



Why a Personhood Amendment is Wrong for Wisconsin

Wisconsin Right to Life believes in the inherent worth of each person from the time of fertilization until natural death. Unborn children are included as persons deserving of protection.



But, does “personhood” work as a **legal strategy** to protect unborn children?

Should Wisconsin amend its Constitution to grant personhood to unborn children?

Wouldn't a Personhood Amendment to the State Constitution provide permanent protection for Wisconsin's unborn children from abortion?

Sometimes an idea is too good to be true. Wisconsin Right to Life believes a Personhood Amendment is one of those ideas. Giving false hope to mothers and babies is not in their best interest. Supporting a costly effort which is risky *and unnecessary* has the very real potential of causing more harm than good.





We are all weary of the long struggle to end abortion and want a solution. However, there are *very important reasons* why a personhood strategy is risky and not necessary for Wisconsin:

- Wisconsin has an abortion ban in the statutes (s. 940.04) which prohibits abortion. This law cannot be enforced because of the *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion.
- Once *Roe v. Wade* is reversed, Wisconsin will be one of the first states in the nation to shut down its abortion clinics because the abortion ban is already in place.
- A Personhood Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution creates a serious risk of making the Wisconsin abortion ban invalid.
- A Personhood Amendment will not stop a single abortion because it is a philosophical statement which does not prohibit abortion and penalize those who perform them.
- A Personhood Amendment will not overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Granting personhood of the unborn child has been proposed to the U.S. Supreme Court in over 25 cases and the Court has not accepted this argument.

Wisconsin is already in the best position possible to protect unborn children by keeping, and not negatively impacting, our lifesaving abortion ban which is already in place. Wisconsin Right to Life therefore opposes the passage of a Personhood Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution and urges individuals, churches and groups **not** to support this effort.