

## SJR 33: Equal Rights Amendment Constitutional Referral

*Every Oregonian has the right to make deeply personal decisions free of interference from politicians and the government. Anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+ politicians are taking advantage of the Dobbs decision to threaten Oregonians' equal rights, including the rights to marry who we love, decide when and how to start a family, and receive necessary, life-saving medical care.*

*This Equal Rights Amendment Constitutional Referral will empower voters to protect equal rights in the Oregon Constitution.*

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### **The Dobbs Decision**

The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision [repealed every American's right to abortion](#). It also placed many more fundamental rights at risk – Justice Clarence Thomas said the U.S. Supreme Court should “[reconsider all of \[the\] Court's substantive due process precedents](#),” including cases that established protections for same-gender marriage and contraception.

**Now, anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ politicians are taking advantage of the *Dobbs* decision to attempt to restrict Oregonians' equal rights and insert their opinions into deeply personal choices.**

- [7 anti-LGBTQ bills](#) were introduced in Oregon during the 2023 Legislative Session.
- Oregon Republicans introduced 13 anti-abortion bills in 2023, including: [HB 2810](#), [HB 2808](#), [HB 2809](#), [HB 2807](#), [HB 2526](#), [HB 2424](#), [HB 2423](#), [HB 2402](#), [HB 3061](#), [HB 3193](#), [SB 513](#), [HB 3400](#), and [HB 3420](#).
- A judge in Texas put [Oregonians' access to abortion in jeopardy](#) by suspending FDA approval for mifepristone.

### **SJR 33**

[Senate Joint Resolution 33](#) – the ERA Constitutional Referral – is **Oregon voters' opportunity to protect equal rights** threatened by the *Dobbs* decision.

If approved by the legislature and passed by voters in 2024, this amendment will enshrine Oregonians' rights to **make deeply personal decisions free from government interference**, including the right to abortion, contraception, and marriage.

The ERA Constitutional Referral **protects equal rights by updating current equality language in our Constitution** to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and the right for everyone to make personal decisions about reproductive and gender-related health care, including abortion and gender-affirming care. The ERA Constitutional Referral will also **remove Oregon's antiquated ban on same-gender marriage** from the Constitution.

## **Equal Rights Protected**

Oregon voters will have the opportunity to **protect Oregonians' equal rights and keep the government out of deeply personal decisions** about marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and reproductive health, like contraception and abortions.

## **OREGONIANS SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS**

Oregonians overwhelmingly support the rights and protections proposed by the ERA Constitutional Referral. According to research from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, and ACLU Oregon:

- 7 in 10 Oregonians believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 4 in 5 Oregonians want no government interference in the decision
- 65% of Oregonians believe all people should have access to the healthcare they need, regardless of gender
- 65% of voters are more likely to vote yes on an amendment that includes protections for same-gender marriage, and a majority would be more likely to vote yes if it includes protections for gender identity or expression, as well.

## **FAQ**

### **Hasn't same-gender marriage already been legal in the US for years now?**

- Oregon's constitution still has language defining marriage as between one man and one woman.
- This provision isn't enforceable for now because of the 2015 Supreme Court decision that said same-gender marriage was protected in the U.S. Constitution.
- This new, ultra-conservative court has signaled that they're willing to overturn same-gender marriage, just like they struck down *Roe v. Wade*.
- We must act now to make sure the right to marry is protected before it's too late.

### **How will SRJ 33 change access to health care in Oregon?**

- It doesn't change the standard of medical care or legal age of consent for medical care in Oregon.
- SJR 33 will ensure that no matter one's gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation, no one can be discriminated against by government actions
- SJR 33 will ensure that no politicians in Oregon can infringe on your right to access health care because of your sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

### **When will voters weigh in on these changes to the constitution?**

- If it passes the legislature, SJR 33 will appear as a ballot measure on the November 2024 General Election ballot. It will go into effect if more than 50% of voters approve it.