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Ballot initiatives prove crucial for protecting reproductive freedom

In what turned out to be a better than expected midterm election for moderate and progressive Americans, reproductive rights ballot initiatives continued to win big across the country. Families United for Freedom is encouraged by the strong results in support of freedom and personal autonomy.

- **In Michigan**, Proposal 3, which will codify reproductive freedom into the state constitution PASSED with 56.2% of the vote. This amendment will prevent a 1931 abortion ban law from taking effect and protect abortion access for Michiganders.

- **In Kentucky**, Amendment 2, which would have established that there is no right to an abortion in the state, was BLOCKED with 52.5% of voters rejecting the ballot initiative. While access to abortion care is still severely limited in Kentucky, blocking this amendment is a vital first step in widening access to reproductive care in the state. This measure outran the Democratic senate candidate by roughly 14 points.

- **In Montana**, LR-131, which would strip rights from providers and patients carrying non-viable pregnancies from making their own health care decisions, is currently TRAILING 47.6% to 52.4%, though the race remains too close to call. Blocking this law is an important step in protecting reproductive freedom in the state.

- **In California**, Proposition 1, which will explicitly guarantee abortion access in the state constitution PASSED with 65.1% of the vote. This measure passed with about six percent more of the vote than other Democrats on the statewide ballot.

- **In Vermont**, Proposal 5, which will codify reproductive rights into the state constitution PASSED with 77.4% of the vote.

“These results show that when reproductive freedom is on the ballot we can win anywhere,” said Ashley All, senior advisor for Families United for Freedom and former communications director for Kansans for Constitutional Freedom. “The work doesn’t end here. The election results show that there is a path to protect personal liberty and reproductive rights in states across the country, no matter the partisan makeup. In 2023 and 2024, ballot initiatives will be key to that strategy.”

Families United for Freedom was created after the Dobbs decision in June. Immediately, they began providing polling, funding and support to the campaign in Kansas. In total Families United for Freedom contributed approximately $600,000 to this effort, making them one of the largest non-institutional supporters of Kansans for Constitutional Freedom, the pro-choice campaign in that race. Kansas was the first state in the nation to vote on reproductive rights following the fall of Roe vs. Wade.

Families United for Freedom raised close to $2 million this cycle to support pro-choice ballot measures. In Kentucky, the group donated $275,000 and conducted the final tracking survey on behalf of the in-state campaign, Protect Kentucky Access. In Michigan, they conducted polling early in the campaign and contributed roughly $500,000. In Montana, they were the largest funder, contributing around $275,000 to the in-state campaign, along with polling the race over the summer and supporting the campaign with message testing. In all these states, they also provided in-kind communications and strategy resources and support that was critical to these impressive victories.

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