



As Black faith and community leaders across Ohio who are called to care for God's people, we urge our fellow Christians, the Black community, and all Ohioans who believe in the inherent value of every person to vote NO on Issue 1 this November. The future of our state, our society, and our race is at stake in this amendment, and we must protect them.

This is not a party line vote, nor is Issue 1 a Republican or Democrat issue. This is a moral issue and for the Black community in particular, it is a life-or-death matter. Only 13 percent of Ohio's population is Black,<sup>1</sup> yet 48 percent of abortions undergone by residents of our state are performed on Black women<sup>2</sup> – a tragic and difficult reality that our community cannot ignore. Even more alarming is the number of Black children – 20 million<sup>3</sup> – who were killed in the womb between 1973 and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court last June. That is enough to fill Ohio stadium more than 194 times.

The Black community has been the target of the abortion industry for decades, beginning with the deplorable ideology of racist eugenicist Margaret Sanger, whose Planned Parenthood organization purposefully established abortion mills in minority neighborhoods and targeted our communities for abortions. Sanger's mission was to kill Black babies before they entered the world, and Planned Parenthood and the for-profit abortion industry have allowed that mission to continue to this very day.

We can only hope the abortion industry will one day be held to account for its dark history and depraved legacy, but in the meantime, we cannot allow it to continue pushing an agenda driven by racism and greed.

Unfortunately, Issue 1 does just that. It is more extreme than *Roe v. Wade*, and it will allow for painful, late-term abortions through all nine months of pregnancy – even after an unborn baby can feel pain. It will permit our children to undergo abortions without parents knowing. And it will continue to rob generations of Black women and men of the insurmountable joy of parenthood.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau (2022). *QuickFacts Ohio*. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/PST045222>

<sup>2</sup> Ohio Department of Health (2023). *Induced Abortions in Ohio, 2022 Report*. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/vital-statistics/resources/vs-abortionreport2022>

<sup>3</sup> Stauffer, Elizabeth (2022). 20 million black babies have been aborted since *Roe v. Wade*. Where is the equity in that? *Washington Examiner*. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/equality-not-elitism/20-million-black-babies-have-been-aborted-since-roe-v-wade>

Enough is enough. The Black community supports life. We have a rich pro-life history, rooted in our love of family and in our abiding faith and belief that God is the ultimate author of every life. As Psalm 139:13-14 declares, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Further, as faith leaders, we express our concern for and commitment to life beyond the womb, and seek to make real the promises of God for every human being.

Our faith sustains us every day, and it must now spur us on to defeat this amendment and save countless Black lives in doing so. Together, we must send a message to the abortion industry by stopping Issue 1. We must end the targeting of Black babies and instead promote a culture of life.

We will make our voices heard, and together we will vote no on Issue 1.

Pastor Daryl Baker, Destiny Ministries  
Pastor Terry Banks, Hope City House of Prayer  
Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell, Former Cincinnati Mayor, Ohio SOS and Ohio Treasurer  
Minister Norman Brantly, Eagle Rock Church  
Bishop Charles Brown, United Fellowship of Churches  
Pastor Ricky Brown, World Fire Church  
Pastor Michael Bullock, Mile's Mission  
Pastor Rick Burkes, Only Believe Church Dayton  
Pastor Jerome Byrd, Good News Baptist Church  
Dr. Marlene Carson, Black Leaders Against Sex Trafficking (B.L.A.S.T.)  
Pastor Michael Carter, The Well Church  
Pastor Teddy Ceasar, Destiny Church Int.l  
Bishop Timothy J. Clarke, First Church of God  
Pastor Frederick Clement, One Family Church  
Pastor John Coats, Metropolitan Church of God In Christ  
Pastor Leon Collins, Dayton-Eastview COG  
Minister David Crowder, Faith Life Church  
Deacon Raymond Crump, Freemont Baptist Temple  
Apostle Arnold Culbreath, Douglas Leadership Institute  
Pastor Lance Darden, Fresh Wind Worship Center  
Pastor Charlie Davis, New Born Ministries  
Pastor Arthur M. Davis II, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church  
Bishop Harry Davis, Greater St. Paul Church  
Pastor Gabriel Day, Last Trump Productions  
Pastor Gerome Decarlo, Glory Evangelistic Ministries Church  
Pastor James Delaney, St. James Christian Center  
Pastor Kenneth Donaldson, Rising Star Baptist Church

Pastor Joe Dunlap, Bethel Temple  
Evangelist Christina Dunlap, Bethel Temple  
Pastor Judah Early, New Community Bible Fellowship  
Minister Ruth Edmonds, Columbus Christian Center  
Pastor Yaves Ellis, New Birth Christian Ministries  
Pastor David C. Forbes, Jr., Columbus Christian Center  
Dr. Tracy Forbes, Columbus Christian Center  
Pastor Gary Frost, Steel Valley Baptist Association  
Pastor Bobbie Garrett, Cornerstone Baptist Church  
Mr. H. Goode, Goode Solutions Inc.  
Pastor Taelor Gray, Linden Life Fellowship  
Pastor David Gray, Signing as Individual  
Pastor Karlie Hale, One Love Church  
Pastor Reggie Hayes, United Faith Int'l Baptist Church & S.C.B.O.  
Pastor Jeff Haygood, Living Word Church of Columbus  
Minister Matthew Hazelwood, Faith Life  
Minister LaJuana Henderson, The Wave of Praise Digital Radio Station  
Pastor Toriano Henry, Evergrowing Ministries  
Pastor Rodney Jackson, President, African American Fellowship of S.C.B.O.  
Pastor Taylor James, New Community Bible Fellowship  
Bishop John Jennings, Kingdom Authority Ministries Int'l  
Overseer Tina Jennings, Kingdom Authority Ministries Int'l  
Pastor Brandon Johnson, Rock Columbus  
Minister Kelven Johnson, Community U.C.A.N.  
Pastor David Judah, Vintage Grounds Worldwide  
Pastor Lonnie Kee, Strongpoint Church  
Pastor Curtis Kemp, Good Life Church  
Mrs. Bernadine Kennedy Kent, Former State Representative  
Pastor John Little, Resurrection Baptist Church  
Pastor Julius Lancaster, All Nations Worship Assembly  
Minister Jeanne Madison, Signing as Individual  
Minister David Mahan, Eagle Rock Church  
Elder Sean Marshall, The PAW Patrol Ministries  
Minister Angela Marshall, The PAW Patrol Ministries  
Pastor Brondon, Mathis Hope for Columbus & the Nations Movement  
Pastor John Maze, Agape Bible Fellowship  
Pastor Byron McGee, Cornerstone Baptist Church  
Apostle Arthur McGuire, Joshua Christian Ministries  
Lady Charlotte McGuire, Joshua Christian Ministries  
Pastor Carl Mitchell, Restore Church the Bible Way  
Pastor Eugene Moore, Guiding Light Church  
Pastor Wayne Moore, Greater Christ Temple  
Pastor Walter Moss, The Father's House

Lady Darleen Moss, The Father's House  
Minister Mare' Munala, Eagle Rock Church  
Pastor Gerald Murphy, Garden City Church  
Pastor Stephen Opoku, Hope of Glory Temple  
Pastor Elgin Orton, City of Zion Church  
Pastor Stephen Owens, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church  
Mrs. Yvonne Pardon, Signed as individual  
Pastor Claudio Penha, Harmony Church  
Pastor Eb Penha, Rock Columbus  
Minister Al Phillips, Signed as individual  
Deacon James Ragland, Signed as individual  
Pastor William Randolph, Pastors Legacy Ministries  
Bishop Harold Rayford, The Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith  
Pastor Charles Redmond, New Journey Church  
Senator Michelle Reynolds, Ohio General Assembly  
Mr. Mo Riggins, Educator and Community Advocate  
Pastor Gerald Saffo, United Faith Community Church  
Pastor Antone Sampson, The Freedom Center Church  
Lady Erika Sampson, The Freedom Center Church  
Bishop Leslie J. Simms, Living Waters Christian Fellowship  
Minister Sean Smith, Roar Ministries  
Pastor Michael Spears, Fishery Ministries  
Pastor Collin Stables, The Joy Walker Ministries  
Pastor Debbie Stables, The Joy Walker Ministries  
Pastor Ivan Stewart, Kingdom Modela Church  
Pastor Geoff Stewart, Kingdom Models  
Pastor Alfred Tagoe, Oasis of Love Community Church  
Pastor Rory Tate, Center of Hope Bible Fellowship Church  
Pastor Lynne Themalaras, Oasis City Church  
Dr. John Tyus, World Conquerors Through Jesus Christ ministries  
Pastor Gavin Walker, Calvary Christian Fellowship  
Pastor Andre Whaley, Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church  
Apostle Brian Williams, Hope City House of Prayer  
Pastor Gerald Williams, Yeshua is Lord  
Pastor Shatisha Williams, Zion Christian Fellowship  
Pastor Derek Williams, Zion Christian Fellowship  
State Representative Josh Williams, Ohio General Assembly  
Mr. James A. Whitaker Jr., State Central Committee  
Apostle Juan Woods, Triumphant Christian Center  
Pastor Mike Young, City of Grace