**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held** **May 26, 2022
Lakewood Women’s Pavilion & Online space at zoom.us**

**CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by President Erik Meinhardt.

Officers present were President Erik Meinhardt, First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Treasurer Catie McMahon. The President chaired the meeting in person. The Secretary took notes on Zoom.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES**: The body approved the minutes from March 31, 2022. Maureen moves; Betsy seconds. (The April meeting was informal, at Sauced).

**RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES -** Councilperson Sarah Kepple, School Board Member Nora Katzenberger, Senator Nickie Antonio, State Representative Mike Skindell, School Board President Betsy Shaugnessy, Judge William Vodrey, County Councilman Dale Miller, City Leader Karolyn Isenhart, Judge Rick Bell, Judge Maureen Clancy

**HOUSEKEEPING**: We will be going to Sauced after the meeting! Pizza and cold water available at the front with request of donation.

**PROGRAM:**

1. **Kellie Copeland - Executive Director of Pro-Choice Ohio**

Joining on Zoom from Summit County. Hello to electeds; special shoutout to Mike Skindell who was wonderful in committee Hearing today.

Here because of the leak from the U.S. Supreme Court which confirmed our worst fears. Majority of justices on court are ready to eviscerate Roe v Wade.

It’s a draft - the decision itself could be different.

If decision is made, will not automatically ban abortion in Ohio. The nine abortion clinics open in Ohio will stay open.

We will never stop fighting for you and everyone else who needs abortion care. We have some tough days ahead.

If Roe is overturned, will open a quiet human rights crisis. Roe was not enough. Still many obstacles to abortion. There is a 24 hour waiting period in Ohio.

Those who rely on Medicaid have to wait until they are sick enough that they could die. Medicaid will not pay for abortion.

Abortion clinics and funds do what they can to get people access to abortion.

The people who will be most impacted are young, poor, rural, and people of color, trans and nonbinary people - poeple who are already experiencing the biggest barriers to care.

This will affect everyone. Next, fertility treatments and access to IVF could be limited.

The bans that are coming do not even have exceptions to save life of patient

Survivor of rape or incest may not even be excused.

We expect Dobbs decision to come by end of June. Sometime between Monday and Thursday.

People with abortion care appointments will be scared, confused, worried that abortion is illegal. Our opponents will capitalize on that.

Dewine’s first move will be to go to court to ask for 6-week ban from 2019 to go into effect. Aka remove injunction.

Abortion will not be immediately outlawed, but other legislation could be introduced.

Ban could go into effect after 90 days

In Ohio, abortion access is uncertain.

It will be a political and legal battle.

Three phases: the first is trying to keep abortion legal and available as long as possible for as many people as possible. We could be in this phase for months or forever. This could bleed into “harm reduction” phase - where we work to provide people transportation out of state, protect those who seek abortion at home, work to make abortion legal again. We may eventually fight this on the ballot itself. When we reestablish access to abortion, rebuild the infrastructure.

We have an election! We believe primary will be in early August. We need to make sure Republicans do not have Supermajority. The most important race on ballot regarding abortion access is Ohio Supreme Court. need to be able to protect human rights at the supreme court. Jennifer Brunner, Terri Jamieson, Marilyn Zayas.

After election, we may have to worry about lame duck session.

Voting may not be enough. We need systemic change. We need fair districts, and expanded Court. The strong majority of Ohioans are pro-choice.

We need doctors and lawyers to help us protect Ohioans seeking abortion.

Our Asks: contact legislators to tell them not to support trigger ban that would outlaw all abortions in Ohio, looking for volunteers for Cleveland Pride, Repro 101 training on June 8, Ramp up for Repro training on June 22nd.

Help us turn out the vote for pro choice candidates!

Q (Judge Vodrey): Has there been polling done?

A: We’ve had extensive private and public polling done. 80% of Ohioans believe abortion should be legal in at least some circumstances. There is a small group of people behind all abortion bans. They don’t want to comply with fair districts because they know they can’t win. Our state leg elections are not competitive. They want to rule us, not represent us.

Q: Could there be a constitutional amendment?

A: It may come to that. There are leaders in legislature, including Senator Antonio, who are already discussing that.

Q (Glen): What would be the timeframe for a citizens’ initiative to put something like this to the voters?

To get something on the ballot for november of this year would not be feasible. We would have to collect 400,000+ signatures by early July. With all confusion around primaries etc, it does not seem feasible to do it this year. This would be a last resort. We would prefer Ohio Supreme Court guarantee us the right. We will only get one shot at this. We all saw what happened with the FirstEnergy scandal. We do not want the media campaign that would say despicable things about those whove had abortion.

Q: Can you reiterate action steps people on the call can take? Please include web sites

A: [prochoiceohio.org/trigger-ban](https://prochoiceohio.org/trigger-ban/)

Sign up to volunteer at our booth at CLE Pride <https://prochoiceohio.org/pride/?emci=32db4657-2ddd-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&emdi=dd9da458-31dd-ec11-b656-281878b85110&ceid=322701>

Q (Erik): if the worst happens and trigger ban goes into effect, will we need to pressure employers to provide insurance that protects those who seek abortion?

A: Amazon and some other companies have said they will help employees with travel costs and paid time off of work if they need to leave state for abortion care. That could be difficult here in Ohio. We could see criminalization of abortion in Ohio. if you are an employer who’s interested in protecting your employees’ abortion access, let us know.

Q: Are there other rights we should be concerned about? Same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, access to contraception?

A: Yes, all of it. All of these human rights were connected to Griswald v Connecticut, Roe v Wade, and they are all interwoven. Trump’s nominees to the court seem to have no regard. Today in statehouse, also talked about ban on gender-affirming care. The state could prevent parents from getting kids the medical care that they need. They could also consider IUDs, birth control pills, etc as equivalent to abortion.

Q (Dave Helm): How will abortion pills be self administered without medical supervision? What happens if the pills are taken out of order, etc.? What are the worst consequences?

A: For those who want abortion pills - <https://www.plancpills.org/guide-how-to-get-abortion-pills#find-pills>. Do so with medical guidance! There used to be group called “Women On Waves” who would take people out to sea to have abortion! We have had to get creative in the past to get people access to abortion. The bigger risk isn’t always medical; it could also be criminal. There is a group called “Faith Choice Ohio” that routinely does trainings to teach you about self managed abortions.

*From Dave Helm to Everyone: (7:46 PM)*

*What are the international implications of the upcoming Supreme Court decision? Will other countries follow this lead on abortion?*

 kellie@prochoiceohio.org

1. **Tom Sutton -** Professor of Political Science at Baldwin Wallace. Frequently on NPR, WEWS. Big Democrat but has to remain studiously nonpartisan. Advisor for both College Dems and College Republicans!

Everyone knows a woman who could be affected by Dobbs decision.

Nan Whaley convincingly won primary!

John Cranley - try again later.

Democratic gubernatorial primary: Whaley always been pro-choice. Ran a better campaign. Had more money. Cranley had good ideas but didn’t understand what was needed to run statewide campaign. History shows that one has to lose statewide once before they can win - LOL

Republican primary: Mike DeWine beat Renacci, Blythestone, etc., who together could have beat DeWine.

JD Vance came from behind to win with 32%, followed byJjosh Mandel at 24%, Matt Dolan at 13% who was on the “upswing” (rational Republican candidate), Jane Timken at 8%.

JD Vance now Ohioan that everyones talking about across the country. Jane Coasten had David French (conservative) and guy who writes for The Nation. How did JD Vance win and what does he represent? Vance was entirely political in trying to get Trump’s support. Definitely candidate who is “beatable” by Tim Ryan. Tim Ryan in really good position to go after Vance on middle-class, kitchen table issues.

House - 20-34 seat pickup by republicans. Since WWII, party in presidency has lost seats in first midterms (except two times). Recession affects 8-10% of households but inflation affects everyone. Government can’t do anything; have to ride it out. I am child of 70s - nothing worked. Good luck Biden! People vote their pocketbooks. Strategically, Democrats need to run individual campaigns. Don’t tie it to party, president, etc.

Senate: Democrats have good chance of holding 50 seats, possibly gaining. 1 lean-Democrat, 3 toss-ups. 2 lean-republican, 3 toss-ups. We’re (ohio) on the map of Senate seat that could go Democrat! We could win statewide race!

Dobbs decision should inspire people from all sides to vote.

Democrats embracing what Congress & President trying to do.

main issues:

* polarization: less than 10% are “moderates”. extreme canddiates most likely to win primaries. gerrymandering huge factor. moderates get targeted by both sides.
* economy, gun violence
* gender identity, CRT - all of this censoring teachers/education! “conservative snowflakes”
* jan 6th hearings - no longer center stage
* COVID, monkeypox
* biden approval ratings… bad. will this be carter presidency or truman presidency?

“don’t think about the win. think about the fight.”

Q (Dale): What do you think is the net effect of redistricting on House races?

A: 30-35 House seats across the country that are seen as truly competitive. That number keeps going down. Back in 1992, Ohio had 19 Congressional districts. 11 of them were Democrats.

Q (Skindell): In 2010 when Kasich ran against Strickland, he used economy against him. Could Whaley use this against dewine?

A: It’s hard to tag a governor with issue of inflation. Kook ahead at recession. Inflation due to supply chain and rush of money into economy in march 2020. We rightly did so. Some companies taking advantage of price hikes to raise their own prices. Why isn’t stock market doing well? DeWine will talk about intel. What about the rest of us?

Q (Antonio): So many companies need people to work, unlike recession. How could we have a recession out of this?

A: Part of projection is markets are comparing company profits to what they should be making. Other part is supply chain - may eventually have to lay people off because “nothing to sell.”

Q (Antonio): What about the issue of state overreach? We want fair districts but state leaders are failing us. Then there is the underreach of gun control. Where does that bubble burst?

A: if people start to feel pain of government inactivity on issues that actually affect them. What are everyday people thinking and feeling? We need to bring politics closer to center. When Biden elected, thought we were going to have more “boring” politics. To some extent we have.

Q (Glen): what are Democrats’ prospects in House races?

A: Majewski talking about “benefits of secession” . 538 rates as R+6. Seat looks more Democrat now. Effective campaign against him could be successful. Emilia Sykes running in R+2. Sykes has public presence and good name recognition. Mobilization is foundation of everything.

**Q (From Charlie Bango to Everyone: (8:04 PM)):**  Thank you for being here (Tom and Kellie)Is there hope for fair districts in Ohio Tom? Also...Thoughts about the filibuster being overturned...any hope for this?

A: The filibuster is nothing more than Senate rule that is approved by simple majority of Senate. The filibuster removal is not subject to the filibuster. Don’t see anything happening before this election cycle is over. If we gain seats in Senate, could see it happening. The filibuster originally meant that to stop business of Senate, had to hold the floor. Strom holds record in 1957 for longest filibuster - 27 hours. He was filibustering civil rights bill.

**Q (From Thomas Mulready to Everyone: (8:07 PM)):**  You mentioned the vulnerabilities of JD Vance in red areas of Ohio. Please expand.

A: You’ve heard of Hillbillelegy. Some feel he was airing local dirty laundry. Some of these communities feel conflicted about young people - need them to stay home. Vance didn’t come back. Clearly it’s about his ambition. Vance is more dangerous than Trump IMO.

**Q (From Dave Helm to Everyone: (8:11 PM)):**  If Biden is unable to run for health reasons, what Democrat could win the presidency in 2024? Does Kamala have that something?

A: She has the potential. It’s hard for VP to step into spotlight. Running as a woman for president is really difficult. Kellyanne Conway thinks its time for a woman president! Ivanka! Governors could be potential candidates. Governor could make sense. But they can’’t be from one of the coasts.

**Q (From Kellie Copeland to Everyone: (8:15 PM)):**  I'm curious what Tom thinks about Beto challenging Abbott during the presser yesterday.

A: AWESOME!

***From Dave Helm to Everyone: (8:21 PM)***

*What would an abrupt climate event do to the 2024 presidential election? (For example, the Twaites "Doomsday" glacier slips off Antarctica and raises sea levels by 2 feet within 1 year).*

*From Dave Helm to Everyone: (8:25 PM)*

*Should the Electoral College be eliminated?*

*From Kellie Copeland to Everyone: (8:26 PM)*

*Dave, I think eliminating the Electoral College is ESSENTIAL*

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President: Erik - Latest newsletter has survey that would help club. Selling t shirts! For upcoming 4th of July parade! For the County Party dinner, we are subsidizing $50 of $200 ticket for Lakewood Democratic Club members.

Secondly, saying this not as Club President, I will be reaching out to folks to help with Monique Smith’s race. I’m hosting fundraiser for Monique on June 14th at Bomba in Rocky River.

First Vice President: Maureen - working on LBGT program for June. July will not have meeting, will have Summer Supper which is Thursday July 28th 6-9pm. We are looking at venues. If you have ideas for speakers please let us know.

Political Activism: (N/A)

Book Club: Carol - meeting Wednesday June 15th at 7pm at Bottlehouse. Reading Undelivered: The Never-Heard Speeches That Would Have Changed History. The author recently spoke at City Club. Watching The Abortion Divide - PBS Frontline.

Our nametags will not be collected at end of night. We will be using handwritten ones going forward.

Second Vice President: (Mark not present)

Treasurer: Catie - $8,984.86 in bank. We have 76 members. I got 3 or 4 membership renewals on way in tonight.

Secretary: Nicole - thanks to everyone who helped make hybrid happen!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Statehouse: Senator Antonio - I have an election coming up. I will be challenged by jeff johnson. I will be looking for help! No idea about anything right now. We need some help! The primary is my race. Lakewood, Parma, Parma Hts, west side of Cleveland, Downtown Cleveland, some of eastside along lake. Our campaign is going to be two months long. We will be looking for folks to walk with us in the parade. The statehouse going to summer break thank goodness. I managed to get a bill passed! HOAs able to expand ability to do solar. We also passed bill that guarantees parental rights for people who are disabled.

State Rep Skindell - also on ballot this year. Not sure if I will have primary opponent. At one point drew my district into Bride Sweeney’s district. Bride has moved to Westlake. In fall will have Republican opponent who ran in City Council race last year. Statehouse will be in session the next several weeks. This week, passed ballot initiative that is really bad criminal justice reform bill. Secondly, puts in constitution that local governments cannot allow non-citizens to vote. In early American history, didn’t have to be citizen. Only had to be landowner. Until 1910s and 1920s - white nationalist movement. Yellow Springs approved right of non-citizens to vote. The abortion trigger ban will not be passed in current session.

State Board of Education: (Meryl not present)

County Council: Dale Miller - Congrats to Erik and team on hybrid format! County allocated $66 million to community development. Set up application process for projects. Met twice with Mayor George and her staff. Want to remind everyone of Chris Ronayne’s race!

Lakewood City Council: Sarah Kepple - we are currently interviewing candidates for Ward 4 Councilperson May 31 & choosing June 6th and swearing in June 20th, will be getting update on The Pit June 13th, June 22nd is my El Carnicero birthday fundraiser.

Lakewood School Board: Betsy Shaugnessy - front of mind is safety and security of our students. Superintendent and School Board working closely with Lakewood police. Teaching is talking about divisive issues. Tomorrow is commencement for Lakewood High. We have to keep working hard for students.

CCDP: Karolyn - I have postcards for Ohio Supreme Court candidates. Packages of 25. Also, County Party doing booth at Pride.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - June 30, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:56. Motion from Sarah Kepple, seconded by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Event notes prepared by Nicole Parke on May 26, 2022.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date