

Livingston County Life-Line

Summer 2008

Right to Life
Livingston County, Inc.
P.O. Box 934
Brighton 48116

Tuesday-Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
and by appointment

rtllc@sbcglobal.net
Call 810-227-5788

Visit our website
www.righttolifelivingston.org



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As a prolife, grass-roots community we struggle against overwhelming odds with activist judges, a liberal media and the deep pockets of the abortion and medical research industries. However, these walls cannot prevent us from chipping away wherever possible as we work to ultimately restore the sanctity of human life.

Each presidential election gives us the opportunity to be active in a government formed by the people and for the people. Throughout the history of our country, a state of war, the health of the economy and various cultural issues have all worked as a driving force to get people involved in participating as citizens.

The challenges of putting prolife people in office often seem insurmountable. It is good to remember what Edward Everett Hale said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

Over the past 35 years, during which Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton legalized killing of the unborn through all nine months of pregnancy, proliferators have worked tirelessly on behalf of innocent human life.

Even though we have seen the sanctity of life get buried under the slippery slope of abortion on demand, we do what we can as individuals and as a group to dig out from under. In a representative democracy we are the voice of our government. Not only do we have the right, it is our duty to do all we can in the struggle to right wrongs. We are blessed with the tools necessary to institute change without bloodshed, violence or dictatorship. As responsible citizens, we determine the

success or failure of our government.

Some elections are more important than others. Aging justices on today's U.S. Supreme Court means that the next president will most likely have two spots to fill. With prolife justices Roe v. Wade will be overturned.

Against All Odds By Nina Cedar

A prolife president will have the ability to undo the destructive ruling that took place in 1973. After losing nearly 50 million innocent lives, the tragedy of abortion on demand can be stopped. This will not be possible without a prolife president.

Ballot proposals, especially those focusing on a life issue or family values, will work to increase the turnout for an election.

There is likely going to be a ballot proposal in the election this fall seeking to change the state constitution. Proponents want to kill the tiniest of humans, an embryo, in order to use their embryonic stem cells in unrestricted research. They want to use our state tax dollars to pay for it too. We must stop this from happening.

Science and technology confirms the wonder of creation and disputes those who insist that only by destroying the unborn will mankind solve its problems. Prolife candidates acknowledge that solutions have been and continue to be found that respect all human life from conception to natural death. Help us to stop the advocates of death by working to elect prolife candidates.

For more information about the ballot proposal and embryonic stem cell research, visit stemcellresearchcures.com

Campaign 2008: A Matter of Life World Magazine by Jamie Dean

Long before Sen. Barack Obama secured the Democratic presidential nomination, the candidate mused about the first thing he would do as president.

At a Planned Parenthood gathering in Washington, D.C., last July, Obama told supporters of America's largest abortion network: "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act."

The purpose of the pro-abortion legislation—first introduced in the Senate in 1989—is clear: "To prohibit, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, the interference by the government with a woman's right to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy." The bill has never passed Congress, but its intention is sweeping: Nullify most abortion restrictions already in place, and cut off attempts at further restrictions.

Obama's support for the bill doesn't come up much on the campaign trail. The candidate rarely mentions abortion outside of pro-abortion gatherings, and downplays the volatile issue to mixed crowds.

On the other side of the stump, Sen. John McCain is talking about abortion more than he has in the past. The presumptive Republican nominee is taking pains to point out his pro-life voting record, especially to some skeptical pro-life supporters.

In a campaign season dominated by the economy, the war, and the price of gasoline, pro-abortion and pro-life groups agree on one thing: The stakes in the abortion debate remain high, and the two presidential candidates largely represent opposite ends of the spectrum.

Obama spelled out those stakes on the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*: "With one more vacancy on the Supreme Court, we could be looking at a majority hostile to a woman's fundamental right to choose for the first time since *Roe v. Wade*."

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) agrees and recently endorsed Obama, calling him "a fully pro-choice candidate." The group gave Obama a 100 percent rating for supporting pro-abortion legislation in Congress.

NARAL gives McCain a zero percent rating for his "extreme anti-choice record," and asks for donations to help defeat his campaign.

One mile south of NARAL's Washington, D.C., headquarters, National Right to Life (NRTL) is adamant as well. The pro-life group—which endorsed Fred Thompson last

year—now supports McCain, citing his voting record in Congress. Not surprisingly, it vigorously opposes Obama, also citing his voting record. NRTL president David O'Steen told *WORLD*: "I don't see how one could take a more pro-abortion position than Obama."

Examining the candidates' voting records reveals the kinds of policies each would likely support as president. Obama in the U.S. Senate has supported funding for overseas groups that promote or perform abortions and has opposed parental notification laws.

When he was an Illinois state senator, Obama instead of voting "yes" or "no" on abortion bills often voted "present." In 1997 Obama voted "present" on two bills banning partial-birth abortion. In 2001 he voted "present" on two parental notification bills. He voted "present" three times on bills aimed at protecting infants who survive abortions.

Pam Sutherland, president of the Illinois Planned Parenthood Council, said her group worked with Obama and a handful of other Democratic senators on the voting strategy. Sutherland said the tactic allowed senators to withhold support for pro-life bills without creating a record that could hurt them with voters. "A 'present' vote was hard to pigeon-hole, which is exactly what Obama wanted," she told ABC News.

Despite voting "present" on the pro-life bills, Obama expressed strong opposition to them, saying they didn't include exceptions for the health of the mother, and that they would hold doctors criminally responsible for performing such abortions. Obama condemned the Supreme Court's decision last year to uphold the federal ban on partial-birth abortions, calling it an attempt to "steadily roll back the hard-won rights of American women."

In presidential debates, Obama has said he believes that states could legitimately put restrictions on some late-term abortions, but added, "The broader issue here is: Do women have the right to make these profoundly difficult decisions? And I trust them to do it."

McCain in the U.S. Senate voted for the partial-birth abortion ban, parental notification laws, banning abortions in military medical facilities, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and dozens of other pro-life measures. NRTL's O'Steen told *WORLD*: "McCain has an absolutely solid and consistent pro-life voting record."

But the record isn't flawless. Some pro-life groups—including NRTL—have ardently

disagreed with McCain-sponsored campaign finance laws that curtail attempts by nonprofit groups to influence voters toward particular candidates 60 days before an election.

A bigger problem for McCain among pro-life voters is his support for federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Pro-life groups oppose the research that requires destroying frozen embryos, and they express consternation over McCain's support of allocating tax dollars toward the work.

Late last year, McCain told *WORLD* that he believes life begins at conception, but "the Bible also tells us to heal the sick," and he remains firmly committed to funding the research. O'Steen said NRTL disagrees with McCain on the embryonic stem cell issue, but that his overall voting record remained strong enough for McCain to win its support.

One other bump McCain might face: In 2000 the senator strongly argued for a change to the pro-life GOP platform, which calls for a human life amendment to the Constitution. McCain said it should include exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother.

Republicans have resisted the change, and McCain hasn't indicated he'll push for it this year. But the issue could put the candidate in an awkward position this summer.

If the candidates' voting records reveal what they might do as president, so do their public statements. McCain says *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned, and has indicated he would nominate judges sympathetic to that view.

Obama has made abortion-related promises as well: In addition to supporting the Freedom of Choice Act, the senator opposes any constitutional amendment to ban abortion. He says he would defend *Roe v. Wade* and nominate justices who would do the same. He would also promote federal funding for sex education for teens, as well as funds for a public information campaign about "emergency contraception."

It's unclear how much Obama's abortion views will surface during the campaign, but it's clear that he doesn't plan to change those views: "On this issue," he told the Planned Parenthood gathering, "I will not yield."

Campaign 2008: In almost every way, John McCain and Barack Obama are on opposite sides of America's abortion divide.

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy." So the song goes. Warm sun, picnics, sandy beaches, relaxing with family and friends. All these things help renew and refresh our spirits. It's an election year too. August primary and November general elections will decide whether or not the years of grass root efforts to protect the unborn will move forward or be set back over 35 years. It's a time to think about how the outcome of this year's elections will effect the future of millions of unborn children. Will they be allowed to live or not?

The word "choice" has become confusing. In most cases, when we choose - the decision is right or wrong, good or bad, fair or unfair, etc. When it comes to abortion, we are encouraged by the pro abortion people and their supporters that in the case of abortion, "choice" is neutral and it is okay to choose to kill, for any reason, and in any way, the innocent, unborn babe in the womb.

Without life, the first of our rights under the constitution, there is no need to protect liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When we deny life to the most innocent of all, why worry or care about the poor, the dis-

abled, the sick, prisoners, and others who are viewed as a drain on our resources when we provide basic necessities for them.

Take some time this summer to examine your commitment to the protection of life.

From The Board

The question is not can you but WILL you take a step into the public square and defend those who cannot speak for themselves.

Not only are the upcoming election outcomes critical to our mission on a local, state-wide and national level, defeat of the embryonic stem cell ballot initiative is vital to our cause. There is a great need for volunteers this summer to share information and distribute literature to their friends, relatives, church members and co-workers. We must educate everyone we know of the danger in this proposal to change our state constitution. One-on-One contact is the most effective way to persuade others to see our point of view. Please read the many informative articles in this newsletter. Use this information to make a difference.

Call our office and offer your time to help in whatever way you WILL! A few min-

utes, a few hours or a few days will make a difference in whether we continue to make progress in the prolife movement or fall back.

Thank you for all you do. God Bless,
Penny Sobonya, Board Chair

Pregnancy Help Clinic

If you or someone you know are facing pregnancy alone....help is only a phone call away

- **Free & Confidential Services & Information**
- **Free Pregnancy Testing**
- **Free Abortion Information & Counseling**
 - **Free Ultrasound**
- **Free Post-abortion assistance**
- **Free Material assistance for pregnancy and early childcare**

7743 W. Grand River Suite 101,
Brighton, MI 48114
24 hr hotline
810-494-5433

In response to concerns about changing Michigan's Constitution to allow killing embryos for research purposes only while using our state tax dollars, Michigan Citizens Against Unrestricted Science & Experimentation Ballot Question Committee has formed. Statewide, prolife leaders have come together to form MI CAUSE, in order to oppose the ballot proposal and prevent loosening of our prolife laws.

For more information about embryonic stem cell research and the ballot proposal, visit www.stemcellresearchcures.com OR www.rtl.org

Celebrating Mothers and Fathers

The Mother's Day carnations and Father's Day coins were a beautiful way to brighten the hearts of many on these special days. A big thank you to Denise DeRocher (and her volunteers) who coordinates this effort, Country Lane Flower Shops (Brighton and Howell) for beautiful flowers at a discounted price and Grace & Restoration for the use of their church basement. Special thanks to the local churches whose faithful support allows us to continue to work on behalf of the unborn.

Brighton Church of Christ
Brighton Church of the Nazarene
Christ Lutheran Church in Milford
Cornerstone Evangelical
Presbyterian church
Cornerstone School
Fellowship Bible Church
First Baptist Church of Brighton

First Baptist Church of Fowlerville
First Baptist Church of Howell
Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene
Grace & Restoration Fellowship
Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran
Heritage Hills Free Methodist
Hidden Springs Church
Lakeland Trails Baptist Church
Living Stone Church
Old St. Pats Catholic Church
Pleasant Valley Baptist
Son Rise Assembly of God
South Hill Baptist Milford
St. Agnes Catholic Church
St. Augustine Catholic Church
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
The Father's House
Tri-Lakes Baptist
Trinity Lutheran
United Brethren in Christ Church of Fowlerville

A Critical Reading of This Information Finds:

1 Embryonic stem cell research, which is being referred to as “a special kind of research,” is **not** the only way to “find these cures.” **Researchers across the world are pursuing cures and treatment using various strategies, the majority of which don’t require the killing of human embryos,** in order to treat and cure various diseases.

2 Actually, what’s stopping *embryonic* stem cell research from being used to treat human patients is the reality that *embryonic* stem cells have huge scientific obstacles to overcome before they can be tested in human patients. These obstacles include the likelihood that embryonic stem cells would be rejected by a patient’s immune system and the tendency of embryonic stem cells to form tumors when used in animal experiments.

3 Embryonic stem cell research is currently taking place in Michigan with federal tax dollars. Michigan law doesn’t prevent researchers from using embryonic stem cells, it merely prevents them from killing human embryos for research in Michigan. **The reason researchers in Michigan and around the world haven’t found cures using embryonic stem cells isn’t because of Michigan’s law which prevents the killing of human embryos for research.** It’s because researchers must overcome a number of serious scientific problems which prevent the use of embryonic stem cells.

4 Embryonic stem cell research is not cloning but they are connected in a way. Many **advocates of embryonic stem cell research also promote human cloning for research because they believe that human cloning for research will overcome the immune rejection problem which plagues embryonic stem cell research.** Gretchen Whitmer, who is featured with Joe Schwarz on the web site’s front page, introduced legislation in Michigan in 2007 to legalize human cloning by deceptively redefining human cloning.

5 These human embryos don’t need to be “thrown out.” They can be adopted by couples struggling with infertility who are looking to adopt. Michigan’s own Frank Giesen was adopted when he was an embryo.

6 Why not use them? **Because they’re living human beings.** It’s the same reason we don’t extract the organs of criminals who are about to be executed or experiment on patients who are in hospice. **Using and killing human beings for research treats human life as if it were a mere commodity** instead of something which is precious and deserves respect.

curemichigan.com front page text

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR CURES.

We all know someone who is in desperate need for a cure. Whether they are family, friends, or neighbors. Or we know someone who could have benefited from a cure.

And we all know cures save lives.

It’s a no-brainer. But how do we find these cures?

1 We have to do a special kind of research. The kind of research that could hold the answers we’ve been looking for since the beginning of medicine.

2 “Wow!” you say, “So, let’s go for it; what’s stopping us?”

Misconceptions and the lack of real information. **3 That’s what’s stopping us here in Michigan.** As well as only four other states in our nation: North and South Dakota, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

But when you check the facts and get the information, you will indeed exclaim, “This is a no-brainer!”

Check the facts on Embryonic Stem Cell Research. There, we said it, and you can almost feel all the misconceptions flying around. So, let us set the record straight.

First of all, **4 Embryonic Stem Cell Research is NOT cloning.** Cloning is illegal. So, let’s put that one to bed.

And, probably the biggest misconception is about the embryos themselves. We are only talking about using the **5 excess, left-over embryo’s after the in-vitro fertilization process. These embryos usually get thrown out! That’s right!** The embryos are thrown out, whether we do research or not. The correct terminology for them is “medical waste”.

6 If the embryos are going to be thrown in the trash anyway, why not use them to help find some of the most significant discoveries in our history? Like cures for Parkinson’s. Like cures for Alzheimer’s. Cures for Sickle Cell Anemia, Breast and Prostate Cancer, Leukemia, Diabetes, Spinal Injuries, and on and on. In fact, we already know Embryonic Stem Cell Research is the only hope for Juvenile Diabetes.

Please join us in this mighty cause.

18th Annual Focus On Life Dinner

Featuring guest speaker

Bob Dutko

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

6:30-9:30

Crystal Gardens
5768 E. Grand River
Howell, MI



Bob grew up in the Worldwide Church of God, which at the time was a religious cult, before being saved at age 19. At 47, he has been married 24 years and has had 7 children. The unexpected death of his only daughter Colleen in 2002 has made him more determined than ever to fearlessly defend the faith, reminding listeners that good times or bad, God is in charge, not us. Bob came to WMUZ in November 2000 from the Christian Coalition in Washington D.C. where he served as National Press Secretary. He has been quoted in newspapers throughout the country and appeared on various news, radio and television shows, such as Christian Television Network and Inside Edition. He was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and has lived in Michigan off and on since 1988.

The Focus on Life Dinner is a shared fundraiser with Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund.

Come help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

- Individual reservations \$50 per person
- Personal table of 10 for \$450 - *save \$10 per couple!*
- I cannot attend but wish to help the prolife movement with the enclosed gift of \$ _____

For your convenience we also accept charge cards

Name-Address _____				Please bill by MasterCard/Visa/Discover _____		card number _____
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____	Name as it appears on card _____		exp. date _____
Email _____				Signature _____		last 3 digits on sign pad _____

Make checks payable to:

Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc.
P.O. Box 934, Brighton, MI 48116-0934

Dinner reservations are not tax-deductible

Registration begins at 6 p.m.

For additional information call
810-227-5788 or e-mail rtlrc@sbcglobal.net

Ticket purchase includes
one year affiliate membership



Together we can make a difference!

Right to Life of Michigan PAC Endorsements

Right to Life of Michigan has made endorsements for the August 5, 2008 Primary Election. During a Primary Election, you must choose a party and participate in only that one party's primary.

For U.S. Senate, Jack Hoogendyk has received the endorsement. Mike Rogers, the incumbent for District 8, has been endorsed for U.S. Congress.

Valde Garcia, the previously endorsed incumbent, has been endorsed for the State Senate in our district.

In the Michigan House, Jason Corosante and Bill Rogers both meet criteria in State House District 66. Charlie Aberasturi, Cindy Denby, Carl Konopaska and Frank Portelli all meet criteria in State House District 47.

The Livingston County Board of Commissioners also has several endorsements. In district 1- Maggie Jones, district 3 - David Domas, district 4 - Doug Helzerman and in district 6- Steve Williams have all received endorsements. Maggie Jones, David Domas and Steve Williams are all previously endorsed incumbents in these races.

In the 4th Appeals Court—Non-Incumbent, non-partisan, Eric Doster and Michael Kelly have been endorsed.

In the 53rd District court, incumbent race, Jay Drick has been endorsed.

For Livingston County Register of Deeds, Sally Reynolds, the previously incumbent, has been endorsed.

For the Handy Township Trustee race, David Roddy has been endorsed.

For more information on statewide and local endorsements visit www.rtl.org. Here, you can also conveniently print your own personal ballot to take with you to the polls.

Are you looking for ways to be a bigger voice for the unborn? You can also use the personal ballot site for your friends, families, neighbors and co-workers. All that is required is a name, street name and zip code. With this information, you can print or email a personalized ballot, with RLM-PAC endorsed candidates, to everyone you know.

This is a simple way to help inform the people you know and can have a statewide impact for all life issues.

Membership/Donation Form

We are proud to be partnering with the local community on behalf of the unborn. The abortion rate in our state and for teens has decreased, saving lives. Education about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide works to change the minds and hearts of many about life issues. In addition to education, the election of prolife candidates has enabled our legislature to pass laws protecting the innocent unborn and elderly frail. This is possible because of your efforts, prayers and financial support. We need you!

\$15 New/Renewal \$8 Sr. Citizen \$8 Students

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

For your convenience, we also accept charge cards, above address information required for charging

Please bill my MasterCard/Visa/Discover (circle one) _____
 Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____ Security code (last 3 digits on sign pad) _____

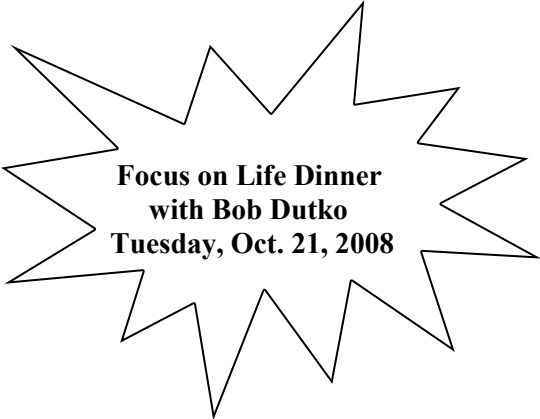
Make checks out to: **Right to Life**
 Livingston County Inc
 P. O. Box 934
 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

_____ Dollar amount



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 Livingston County, Inc.
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 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

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 48116
 Permit No. 069



In Loving Memory and Honor of

You may honor a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to Right to Life-Livingston County. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of
 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

Made in memory of: _____

Made in honor of: _____

Occasion _____

Please notify:

 Name

 Address-City-State-Zip

My (our) name is _____

I would like a notice of this gift in the next newsletter- yes no

Any donation entitles you to a one-year membership.

***“If we remain silent now,
 we condemn not only the
 nearly born but also
 ourselves. America,
 if we sanction the brutal
 destruction of those who
 are not perfect, who are
 not chosen or who are
 not convenient, who are
 unseen or undefended,
 who among us
 would be spared?”***

Sen. Rick Santorum