through this maneuvering and allow Floridians to address this issue through the democratic process.

Lauren Brenzel was a guest on Stephanie Ruhle's The 11th Hour on MSNBC! Click on the picture below to watch the segment.



This week, our partners at Mi Vecino [announced a major milestone](#): collecting 10,000 petitions from Hispanic voters for Florida’s initiative to limit government interference with abortion. “Without Hispanic voter support, the path to passing this amendment with 60% of votes cast is tough,” noted Devon Murphy-Anderson, one of the co-founders of Mi Vecino. “We’re investing in having face-to-face conversations with voters whose views on

abortion span a broad spectrum, in order to put their votes on the table.” Check out this coverage from [Hola News](#).

The USA Today Network reported, [Former GOP elected officials in Florida come out in support of abortion amendment](#). Excerpt: Ten former Florida Republican elected officials in Florida – including former Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll – have signed on to a legal brief supporting giving voters the decision power on whether a right to abortion should be enshrined in the state's constitution. Along with Carroll, who served under Gov. Rick Scott 2011-13, former state Sens. Paula Bono Dockery and Dennis Jones and state Reps. Ray Pilon and Juan-Carlos Planas also signed on to the brief. “Republican women and Republican women’s clubs that I talk to say, ‘stay out of my life, let us decide,’” Pilon said.

[Here’s why some Republicans want to put abortion on Florida ballot](#) according to Glenna Milberg at WPLG in Miami. Excerpt: There are new voices being heard in the fight to put the question of abortion access in Florida on the ballot. Who they are and what they want may be surprising to some. Ten former elected officials from all over the state and the political spectrum, including Republicans, who are traditionally opposed to abortion. They’ve filed a brief with the Florida Supreme Court supporting a would-be ballot measure allowing voters to decide the issue of abortion in the Sunshine State. That includes conservative former Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, former GOP state lawmakers and the former mayors of Key Biscayne and Miami Shores.

Check it out: [Facing South Florida for Nov. 12: Anna Hochkammer speaks about Florida Abortion](#). Excerpt: CBS News Miami's Jim DeFede speaks to the executive director for the Florida Women's Freedom Coalition, about the campaign to have a constitutional amendment protecting a woman's right to have an abortion in Florida.

New York Times: [Ohio Voted to Protect Abortion Rights. Could Florida Be Next?](#) Excerpt: The parallels between the two states give Florida organizers hope for success, despite steep obstacles that include a court review of the proposed ballot measure and a costly petition-gathering process. If voters in Florida get to weigh in on the abortion question, organizers say, they too are



likely to want to protect their rights. “Florida has always been a deeply libertarian state,” said Anna Hochkammer, executive director of the Florida Women’s Freedom Coalition. “‘Find your tribe, find your people, live your life — we’ll leave you alone.’ It’s part of Floridian culture. And Floridians reject outright that the government should be involved in these decisions. It is deeply offensive to Floridians’ sense of independence and freedom.”



Abortion rights supporters reacted after the ballot measure in Ohio passed. Credit...Maddie McGarvey for The New York Times

CNN reported, [Anti-abortion group pushes back after DeSantis faulted movement for Ohio defeat](#). Excerpt: “I think there are other hurdles, but the momentum is absolutely on our side,” said Laura Goodhue, the executive director of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates. “The citizens of Florida do not want the government interfering in their decisions about their health care, and if and when to become a parent.” Floridians Protecting Freedom, the coalition gathering signatures for the initiative, raised more than \$8.9 million between April and the end of September, according to a recent

campaign finance report. Goodhue said the coalition has raised about \$12 million to date.

The Sun Sentinel's Cindy Goodman poses the question, [On the heels of abortion rights victories in the US, will Floridians get to vote on the issue in 2024?](#) Excerpt: "We feel strongly about our language being constitutionally sound," said Lauren Brenzel, campaign director for Floridians Protecting Freedom, the committee working to put abortion access on Florida's ballot in 2024. She believes protection for abortion access will win in Florida if voters get the opportunity to decide. Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment on Tuesday that ensures access to abortion and other forms of reproductive health care.

[Fl Supreme Court urged not to let 'political questions' sway it on abortion initiative](#) reports the Florida Phoenix. Excerpt: An array of former Republican elected officials, including former Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, state Sens. Paula Dockery and Dennis L. Jones, former state Reps. Raymond Pilon and Juan-Carlos Planas, and county and municipal former officials, filed a brief, too. "Although we have a range of opinions regarding the initiative, we file this brief in support of it because we respect the authority of the people to engage directly in our democracy and believe the initiative petition to meet minimal requirements," their brief notes.

News Service of Florida filed this story: [Abortion-rights backers urge Florida Supreme Court to OK amendment wording](#). Excerpt: Supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ensure abortion rights in Florida have fired back at Attorney General Ashley Moody's arguments that the measure should be blocked from the 2024 ballot. The political committee Floridians Protecting Freedom, which is sponsoring the proposal, filed a brief late Friday at the Florida Supreme Court disputing Moody's contention that the measure would be misleading to voters.

[Florida could see next big abortion rights vote, as advocates keep winning with ballot measures](#) according to ABC News. Excerpt: "It's a public health crisis waiting to explode," warned Anna Hochkammer, who spearheads the Florida Women's Freedom Coalition, a PAC that is chaired by former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

[How a proposed constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights in Florida could impact access in the state](#) is the topic of this ABC story. Excerpt: Floridians Protecting Freedom, the initiative's main sponsor, and the ACLU of Florida filed [response briefs](#) to the attorney general's challenge, arguing that the ballot initiative's language is clear and does not mislead voters, as opponents have claimed. The effort to include the initiative on the Florida ballot comes on the heels of [Ohio voters approving a constitutional amendment](#) during last week's election that guarantees access to abortion and other aspects of reproductive health care.

Barb Wentworth of Stuart wrote in to the Palm Beach Post to say: [Ashley Moody thinks you're an idiot](#). Excerpt: Attorney General Ashley Moody has asked the Florida Supreme Court to reject a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to ensure abortion rights. We've heard all the excuses from the GOP Legislature as to why that right should be denied or limited to six weeks into a pregnancy. But Moody has taken it a step further to imply that voters simply aren't smart enough to understand the amendment, that we would be "hoodwinked" and "misled," that we don't know how to interpret big words like "viability" "patient health" and "healthcare providers." Try us, Ashley.

[Abortion-rights advocates eye more wins after Ohio ballot success](#) reports Nathaniel Weixel at The Hill. Excerpt: Laura Goodhue, the executive director of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, said the Supreme Court and a hostile attorney general are an extra hurdle. But even though Florida is a reliably conservative state like Ohio, Goodhue said the group is confident the initiative transcends partisanship. "Our patients at Planned Parenthood don't come in as Democrats or Republicans, they come in as patients. And the more we talk to people, the more we find that independents and Republicans as well as Democrats do not want government interfering in their decision to be a parent or not, to continue the pregnancy," she said.

[AG Moody seeks oral arguments in FL Supreme Court test of abortion-rights initiative](#) reports the Florida Phoenix. Excerpt: State Attorney General Ashley Moody has joined other abortion-rights opponents in asking the Florida Supreme Court to schedule oral arguments about whether a proposed constitutional amendment enshrining that right belongs on the ballot.



WFLA reports [Florida abortion rights supporters push Supreme Court to allow proposed amendment on 2024 ballot](#). Excerpt: In Monday's filing, Floridians Protecting Freedom slammed Moody's arguments as politically motivated and said Florida voters understand the "common-sense" definition of terms like "viability."

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