

ROE V. WADE

OVERTURNED

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St. Cloud Times

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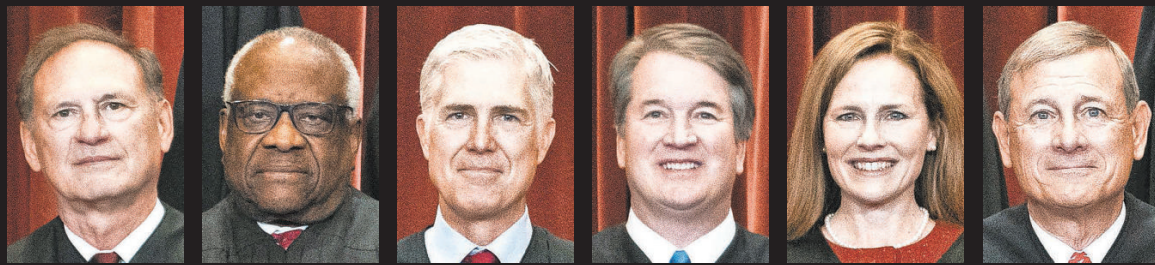


ABORTION RIGHTS

OVERTURNED

Supreme Court majority backs Mississippi restrictions, but Roberts splits from decision reversing 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that granted abortion access to all

SIX JUSTICES VOTED TO UPHOLD MISSISSIPPI RESTRICTIONS ...



Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, John Roberts

... WHILE THREE DISSENTED



Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan



Chantal Oechle is pictured with her daughters Amyra, Layla and Aliya Friday, June 3, 2022, in St. Cloud. DAVE SCHWARZ/DSCHWARZ@STCLOUDTIMES.COM

St. Cloud-area women share their own stories of abortion and miscarriage

Becca Most St. Cloud Times USA TODAY NETWORK

Stacie Kuefler was in her sophomore year of college when she had her first miscarriage.

Growing up attending the Life Assembly of God church across the street, the 37-year-old St. Cloud mom said she was indoctrinated in anti-abortion evangelical beliefs from a young age, which resulted in a lot of shame as she navigated six more miscarriages over the next 12 years, four of which required hospitalization.

Later, as a military spouse, Kuefler lived on bases around the U.S. which did not have access to health care like dilation and curettage, a procedure to remove tissue after a miscarriage or abortion.

Kuefler said she was forced to wait weeks for treatment while actively miscarrying in Nevada before her doctors would perform a D&C, and had to pay for a third ultrasound out of pocket after she was accused by her doctor of "trying to get a free abortion" despite her ectopic pregnancy, which was life-threatening. Another doctor told her the pregnancy, not her life, was her priority.

"At that time, I had two of my three kids. As a mother of my children, I felt like I owe them me being here. And how is that elective if it's going to save my life? That is not a viable pregnancy anyways," Kuefler said. "It's sad to know that because of the culture that surrounds [abortion], a lot of us have to force women to justify ... how or why she needs to take care of herself."

Only in the last few years has Kuefler become more open about sharing her story. Many other women in St. Cloud said they felt depressed and shamed after their miscarriages. Most said they were told not to talk about their loss by their mothers, lest they be blamed or judged by family and others in their church or community.

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John Fritze USA TODAY

The Supreme Court ruled Friday that Americans no longer have a constitutional right to abortion, a watershed decision that overturns Roe v. Wade and erases a reproductive right the high court established nearly five decades ago. In the most closely watched and controversial case to arrive at the Supreme Court in years, a majority of the justices – all of whom were appointed by Republican presidents – held that the right to end a pregnancy was not found in the text of the Constitution nor the nation's history. The decision set off a flurry of reactions from political leaders on the right and left, including President Joe Biden and members of Congress.

Associate Justice Samuel Alito wrote the opinion for a 6-3 majority upholding a Mississippi ban on most abortions after 15 weeks. There were five votes to overturn Roe v. Wade, because Chief Justice John Roberts wrote he would not have gone so far as to upend one of the court's most recognized precedents. The court's liberal justices dissented.

"Roe was egregiously wrong from the start," Alito wrote for the majority. "Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences."

"It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives."

The decision instantly shifts the focus of one of the nation's most divisive debates to state capitols: Republican lawmakers are set to ban abortion in about half the states, while Democratic-led states are likely to reinforce protections for the procedure. Access to abortion, in other words, will depend almost entirely on where a person lives.

"After today, young women will come of age with fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers had," Associate Justice Stephen Breyer wrote in the dissent joined by the court's two other liberal justices. "The majority accomplishes that result without so much as considering how women have relied on the right to choose or what it means to take that right away."

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Anti-abortion activists react to the 6-3 Supreme Court ruling Friday in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* which overturns the landmark abortion Roe v. Wade case. NATHAN HOWARD/GETTY IMAGES

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Bishop calls Roe reversal 'good news,' Planned Parenthood says 'violation of human rights.' **Local & Region 3A**

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