

I don't think I'm going to sleep between now and November 5. Just putting that out there. It reminds me of when I was pregnant with my daughter. I didn't know what was going to "come out" and I was equal parts excited and anxious. (Spoiler alert: It all worked out!)

The Eeyore side of me is all but expecting the extreme anti-abortion amendment to prevail, causing me to mull over engaging and effective ways to reach hearts and minds for life in our communities. Then I remind myself that we should be doing that on a regular basis, regardless of the legal status of abortion. Laws can protect us, of course, and we are right to fight for legislation that is in the best interest of the people. Yet laws can also fail us. We are most stable when standing on the foundation of uncompromised truth.

When Roe v Wade was overturned, the power to decide the legal status of abortion was returned to the states, as you know. It seems reasonable for the people to have a stronger voice on important issues. However, abortion is far from just a legal matter, and public opinion should not be the litmus test for morality. Abortion does not anxiously await ballot box result to determine its moral status. Its atrocity is consistent.

Unfortunately, popularity is legislation's bread and butter, so as Missourians (along with citizens of Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, and South Dakota) decide the fate of abortion "rights" in November, we are challenged with a more insidious problem. Many people will be voting for something with which they don't actually agree or don't really want. Why? Most will be ill-informed. Some will be swayed by flowery, vague, or misleading language. Others will be duped by misdirection and misinformation. Yet there is hope! We have the time, tools, and truth to help stop the madness. We do not want Missouri to join the list of pro-life defeats at the polls (as seen in California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Ohio, and Vermont). We want to be known for Life (and the Chiefs)!

So let's focus on now. We are arguably at the most important crossroads in the history of our state. A matter of literal life and death. We have a small window but a big message, so I invite you into my activist-induced insomnia.

Now is the time, literally, to promote the values upon which our country was founded.

Now is the time, morally, to listen to our conscience and follow its urgings.

Now is the time, urgently, to effect change through our voice and actions.

Now is the time, willingly, to work together for the common good.

Now is the time, passionately, to stand up for what we believe in.

Now is the time, unapologetically, to display our values.

Now is the time, proudly, to defend the sanctity of life.

Now is the time, lovingly, to come alongside others.

Now is the time, wisely, to discuss the issues.

Now is the time, gratefully, to appreciate life.

Now is the time, joyfully, to celebrate life.

Now is the time, firmly, to choose life.

Now is the time, loyally, to vote life.

Now. Is. The. Time.

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Partnering with You for Life!

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR