

The Supreme Court and Abortion

Emma Long

Activity 1

The majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* argues that because abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution it is not protected by the Constitution.

But rights such as the right to privacy and to marriage currently are protected by the Constitution according to previous Supreme Court rulings even though they do not appear in the Constitution either (the right to privacy as established in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) rests on a combination of the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Amendments).

Do you think that the Supreme Court was right in *Dobbs* to say that only rights clearly included in the Constitution should be protected? Why?

Activity 2

In the 2022 midterm elections, abortion access became a major issue, especially for the Democrats. Watch some of the following pro-life and pro-choice campaign ads from around the country and consider:

- How does each candidate represent the issues?
- What links do the ads make to issues other than abortion?
- Are these about informing voters or scaring them?
- How do these ads relate to the issues raised before the Supreme Court?

Planned Parenthood, “Force of Nature” (pro-choice):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIjEHFMFP-0&list=TLGG4H90Doi3UR0yMTEwMjAyMg>

Josh Shapiro (for Pennsylvania), “Big Plans” (pro-choice):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPmswvL5tCI>

Women Vote Project, New Hampshire, “Live” (pro-choice):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZXoN3alwFI&t=30s>

Tiffany Smiley (for Washington), “She Said” (pro-life):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5lAs4l-Sr8>

Katie Britt (for Alabama), “Fight For Life” (pro-life):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPVwJRd1j5U>