



## New York's Prop 1: An Attack on Family, Faith, Life

Amid the critical importance of this year's national elections, with control of the White House and Congress in the balance, **it is vital that voters also pay attention to races for state and local offices, as well as various ballot proposals with profound implications.**

**In New York State, for instance, Ballot Proposal 1—a state Constitutional amendment deceptively mischaracterized by proponents as an “equal rights” amendment—will, if adopted, empower New York's hard left, one-party government to wreak further havoc on voting integrity; undermine parental rights; attack religious freedom; and enshrine unrestricted abortion, up to and beyond the moment of birth, into the state Constitution.**

By prohibiting “discrimination” based on “gender identity, gender expression,” as well as “age,” this proposal could be used to:

- grant a constitutional right for **underage minors** to have permanent “gender-altering” treatments and surgeries **without parental knowledge or consent;**
- Allow minors, even **elementary school children**, to “transition” at school, changing their names or “pronouns” and accessing puberty blockers and hormone treatments **without parental knowledge or consent;**
- require women and underage girls to compete against biological men and boys in scholastic sports, and **share restroom, locker room and shower facilities with biological males.**

**Prop 1** also purports to ban “discrimination” based on “pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.” This, joined to the “age” and “gender” provisions, could be used to:

- **allow minor girls to have abortions** without parental knowledge or consent;
- mandate that Catholic and other religious hospitals **perform abortions and “gender transitioning” surgical mutilations,** even on minors—or else close their doors, depriving millions of New Yorkers of the vital services provided by religious healthcare institutions;

- require that faith-based charities either act in violation of their religious beliefs—for example, ***housing biological males in shelters for abused women***—or be shut down, depriving vulnerable people of their charitable services;
- force pro-life pregnancy support centers to ***provide referrals for abortion*** or be closed down, depriving mothers and babies of their life-affirming care;
- open the door for ***churches and religious organizations to be sued*** if their teachings, ministries, or hiring policies conflict with the “rights” of gender expression and identity;
- enshrine New York’s ***nine-month abortion “right”*** into the state Constitution.

And, by prohibiting “discrimination” based on “national origin,” **this proposal could be used to grant non-citizens, including those who have entered the country illegally, the right to vote in our elections**—something the left has already endeavored to do in local jurisdictions, including New York City.

Now even those who urge greater compassion for those who come here illegally with benign intentions—usually, providing a better life for their families—should oppose this effort to allow non-citizens a voice in choosing our government. First of all, we know that among the current flood of tens of millions of people surging through our open borders, there are many thousands—terrorists, gang members, drug runners, those sent by countries hostile to America—**who wish to do us harm**. Do we really want to empower them to help select our government leaders?

Moreover, granting non-citizens the right to intrude into our election system will only—understandably—*heighten* resentment against all illegal immigrants, undermining efforts to treat with compassion those who come here with good intentions.

**Prop 1 is a collection of self-evident contradictions:**

- **Under the guise of *prohibiting discrimination***, it would undermine election integrity and discriminate against people and institutions of faith.
- **Under the guise of *protecting privacy***, it would destroy women’s privacy in restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and homeless shelters.
- **Under the guise of *promoting equality***, it would undermine women’s equality in sports.
- And of course, **it denies equality for unborn children**, whose mass destruction would be further advanced by its provisions.

New Yorkers, please help spread the word. **To protect parental rights, religious freedom, election integrity, and the sanctity of life, VOTE “NO” on Prop 1.**

And *all* Americans, please carefully examine any propositions on your state ballots this election year, guarding against similarly insidious initiatives.

\*\* Blog used with permission from author Rick Hinshaw. For over 30 years, Mr. Hinshaw has worked in Catholic communications as a reporter, news editor, columnist and eight years as editor for The Long Island Catholic; several years as co-host and co-producer of The Catholic Forum program on the diocesan Telecare channel; two stints as Director of Communications for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights; a year as Associate Director for Communications at the New York State Catholic Conference; and served three years as Public Information Officer for the late Nassau County District Attorney Denis Dillon, a staunchly Catholic and active pro-life leader.

At a time when our political and social disagreements seem to have degenerated into constant vitriol, vilification, verbal abuse and intolerance of those who hold differing opinions, Rick’s blogs contribute, in some small way, to a restoration of respectful debate and discussion, where we can defend our beliefs forcefully without demonizing any who disagree with us. As a Catholic commentator, Rick strives to express that even as we are called to stand firmly in defense of our Church, her teachings, and our right to be heard in the public square, *we are also called always to be the face of Christ to the world--most especially to those with whom we disagree.*

To follow Rick Hinshaw's blog posts, Google *Rick Hinshaw Reading the Signs*.