

The Delray Democrat

Wednesday's Woman Is Full of Woe¹

June Sandra Neal

May 1, 2024, will be remembered in Florida as Black Wednesday, when, at the stroke of midnight, Florida's repressive and potentially deadly six-week ban on abortions took effect. Since most women don't even know they are pregnant at that time, thousands of women in this state will be facing enormous crises.

Ironically, that same day, the Arizona Senate voted to repeal its Civil War era law, a near-total abortion ban, which was restored just weeks prior by Arizona's Supreme Court.

Good news, except that the vote was so close. The repeal came with just two Republicans joining 14 Democrats. Now Arizona's women have 15 weeks to get an abortion and women in Florida have six. In both cases, it is untenable.

The health and welfare of half the population of the nation is dependent on a few religious zealots.

Since they got Roe v. Wade eviscerated and thrown to the states, we've heard too many horror stories around the country: women with hoped-for pregnancies forced to carry babies that could not survive to full term—and later found they could have no more children. Women unable to get abortions who nearly [lost their lives](#).

But, the valiant efforts of **Floridians Protecting Freedom**, with help from the ACLU of Florida, Planned Parenthood, Florida Women's Freedom Coalition, Florida Rising, SEIU 1199 Florida, and Women's Voices of Southwest Florida, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that Amendment 4, which would provide a constitutional right to abortions in the state, will be on the ballot in November.

It states: “No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient’s health, as determined by the patient’s healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature’s constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an [abortion](#). “

Please mark these deadlines for voting in Florida:

- Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to UOCAVA voters: September 21, 2024
- Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to domestic voters: September 26, 2024 – October 3, 2024

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), May 2024, page 1.

- Deadline to register to vote: October 7, 2024 (no deadline to change party affiliation)
- Deadline to request that ballot be mailed: October 24, 2024
- Early voting period (mandatory period): October 26 through November 2, 2024
- **Election Day: November 5, 2024**