

States with abortion on the ballot

A look at the measures that will be considered by voters in November

MIKE CATALINI
Associated Press

The Supreme Court's June ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade and left the question of abortion rights up to the states has produced ballot questions in a handful of states this fall.

Three states are asking voters some variation of whether they want to establish a right to abortion, while a single state is asking if its constitution should be changed to say there is no such right to abortion or for government funding.

Kansas voters resoundingly rejected a ballot measure that would have permitted lawmakers to tighten abortion laws or outlaw the procedure outright in August — the first such test since the high court's ruling.

Let's take a closer look at what voters will be deciding when voting takes place Nov. 8:

What questions are on the ballot and where?

California, Michigan and Vermont are all considering questions that would amend their state constitutions to establish some form of a right to abortion.

Kentucky is asking voters whether to amend the state constitution to say it doesn't protect the right to an abortion.

Montana is asking voters whether to require medical care and treatment for infants born alive after an attempted abortion.

Why these questions and why now?

The ballot measures come in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling in June that the U.S. Constitution doesn't confer a right to abortion and "the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their



BRUCE SCHREINER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abortion rights supporters demonstrate in April at the Kentucky Capitol in Frankfort, Ky. Kentucky's Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case over the state's near total abortion ban after the November election. The state is asking voters whether to amend the state constitution to say it doesn't protect the right to an abortion.



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Dr. Timothy Mitchell, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at Community Medical Center in Missoula, Mont., speaks Sept. 21 during a rally at the Montana Capitol in Helena, Mont. Mitchell spoke against a proposed referendum that would require medical care and treatment for infants born alive after an attempted abortion.

elected representatives."

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott suggested in a statement this summer that the question had taken

on new urgency since the court's ruling.

"It is more important than ever to make sure the women in our

state have the right to make their own decisions about their health, bodies, and their futures," he said.

Kentucky has moved to tighten restrictions to abortion since the GOP took control of the Legislature in 2016, and Montana's Republican-controlled Legislature passed the legislation referring the question to voters before the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling this summer overturning Roe vs. Wade.

Kentucky's Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case over the state's near total abortion ban after the November election, but has kept that prohibition in effect while the case is pending.

Abortion is currently legal in Vermont, with no limit on when during a pregnancy it can be carried out.

California and Michigan permit abortions before viability, usually defined as around 24 weeks. Montana restricts abortions after viability as well, but a court has put

bar the procedure after 20 weeks pending litigation.

What is the status of abortion in the states currently?

State legislatures and courts have shifted the status of abortion laws across the United States.

Bans are in place at all stages of pregnancy in a dozen states.

In Wisconsin, clinics have stopped providing abortions though there's dispute over whether a ban is in effect.

In Georgia, abortion is banned at the detection of cardiac activity — generally around six weeks and before women often know they're pregnant.

Seven states, including the District of Columbia, don't restrict abortion by gestational range at all.

WIU to host Analytics is Everywhere

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Western Illinois University's School of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences will host "Analytics is Everywhere 2022" from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2 in Riverfront Hall of the WIU-Quad-Cities campus.

WIU-QC's Riverfront Hall is located on 3300 River Drive in Mo-

line. This event is open to all current WIU students or prospective students interested in learning more about WIU's analytics programs at WIU, like its STEM-recognized and AACSB-accredited Bachelor of Business in Business Analytics degree.

Attendees will learn more about the broader discipline in addition to career and internship opportunities. The schedule includes sev-

eral speakers, informational sessions, free food, games and prizes.

Those interested can register for the event at jotform.com/jllin/analytics-is-everywhere. Regional educators are advised to contact the School of AFED with questions about continuing professional education credit or transportation and parking.

Information: 309-298-1152 or afed@wiu.edu.

Gun

From A3

He initially was charged with intimidation with a dangerous weapon and being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to court records. At the time of the shooting, Robinson was a convicted felon and so prohibited from having firearms.

As part of the agreement with the Scott County Attorney's Office, Robinson pleaded guilty to the felon possession charge and a lesser version of the intimidation charge, court records state. District Court Judge Henry W.

Latham II accepted Robinson's plea on Thursday and set his sentencing for Jan. 20.

Among prosecutors' concessions in the plea agreement was they would not resist a recommendation of concurrent sentences if the sentencing judge rules Robinson should be incarcerated, court records state. The county attorney's office will, however, recommend consecutive sentences if Robinson gets probation.

Robinson posted a \$10,000 bond in April, according to court records.

He was not listed as being in custody on the Scott County Jail's website as of Monday.

Sentence

From A3

Authorities started investigating Taylor after getting a tip on social media that someone had uploaded an image of child pornography, according to the news release.

During the investigation, law enforcement officials seized a number of electronic devices while searching Taylor's home, they said, and further examination of those devices found about 3,000 images and 400 videos of child pornography.

A federal grand jury indicted Taylor in August 2021 on one count of receiving child pornography and

another count accusing him of possessing it, according to federal court records.

Underlying the charges were allegations that between Feb. 24, 2020, and Jan. 15, 2021, Taylor collected or attempted to collect illegal images of minors and possessed such images on Feb. 11, 2021, according to the indictment.

He pleaded guilty on Feb. 17 after entering an agreement with federal prosecutors, court records state. As part of that agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office dropped the possession charge.

Taylor has a previous possession of child pornography conviction, according to the news release. That conviction was in 1998 in the U.S.

District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

Chief Judge Stephanie M. Rose sentenced Taylor on Oct. 26, court records state.

The investigation was part of Project Safe Childhood, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice that began in 2006, according to the news release, which states that anyone who suspects someone of sexually abusing a child can contact the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline at 800-284-7821.

Online tips also may be sent anonymously to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. A link to that website is available with the online version of this article.

German

From A3

Something he's only previously seen in movies or video games, Hornung enjoyed getting a glimpse of the "real country" in Iowa on their trip to Kelona. But he was also wowed by some of the Midwest's urban hubs, namely Chicago.

"I've never seen such huge skyscrapers. In Germany, many of our downtown areas are very old, so there aren't many big buildings

or skyscrapers, so that was very interesting to me," Hornung said. "I took so many photos."

Like Neu, Grathwol enjoyed broadening her knowledge through GAPP field trips.

"I honestly really liked learning more about American history; I knew some things, but others were new to me or I didn't know much about," she said. "That was really cool to me, because when you're in Germany learning about American history, it's different from actually being and learning it here."

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