

THE ERIE ECHO

"a voice for life"

Vol. LIII No. 2

Circulation 5,336

May 2025

Support the Erie March for Life

Erie's very own March for Life, organized by People for Life, will take place on May 3, the Saturday just before Mother's Day. The March will start at 11 a.m., but please arrive by 10:45 so we can get everything organized. The event will conclude by 12:30 p.m.

The theme of this year's March is, "Live and let THEM live."

We really, really hope that everyone reading this will try extra hard to make the 2025 March for Life the largest one to date. Many of our parents and grandparents endured snow and ice to march in January for decades. With the March now taking place in warmer weather, let's not let them down by staying home, or hitting the golf course. Let's remind the world about the things that matter most.

The March was moved from January to May last year, but the warmer weather did not help boost participation. In fact, our numbers went from the usual 300 or more all the way down to 217. The change of dates

and change of seasons might have caught some people off guard, but last year's low number is a cause for concern, in any case.

Speaking of the weather, you can be sure that the March will go on, rain or shine.

We also need you to get others excited about the Erie March for Life. You can download a poster from our website to print and display as widely as possible. You can also share information from our Facebook and other social media platforms. Social media links are provided on our website, at the top of the home page. While you are at it, it would be a big help to like and share all of our Facebook profiles.

Signs will be available for those who would like to carry one. Home-crafted signs with positive pro-life messages are welcome, too. We will be representing the pro-life cause and, in a sense, speaking on behalf of entire pro-life community, so it is important to be thoughtful when making a sign.

Guest Speakers

The Erie March for Life will conclude with a program of speakers on the stage in Perry Square. At this time, our confirmed speakers include: Clare Caulfield, 2025-26 President of Gannon University Students for Life; Slippery Rock Mayor JD Longo; Sheila Sterrett, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Dave McCormick; and Father Steve Schriber, Pastor of St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, and St. Paul parishes, who will offer the Invocation. U.S. Representative Mike Kelly is also likely to be on the program. Additional speakers will be announced on our website and social media platforms.

Mayor Longo was the opening speaker at the rally in Butler where President Trump was nearly assassinated. He and his wife Nicolina are the proud parents of a brand-new baby girl, Valentina Rosa Longo, born February 7.

CVS, Walgreens and their Abortion Pill Problem

The proliferation of mifepristone abortion pills has been accelerating since the Biden administration threw out most restrictions on their distribution in January 2023. Remember that mifepristone, commercial name Mifeprex, was developed for one purpose and one purpose only, the ending of an established pregnancy by killing the human being, or human beings, in the mother's womb.

Now, an abortion propaganda organization that calls itself Plan C lists on its website no fewer than 13 online sources for mifepristone, two of them overseas businesses.

Likewise, the distribution of abortion pills at neighborhood CVS and Walgreens pharmacies has continued to expand over the

last year. Today, you cannot know whether the person waiting in line with you is getting some aspirin, or chemicals to exterminate an unborn child, his, hers, or someone else's. In some ways, having abortion in a store where one shops for a box of Band Aids or a bag of potato chips is even more disturbing than knowing that abortion can be ordered over the Internet.

A year ago, we could at least hope that the CVS stores in Erie, Pennsylvania were not yet active abortion pill dispensaries. But, according to Same Day Abortion Pills, an online prescriber of mifepristone, the deadly abortion pills are now available at all CVS pharmacies: "After a telehealth consultation, patients [sic] can choose to have the

medication [sic] sent to any CVS pharmacy location for easy pickup or opt for direct home delivery." Walgreens, according to the same website, is still maintaining a cloak of secrecy about abortion pill availability at any given location. However, Walgreens does dispense mifepristone at some, if not all, Pennsylvania locations.

People for Life facilitated seven sidewalk demonstrations at CVS and Walgreens last summer. Those demonstrations will resume in the near future and continue as long as there are enough concerned individuals available to make an impression. Yes, protest is our purpose, but also raising public awareness, especially by attracting news media attention.

Oratory Contest 2025

Northwestern Pennsylvania high school students gathered at Erie's Blasco Memorial Library on April 12 to compete in People for Life's annual pro-life Oratory Contest. Their challenge was to research, write, and deliver an original pro-life speech on a human life topic relating to abortion, infanticide,

ethanasia, or laboratory experimentation with human embryos.

Mark Caulfield, a resident of Summit Township, took first place and received a well-deserved \$175 cash prize for his speech titled, "Abortion is the Problem, Not a Solution." Mark, 17, is a home school student in grade 11.

Mark revisited the tragic case of Amber

Thurman, who died in 2022 of complications caused by the mifepristone abortion pill. She was given the abortion drug in North Carolina and sent back to her home state of Georgia with no arrangements to follow up with a competent medical professional trained to manage chemical abortions. The pro-abortion news media has deceptively tried to put the

continued on page 4

Candidate Survey: 2025 Primary Election

The following questions were mailed to 106 candidates running for selected offices in the May 19 Pennsylvania Primary Election: City of Erie Mayor; Erie City Council; Erie County Executive; Erie County Council; Township Supervisor for Harborcreek, Millcreek, and Summit; and all school board positions in Erie County. As this newsletter goes to print, only five candidates have responded, the worst results in the many years we have been canvassing local candidates. This is surprising because these questions were framed to allow for more latitude and less rigidity in the answers.

More responses are likely to be received before Election Day. Those results will be shared in future Email Updates and in an addendum to the online PDF version of this newsletter.

We will try again by resending our questionnaire to the winners of the Primary

Election who did not respond the first time around. If you talk with any of the candidates, please ask them if they have returned their human life questionnaire to People for Life.

The Questions

1. How would you react to a law legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide? Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose
2. How do you personally feel about euthanasia and assisted suicide? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good
3. Should there be legal limits on elective abortion (abortion as birth control)? Yes—No
4. How do you personally feel about elective abortion? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good
5. Would you support a law limiting abortion to when needed to prevent the death of the mother or to prevent the permanent

impairment of a major bodily function? Yes—No

6. How would you react to a law prohibiting abortion in most cases? Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose

7. What is your impression of pro-life crisis pregnancy (pregnancy support) centers? Positive—Neutral—Negative

8. Since the previous FDA regulations were abandoned in December 2021, abortion pills (Mifepristone, aka Mifeprex® or Korlym™), an alternative to surgical abortion, can be prescribed without an in-person visit to a doctor and obtained at a local pharmacy. Changes to the way abortion pills are dispensed present obvious risks including: undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy, danger of a pregnancy too far along; and clandestine use by minors and human traffickers. Are such risks acceptable compromises for the sake of easily-available abortion? Yes—No

Office	Name	Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Erie City Controller	Ed Brzezinski	D	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Council	Kimberly Hunter	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Mayor	Matthew S. Thomas	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie County Council District 6	Scott Rastetter	R	Oppose	Depends on individual	Yes	Bad	Yes	Welcome & tolerate	Positive	No
Girard School Director	Jason Bax	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No

PA Judicial Candidates

On Tuesday, May 20, primary voters in Pennsylvania will choose their party’s nominees for two statewide judicial offices. The PA Pro-Life Federation recommends voting for either Maria Battista (R) or Ann Marie Wheatcraft (R) for the PA Superior Court and Joshua Prince or Matt Wolford for the PA Commonwealth Court. Since no Democratic candidate returned a questionnaire, the Pro-Life Federation advises registered Democrats to cast write-in votes for the Republican candidates.

Born Alive Act

There will always be a role for the federal government when it comes to defending unborn American lives, even though individual states have more authority, now, to restrict or prohibit abortion on their own.

At the moment, one item of federal legislation that deserves our attention is the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. It is needed to empower the government to properly enforce—to put some teeth into—an earlier act with the same name that was signed by President G.W. Bush in 2002.

The current legislation, cosponsored by Congressman Mike Kelly, was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year on January 23. The Republican vote was unanimous, 217 Yeas and zero Nays. One loan Democrat, Henry Cuellar of Laredo, Texas, who serves Texas’s 28th Congressional District, joined the

Republicans with a Yea vote. There were, unfortunately but not surprisingly, 204 Democrat votes against protecting born-alive victims of abortion.

The measure, HR 21, is now waiting for action in the Senate Judiciary Committee, which includes such pro-life giants as Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. John Kennedy, and Sen. Marsha Blackburn.

Pennsylvania’s Sen. John Fetterman (D) is not one to march lockstep with his Democrat Party, as we have been seeing. It would be a very good idea to contact the Senator and let him know you support the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. Tell him it is only logical to protect all babies’ lives—at least after they have been born.

Please keep your lines of communication open with pro-life Sen. Dave McCormick (R), too. Make sure he knows that, despite everything that is going on, you have not forgotten the babies.

Residents of the Erie area can find their legislators’ contact information at peopleforlife.org/legislators.

Church Festival will Benefit the Work of People for Life

Saint Boniface, a historic Catholic parish a few miles south of Erie on Route 8, is having its annual Festival on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1. And a full 5% of the gross receipts will go to support the People for Life Education Fund!

The Festival’s Homestyle Chicken Dinners, served on Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

are legendary. Beer and sandwiches will be available on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. along with live music by popular Erie singer and acoustic guitarist Jesse James Weston. The festivities will feature cash prizes, raffles, auctions, and free admission.

Please take a drive over to Saint Boniface on May 31 and/or June 1 and help People for Life with its lifesaving mission. See you there!

State Legislation

House Bill 26, the Reproductive Freedom Act, was introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives earlier this year.

This bill is an effort to destroy Pennsylvania’s long-standing Abortion Control Act, which provides important protections for pregnant women, and at least some protection for unborn children—more protection than the pro-abortion forces in the PA General Assembly are willing to tolerate, obviously. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Kristine C. Howard, a pro-abortion Democrat from the Philadelphia area. She is clear about her intentions: “my bill... will repeal the great bulk of the Abortion Control Act and replace it with a new legal framework aimed at treating abortion as health care.”

Please contact your state senator and state representative immediately. Tell them that you strongly oppose House Bill 26, the so-called Reproductive Freedom Act.

“Call it Choice. Call it Murder. You Certainly Can’t Call it Health Care.”

HQ Purchase Complete

We shared with everyone in the last Erie Echo that our leased headquarters at 1625 W. 26th was up for sale. And we explained that we were urgently trying to buy the property ourselves to avoid becoming homeless, without a suitable place to continue our pro-life work. We can now report, with a great deal of relief, a happy ending. We purchased the property April 9. We are now forging ahead for life in the same place we have called home for the last 25 years.

Our faithful friends were an answer to prayer, responding in a big way to our appeal for financial help. With the generous contributions received, it was only necessary to borrow \$35,000, keeping our mortgage payments affordable.

It is a great testament to the people of the Erie area that all of us now have a secure, physical base of operations for advancing the pro-life cause over the long term. Thank you, everyone! Don't forget to stop by for a visit when you are in the neighborhood.

Golden Anniversary!

People for Life is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a nonprofit corporation.

Our Articles of Incorporation, signed and sealed on May 6, 1975 by our founder Margaret A. "Peg" Mitchell, were officially filed in Harrisburg two days later on May 8.

Unable to locate the original document, we recently obtained a copy of the Articles of Incorporation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to submit as part of our loan

application for the purchase of our office unit here in the Oakwood Plaza. That's when we realized that May 8 would be our official 50th birthday.

Coincidentally, 2025 also marks 25 years at our current location. Silver and Golden anniversaries all at the same time!

Time marches on, but the sacred truths of human existence are as fresh and new as ever. They have stood the test of time, far, far longer than our 50 years on the scene.

We look forward to bearing witness to those truths for many years to come, invigorated by new generations of volunteers who are just as hungry for justice and immutable truth as those who have gone before us. These are truths well worth living and fighting for.

Memorials & Tributes



<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
James & Christine McShane	Maureen Altman	Irene Lampros	Thomas
Maureen Anthony	Judge Fred Anthony	Father Rich Toohey	Mary Ann Toohey
Lois Borowy	Mark Borowy	Theresa Ann Walkiewicz	Chet Walkiewicz
Janice M. Pelensky	Mary Ellen Dunn	David & Kathy Wayman	Rosemary Wayman
Lee & Mary Simmons	Ray & Peg Fitzgerald	Victoria Clow	O. Samuel "Sam" Zeisloft
Jerilyn Schultz	Alice Froess Kuhn	Irma B. Harper	O. Samuel "Sam" Zeisloft
Mary Alice Haibach	Robert H. Haibach	Belva J. Limrick	O. Samuel "Sam" Zeisloft
Diane & Bill Stumpf	Robert Haibach	Annette & Edward Vietmeier	O. Samuel "Sam" Zeisloft
Rebecca Heidecker	David Heidecker	Eric Zeisloft	O. Samuel "Sam" Zeisloft
Sharon Heidecker Campbell	David Heidecker		
Nancy J. Mottern-Madura	Tom Kalkhof	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Ileana C. Restivo	Samuel Lopez	Ronald Dombkowski	Chuck & Mary Drumm
Scott and Christine Chludzinski	Judy Miculandra	Robert & Mary Jo Jaglowski	Frankie, Jackie, and Luey
Erin Rose	Judy Miculandra	Marjorie Weidner	The Trinity
Nancy L. Miller	Glenn Miller		

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Best Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Other Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Do not text

AFFILIATED WITH (church, club, organization, business, etc.) _____ WORK/PROFESSION _____

1. DONATION: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other Amount _____

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year): Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen /Student \$5 New Renewal

3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of or In Honor of

4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling <input type="checkbox"/> Office Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Help <input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Help	<input type="checkbox"/> March for Life Bus Trip Help <input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Help <input type="checkbox"/> Call me when you need a hand. <input type="checkbox"/> Special skill? Tell us!
---	--	--

Please make your check payable to: **PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.**
P.O. Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.
The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
Registration does not imply endorsement.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.PeopleforLife.org

phone (814) 882-1333
phone / fax (814) 459-1333
office@peopleforlife.org
www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512

— Office Location —
1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
Normally open 10 to 5 weekdays.
Call for evening and Saturday hours.

FROM PAGE 1 Oratory Contest 2025

blame for the tragedy on Georgia's abortion limits rather than where it belongs, on the abortion pill itself and the unconscionable lack of government safeguards.

Second-place winner Callie Driscoll, who resides in Greene Township, received a \$75 cash prize. Callie talked about the importance of a culture of selflessness and authentic openness to others as a remedy for the abortion mindset. This culture, most successfully nurtured in the family, fosters a love of children and positive attitudes toward family life in general.

Third-place honors and a \$50 cash award went to Madeline Johnson, 17, a senior at Titusville Area High School and the 2024 winner of the PA Pro-Life Federation Speech Contest. Madeline also addressed the topic of the mifepristone abortion pill. Her presentation was a masterful expose of the



Contest Winners Callie, Madeline, and Mark

dangers of mifepristone and the callous disregard for women's health and safety that was demonstrated by the FDA bending all the rules when it first approved the drug and the FDA's subsequent elimination, under the Obama and Biden administrations, of even some of the most essential safety precautions.

See all three prize-winning speakers on youtube.com/@peopleforlife1973.

2025 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2026

ONLINE CALENDAR: peopleforlife.org/calendar

April 28	Student Essay Contest Entries Due
May 3	Erie March for Life – Perry Square
May 5	Last day to register to vote in PA Primary Election
May 13	Last day to apply for a PA mail-in or absentee ballot
May 19	Annual Election Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – People for Life H.Q.
May 20	Pennsylvania Primary Election
May 28-31	Educational Booth – Erie Wild Rib Cook Off
June 12-14	Educational Booth – Lake City Fire Company Festival
June 20-21	National Right to Life Conference – Overland Park, KS
July 9-12	Educational Booth – North East Cherry Festival
July 18-20	Educational Booth – Waterford Heritage Days
Aug. 25-30	Educational Booth – Wattsburg Erie County Fair
Sept. 1-6	Educational Booth – Waterford Community Fair
Sept. 9-13	Educational Booth – Albion Area Fair
Sept. 22	Pennsylvania March for Life Bus Trip
Oct. 11	12th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk
Oct. 24	2nd Annual Pro-Life Dinner – Ambassador Conference Ctr.
Nov. 4	Election Day
Jan. 17	48th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast – Bayfront Convention Center
Jan. 23	March for Life – Washington, DC

PA Bus Trip / Life Run

They are still months away, but the next edition of the Erie Echo might not arrive in time to remind you about two great end-of-summer activities, the Bus Trip to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg on Monday, September 22 and our 12th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk on Saturday, October 11. So please mark your calendars today. These are two pro-life activities you will look forward to every year, if you give them a try.

Better yet, register right now for the Bus Trip at peopleforlife.org/pamarch and for Life Run at peopleforlife.org/liferun. You can stay informed about the two events by following facebook.com/pamarchforlifebus and facebook.com/liferunerie.

Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk

Life Run Registration is still \$30 for those over 15 and only \$15 for ages 7 to 15. A complimentary race t-shirt is included.

PA March for Life Bus Trip

Bus seats are just \$50, priced well below our actual cost. Donations to help defray the additional cost of the bus charter will be greatly appreciated. We sent our first bus to

the Harrisburg March for Life in 2022. Each trip has generated enthusiastic reviews. We hope you will give it a try. Our pro-life state government officials urgently need and deserve our wholehearted show of support, now more than ever.

Election Meeting

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025. It will be held at 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. The nominees are: Carol Struchen, treasurer; Juden Lumwas, secretary; Gretchen Lorei, first vice president; Dale Klobusnik, second vice president; and Megan Bonk, third vice president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current

member and have been actively engaged in the organization for at least the previous 12 months. Only individuals whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting are eligible to vote.

Kayleigh McEnany

The PA Pro-Life Federation has just announced that Kayleigh McEnany will be the headliner at their 2025 Celebrate Life Banquet on October 24.

McEnany is, of course, the former White House Press Secretary and current co-host of "Outnumbered" on Fox News. She also fills in occasionally for "The Five," "Fox & Friends" and the prime-time shows hosted weeknights by Jesse Watters, Laura Ingraham and Sean Hannity.

The Banquet will be held at the beautiful Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. Make your reservations online at paprolife.org/banquet. The event is sure to be a sellout, so early registrations are strongly recommended.

Now on LinkedIn

LinkedIn users can find us at: LinkedIn.com/company/peopleforlife

Addendum Updated May 6, 2025

Candidate Survey: 2025 Primary Election

The following questions were mailed to 106 candidates running for selected offices in the May 19 Pennsylvania Primary Election: City of Erie Mayor; Erie City Council; Erie County Executive; Erie County Council; Township Supervisor for Harborcreek, Millcreek, and Summit; and all school board positions in Erie County. As this newsletter goes to print, only five candidates have responded, the worst results in the many years we have been canvassing local candidates. This is surprising because these questions were framed to allow for more latitude and less rigidity in the answers.

More responses are likely to be received before Election Day. Those results will be shared in future Email Updates and in an addendum to the online PDF version of this newsletter.

We will try again by resending our questionnaire to the winners of the Primary Election who did not respond the first time around. If you talk with any of the candidates, please ask them if they

have returned their human life questionnaire to People for Life.

The Questions

1. How would you react to a law legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide?

Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose

2. How do you personally feel about euthanasia and assisted suicide? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good

3. Should there be legal limits on elective abortion (abortion as birth control)?

Yes—No

4. How do you personally feel about elective abortion? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good

5. Would you support a law limiting abortion to when needed to prevent the death of the mother or to prevent the permanent impairment of a major bodily function?

Yes—No

6. How would you react to a law prohibiting abortion in most cases? Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose

7. What is your impression of pro-life crisis pregnancy (pregnancy support) centers? Positive—Neutral—Negative

8. Since the previous FDA regulations were abandoned in December 2021, abortion pills (Mifepristone, aka Mifeprex® or Korlym™), an alternative to surgical abortion, can be prescribed without an in-person visit to a doctor and obtained at a local pharmacy. Changes to the way abortion pills are dispensed present obvious risks including: undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy, danger of a pregnancy too far along; and clandestine use by minors and human traffickers. Are such risks acceptable compromises for the sake of easily-available abortion? Yes—No

Office	Party			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Erie City Mayor	R	Matthew S.	Thomas	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Council	R	Kimberly	Hunter	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Controller	D	Ed	Brzezinski	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie County Council District 4	D	Jim	Winarski	Tolerate	Depends on Individual	Yes	BLANK	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie County Council District 6	R	Scott	Rastetter	Actively Oppose	Depends on Individual	Yes	Bad	Yes	Welcome & Tolerate	Positive	No
Summit Township Supervisor	R	Michael	Pace	Actively Oppose	Depends on Individual	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Girard School Director	DR	Jason	Bax	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Girard School Director	DR	Chris	McNally	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Neutral	No
Harborcreek School Director	DR	Edward	Mattson	Actively Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No