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Roe v. Wade overturned



Protesters gather outside the Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years, a decision by its conservative majority to overturn the court's landmark abortion cases.

Supreme Court rules states can ban abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday stripped away women's **SOUND** constitutional protections for abortion, after nearly a half-century under Roe v.

The court's overturning of the landmark court ruling is likely to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

The ruling was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

Both sides predicted the fight over abortion would continue, in state capitals, in Washington and at the ballot box. Justice Clarence Thomas, part of tecting same-sex marriage, gay sex and rights.

Pregnant women conabortions already had been dealing with a near-complete ban in Oklahoma Phone: 513-2641 and a prohibition after Email: soundoff@ roughly six weeks in Texas. Clinics in at

least eight other states Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin and West Virginia — stopped performing abortions after Friday's deci-

Abortion foes cheered the ruling, but abortion-rights supporters, including Friday's majority, urged colleagues to President Joe Biden, expressed dismay overturn other high court rulings pro- and pledged to fight to restore the

the use of contracep- Protests built into the evening in a number of cities, including thousands demonstrating against the decision outside the barricaded Supreme Court. Thousands more chanted "We will rise up!" in New York's Washington Square.

At the White House, Biden said, "It's a sad day for the court and for the country." He urged voters to make it a defining issue in the November elections, declaring, "This decision must not be the final word."

Outside the White House, Ansley Cole, a college student from Atlanta, said she was "scared because what are they going to come after next? ... The next election cycle is going to be brutal, like it's terrifying. And if they're going to do this, again, what's next?

See RULING, PAGE 6A

Wisconsin reacts to landmark court ruling

Planned Parenthood, Pro-Life, local community respond

> By Hunter Turpin hturpin@conleynet.com 262-513-2681

WAUKESHA COUNTY — The U.S. Supreme Court's 6-3 decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, eliminating the federal right to an abortion, has sparked quick and passionate reactions from government officials, organizations and citizens who both support and denounce the

In Wisconsin, doctors immediately stopped providing abortions Friday due to a 173-yearold state ban. According to The Associated Press, nearly 70 women had abortion procedures scheduled with Planned Parenthood Wisconsin on Friday and four women had abortions at Planned Parenthood clinics Friday morning before the Supreme Court's order. Clinics elsewhere — including Alabama, Texas and West Virginia — stopped performing abortions for fear of prosecuti

Ultimately, the enforcement of Wisconsin's 1849 law remains a question, with Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat, planning to share news on how the office will respond to the ruling sometime next week.

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, whose jurisdiction includes Madison, said for the first time that he would not enforce the state's ban. Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm has previously suggested that he would not enforce it,

Under the Wisconsin law, doctors could be charged with felonies for performing abortions and face up to six years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

See **REACTION**, PAGE 6A

From 'a victory for life' to 'absolutely disastrous'

Wisconsin legislators, candidates divided over Dobbs decision

By Grayson Sewell gsewell@conleynet.com

WASHINGTON COUNTY - Reactions in the state fell along party lines after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the land-

a woman's liberty to choose legality of abortions. to have an abortion, on Fri-

What do

you think?

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of the aisle, and at every level of government, reacted

Crossword......5B

"This is truly a monumental moment in the history of Wisconsin legislators and our Nation," said Rep. Rick candidates from both sides Gundrum, R-Slinger, in a press release. "The majority opinion correctly returns to the decision that will the decision-making power mark decision that protected allow states to decide the on abortions to state legisla-

tures across the United deterred by the violence that has already occurred from the pro-abortion mob."

Rep. Scott Allen, R-Waukesha, echoed Gundrum's sentiment.

"Nearly 50 years ago an statement. "Let's pray that a

activist Supreme Court created a law that didn't exist. vail." Today we celebrate a couraagain have the ability to decide on the important that. issue of life," Allen said in a

Sen. Chris Kapenga, Rgeous Supreme Court in the Delafield, said the funda-States. We must not be Dobbs decision for correct-mental role of government ing that error. The people, in America is to protect the through their legislative rights on individuals. He representatives, shall once added that Wisconsin's law regarding abortion does just

See **POLITICIANS**, PAGE 6A



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WEATHER

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny High 76 / Low 54

See complete forecast on Page 8A



Waukesha woman co-develops educational tool to teach kids about the court process ▶ 8B

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Kevin Bublitz

$\underset{\text{From Page 1A}}{Ruling}$

Dannenfelser, Marjorie president of SBA Pro-Life America, agreed about the political stakes.

"We are ready to go on offense for life in every single one of those legislative bodies, in each statehouse and the White House," Dannenfelser said in a statement.

Trump praised the ruling, telling Fox News that it "will work out for everybody."

The decision is expected to disproportionately affect minority women, according to statistics analyzed by The Associated Press.

It also puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

6-3 ruling

The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step.

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong and had to be overturned.

"We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives,' Alito wrote.

Joining Alito were Thomas and Justices Neil Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Coney Barrett. The last three Trump iustices are appointees. Thomas first voted to overrule Roe 30 years ago.

Four justices would have left Roe and Casey in place.

The vote was 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi law, but Chief Justice John Roberts didn't join his conservative colleagues in overturning Roe. He wrote that there was no need to overturn the broad

How the court ruled on abortion

In its ruling on a Mississippi abortion restriction case, the Supreme Court's conservative majority ended constitutional protections for abortion set by 1973's Roe v. Wade ruling and affirmed nearly two decades later in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. Chief Justice John Roberts said he would have stopped short of overturning the cases.

IN THE MAJORITY









Amv Coney Kavanaugh

"The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives.'

Gorsuch

-Alito, writing the majority opinion

CONCURRING IN THE JUDGMENT



"The Court's decision to overrule Roe and Casey is a serious jolt to the legal system — regardless of how you view those cases. A narrower decision rejecting the misguided viability line would be markedly less unsettling, and nothing more is needed to decide this case."

-Roberts, writing his concurrence





the coming laws, one result of today's decision is certain: the curtailment of women's rights, and of their status as free and equal citizens.

"Whatever the exact scope of

-Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan, writing their dissent

Source: Supreme Court

precedents to rule in Mississippi's favor.

Justices Stephen Brever. Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — the diminished liberal wing of the court were in dissent.

"With sorrow — for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection — we dissent," wrote, warning that abortion opponents now could pursue a nationwide ban "from the moment of conception and without exceptions for rape or incest."

Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement

will protect providers and those seeking abortions in states where it is legal and "work with other arms of the federal government that seek to use their lawful authorities to protect and preserve access to reproductive care." In particular, Garland said

the federal Food and Drug Administration approved the use of Mifepristone for medication abortions.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, and more than half are now done with pills, not surgery, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that the Justice Department that supports abortion rights.

Wisconsinite has the right to

Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Missouri are among 13 states, mainly in the South and Midwest, that already have laws on the books to ban abortion in the event Roe was overturned. Another half-dozen states have near-total bans or prohibitions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant.

Mississippi's only abortion

clinic, which was at the cen-

ter of Friday's case, contin-

ued to see patients Friday.

In roughly a half-dozen other states, including West Virginia and Wisconsin, the fight will be over dormant abortion bans that were enacted before Roe was decided in 1973 or new proposals to sharply limit when abortions can be performed, according to Guttmacher.

Gathering outside the Supreme Court

Outside the barricaded Supreme Court, a crowd of mostly young women grew into the hundreds within hours of the decision.

The Biden administration and other defenders of abortion rights have warned that a decision overturning Roe also would threaten other high court decisions in favor of gay rights and even potentially contraception.

The liberal justices made the same point in their joint dissent: The majority "eliminates a 50-year-old constitutional right that safeguards women's freedom and equal station. It breaches a core principle, rule-of-law designed to promote constancy in the law. In doing all of that, it places in jeopardy other rights, from contraception to same-sex intimacy and marriage. And finally, it undermines the Court's legitimacy.

And Thomas, the member of the court most open to jettisoning prior decisions, wrote a separate opinion in which he explicitly called on his colleagues to put the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage, gay sex and contraception cases on the table.

decide when life should be protected.

"This decision will now allow that democratic process to unfold in each state to determine at what point does society have the responsibility to protect life. Hopefully, the debate will be conducted with sincerity, compassion, and respect for the broad range of views that people hold," Johnson said in a news release. "Today is a victory for life and for those who have fought for decades to protect the unborn. For sion of nine unelected Justices have prevented a democratically derived consensus on the profound moral issue of abortion to be formed.'

One of Johnson's potential opponents in the upcoming election for the U.S. Senate seat, Alex Lasry, issued a statement saying that Friday's decision from the U.S. Supreme Court is a direct assault on women's rights.

Lasry added that he is ready to fight for a woman's right to safe abortion access in the state and nationwide, if he is elected to run against Johnson in the U.S. Senate

"I'll fight with everything I have to make sure access to safe and legal abortion is available in Wisconsin and nationwide," Lasry said. "Alongside the incredible reproductive health care workers and reproductive justice fighters who work in Wisconsin, we will start that process by unseating Ron Johnson this November."

Reaction From Page 1A

Planned Parenthood, **Pro-Life Wisconsin**

'We remain dedicated to fighting for a better future, we remain dedicated to ensuring that people can make decisions about having a family or not, who can make decisions about the future of their lives and their family," said Tanya Atkinson, the president of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, in a press conference. "Your health and the health of the community are our number one priority. Planned Parenthood will not back down, not now, not ever."

Anti-abortion groups across the state released statements praising the Supreme Court's decision.

'Pro-Life Wisconsin rejoices, for today is a day many pro-life individuals have dreamt of for decades. if not entire lifetimes," a statement from Pro-Life Wisconsin says. "Since January 22, 1973, the day on which unfettered abortion was unleashed on our country, millions of Americans prayed, have fasted. marched, and advocated for the lives of preborn children. For nearly 50 years, pro-lifers have spoken out against the atrocity of abortion and proclaimed the truth from the rooftops: that abortion ends a human life.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin Medical Director Kathy King said that there were patients waiting to receive abortions at the three abortion clinics in the state who could no longer receive the abortion they anticipated. Today, I had to look peo-

ple in the eye and turn them away when they were seek-ing an abortion," King said at a press conference. "The patients I see who have abortions are all of us. They're your friends, your family, your neighbors, members of our community, our state."

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin said in a statement that it will help patients access legal abortions in other states, but will no longer provide abortions in Wisconsin.

The Planned Parenthood health centers in Waukesha and West Bend did not comment on the decision; neither of these locations was one of the three locations providing abortions. Individual Planned Parenthood health centers did not talk to the news media, out of respect for the confidential ity of the patients it is trying to provide health care to, said Lisa Boyce, who works for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin media and communications.

Local and statewide response

Mayson Taylor, a Richfield resident, said life begins at conception and abortion is murder and supports the Supreme Court's

ruling. "It gives the states the right to choose if they want to legalize abortions or ban them," Taylor said. "Which is how it should have always been. It's not up to the federal government to decide if someone wants to kill a baby, it is up to the states.'

However, Leah McDonald, a resident of Waukesha County, is concerned about many things, including exceptions for sexual exceptions

assault, exceptions for medical problems, overflowing foster care and the lengths people seeking abortions may go to.

'Women are either going to travel great lengths to get one or harm themselves to just have an abortion. Why do we have to take away a safe option?" McDonald said.

Some organizations that oppose the Supreme Court decision are looking into ways to help women continue to access legal abortions and are hoping to mobilize voters this November to flip

"This will be on the ballot in the fall. I'm talking about basic human rights," said Kristin Hansen, president of Blue Sky Waukesha, an organization that aims to bring civics education to people. "I will be making sure people know how to vote, when to vote, that they will be able to overcome any barrier that Republicans put up in their way, and I say Republicans sadly.

Matt Mareno, chair of the Waukesha County Democratic Party, said the party is disappointed the court rolled back 50 years of precedent.

"Locally, we are focused on making sure that every voter in Waukesha knows that in November, this is a referendum on this decision," Mareno said. "If you are somebody who supports someone's right to have an abortion, have the privacy with their own doctor to make their own decision, then you need to vote for Democratic because the Republicans have made it painfully clear that they are OK with controlling aspects of your life as long as it aligns with their agenda."

The Republican Party of Waukesha County did not respond to request for comment Friday. The Wisconsin GOP said in a statement: Today's Supreme Court decision represents a historic victory in the fight to protect the unborn, an affirmation of our Constitution, and the return of policymaking back to the people and our elected representatives, as our Founders intended. Republicans will continue to speak up for unborn children and vulnerable mothers and families. We welcome all Wisconsinites who believe in the sanctity of life to join

Wisconsin Right to Life is also celebrating the decision.

"This is a monumental step toward the protection the most valuable among us, preborn children. By overturning Roe and Casey, the Supreme Court emphasized the foundational truth that the right to an abortion does not appear in the United States Constitution.

Hansen, of Blue Sky Waukesha, is concerned about other rights that the court could address, such as the right to contraception same-sex marriage which are also not in the Constitution, she said, cit-Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion where he wrote that the court "should reconsider" these rulings. The majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito said nothing in this decision "should be understood to cast doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion."

Contributing: The Associated Press

Politicians From Page 1A

"Wisconsin statute specifies that an 'unborn child' is a human being from the time of conception until it is born alive. And, if there is a medical issue where the life of the mother is in jeopardy, the life of the mother can be saved," Kapenga said in a statement.

"These statutes are now in effect. If we breach the estabcumstances around that life outright terrible, we infringe upon the rights of that individual and it becomes a dangerous world where government decides who is worthy of living."

However, not every state legislator was in agreement with their Republican colleagues, with opinions on the ruling differing across party lines.

"Today's ruling is devastating step back into the 1840s for Wisconsinites. Deciding if, or when, to become a parent is one of the most deeply personal and life-changing decisions a person can make," Rep. Sara Rodriguez, D-Brookfield, said in a statement. "In anticipation of this ruling many of my constituents reached out to share their frustration, fear, and anger that the Supreme Court might take the right to make that decision out of their hands."

Rodriguez added that Wisconsinites have to live with consequences while Democrats fight so that the will of the people is once again the law of the land. According to Rodriguez, 61% of Wisconsinites believe that abortion should be legal in Wisconsin. Despite that, Republicans gaveled in and then out of a special legisla- will never stop fighting to

1849 state law on the matter. Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-West Point, criticized the U.S. Supreme Court in his statement about Wisconsin now reverting back to the 1849 law on abortion.

"Today, extremists on the United States Supreme Court stripped away a fundamental constitutional protection from millions of Americans. They chose to take this country backward and ignore legal precedent and the will lished doctrine of individual of the people," Erpenbach rights at the point of when said. "Elections. Matter. Wislife begins, even if the cir- consinites will now have to make health care decisions are less than ideal, or even not based on what they and their doctors decide is best, but based on a law passed in

Governor, potential opponent weigh in on ruling

"This is an absolutely disastrous and unconscionable decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the consequences of which I hoped to never see again in my lifetime," Gov. Tony Evers said in a press release. "I know many across our state and nation are scared worried about their own health and about the health and safety of their family members, friends, and neighbors, who could very soon see the ability to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions stripped from them. My heart breaks for them, I grieve for them, and I pray for their strength and courage in the days ahead.'

Evers said that they would work to fight the decision every way that his office can.

"As people in Wisconsin and across our country make their voices heard in the days and months ahead, we will do so peacefully and without violence. I've said it before, and I'll say it again today: I

consult their family, their faith, and their doctor to the reproductive make healthcare decision that is right for them, and without interference from politicians or members of the Supreme Court who don't know anything about their life circumstances, values, or responsibilities," Evers said in the

release. Rebecca Kleefisch, one of the Republican candidates running in the primary to become the GOP candidate for governor, said in a state- almost fifty years the deciment that countless lives will be saved due to the ruling by the Supreme Court. Now, she said the pro-life community can focus on supporting parents and families.

"Abortion harms both moms and babies. After this win, the pro-life community can focus all of our efforts to supporting moms, dads, and their babies to promote a culture of life and success for families," Kleefisch said. "Now the abortion debate goes back to states like Wisconsin, where it always belonged. As a state we must hold firm for the voiceless and protect their right to life and that means enforcing the laws we have on the books. I remain committed to

my 100% pro-life stance." Kleefisch added that one day Americans will look back on Roe v. Wade as one of the most egregious rulings handed down by the Supreme

Johnson celebrates, potential opponent Lasry hopes to unseat him

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson joined his Republican colleagues from Wisconsin in celebrating the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade. Johnson said this allows for the democratic process to take place, and the





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