



WTF IS ALABAMA AMENDMENT 2?

The Big Picture

- ★ On November 6, Alabamians will vote on Amendment 2, which would add extreme anti-abortion language to the state constitution.
- ★ Everyone deserves the ability to decide what is best for themselves and their reproductive futures, including the right to abortion. Voting no on Amendment 2 is your opportunity to protect that right.
- ★ Ballot initiatives are a huge deal because they let people (you!) vote directly on issues. The Alabama ballot initiative is an extra big deal because it would change the state constitution, and that's really hard to undo.

The Fine Print

Hold up. What's a ballot initiative?

- ★ A ballot initiative is a way to put a policy issue to a vote of the people instead of just a vote by a representative legislature. This is called direct democracy and the ways it is used are state-specific.
- ★ In Alabama, direct democracy is required to make any change to the state's constitution. The legislature can propose a bill to change the state constitution, but the change can only happen if it's passed by the legislature AND approved by a majority (over half) of Alabama voters.
- ★ That is exactly where Amendment 2 came from - it's a proposed change to the state constitution championed by anti-abortion state legislator Rep. Matt Fridy.
 - The bill (HB 98) that created Amendment 2 was passed in 2017 by the state legislature.
 - The Amendment is a blatant attack on all Alabamians' right to abortion, a fact the sponsor is not trying to hide. Rep. Fridy himself said "We want to make sure that at a state level, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, that the Alabama Constitution cannot be used as a mechanism by which to claim that there is a right to abortion."
- ★ So the anti-abortion legislature has done their part and now it's up to Alabama voters (that's YOU) to stop this by saying NO to Amendment 2 in November!

K, I get that. So what, exactly, would Amendment 2 do?

★ [Here's the text](#) in case you want to read it. But if you don't, that's cool! Your policy nerds did the reading for you. Here are the basics:

- The proposed amendment enshrines a fetal "right to life" in the Alabama constitution.
- It bans abortion completely, without exception.
- It bans use of public funds for abortion.

Alright. But...what does that text mean for our communities?

★ Well. It ain't good. If *Roe* is attacked, Amendment 2 will completely restrict legal abortion in Alabama. This is especially bad news for low-income folks, people of color, and young people, because it pushes the ability to determine our own futures even further out of reach.

★ It could criminalize abortion, which would, of course, be felt most severely by already over-criminalized communities, especially Black folks.

★ No Alabama healthcare program, like Medicaid, could EVER decide to pay for abortion care, despite it being part of the full spectrum of reproductive health care. No person should be denied care based on their income.

★ The shifting balance of the Supreme Court makes it more likely that we will see attacks on *Roe* in the near future, so don't let anyone tell you this Amendment wouldn't have an affect!

- Even with *Roe* in place, abortion access is already out of reach in Alabama due to the absurd number of restrictions. This Amendment would only make this web of oppression harder to untangle.

★ We know that young Alabamians support abortion access because everyone deserves the right to decide what is best for themselves and their own bodies, without interference from politicians who are just out to shame and stigmatize.

What can I do?

★ **Vote NO on Amendment 2 on November 6, 2018!**

- The *only* way to stop a ballot initiative is to VOTE. So make sure you have your plans set to vote this November!
- Need to figure out where your polling place is?? You can always check at the URGE Civic Action Center: <http://bitly.com/URGEvote>