

**CITY OF OJAI
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 22-51**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI DECLARING THE CITY OF OJAI'S COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM; DECLARING THE CITY OF OJAI A RIGHT-TO-CHOOSE SANCTUARY CITY; AND SUPPORTING CODIFICATION OF THE RIGHT TO AN ABORTION INTO FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

WHEREAS, in 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in *Roe v. Wade* the right to an abortion as a Constitutional right of privacy under the 14th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right to receive an abortion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Clinic* reversed *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, at least one in four women will have an abortion in their reproductive lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, overturning *Roe* will greatly impact marginalized groups who already face barriers accessing abortion care, particularly low-income women and women of color, causing further inequity; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey of abortion patients, 49% are living below the federal poverty line, 59% already have children, and 55% are experiencing a disruptive life event; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of abortion reduced the maternal death rate in Black women by 30-40%; and

WHEREAS, women with access to legal abortions are more likely to finish college, pursue higher education, participate for a longer period in the labor force, achieve higher-paying occupations, and are much less likely to fall into poverty later in life; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of abortion has reduced the number of child abuse and neglect cases, reduced the number of children living in poverty, and reduced the likelihood of living in poverty and receiving public assistance later in life; and

WHEREAS, researchers have estimated with *Roe* overturned roughly 100,000 women will be unable to reach an abortion provider within the first year; and

City of Ojai
City Council Resolution No. 22-51

WHEREAS, according to a 2020 study, women who are denied abortions are more likely to fall into debt, file for bankruptcy, and use social services compared to women of the same socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, with *Roe v. Wade* overturned, roughly 22 states now restrict or will soon enact restrictions on abortions; and

WHEREAS, unsafe abortions are a leading cause of maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, the demand for abortion access will not change in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, making California a destination for individuals seeking care that may be made illegal in their home cities and states; and

WHEREAS, access to reproductive healthcare, including access to abortion, is a human right and essential to the personal autonomy, health, and equality of women; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai can affirm its support and commitment to protecting reproductive rights and freedoms, including family planning and safe access to legal abortion.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ojai resolves that the City of Ojai hereby 1) affirms its commitment to the Constitutional right afforded to all women under *Roe v. Wade* and the Fourteenth Amendment, and to oppose any laws or regulations that pose a threat to reproductive freedom and reproductive rights; 2) declares itself a Right-to-Choose Sanctuary City; and 3) affirms its support for proposed legislation that would make access to a safe abortion a Federal and State Constitutional right and urges the Federal and State governments to take immediate action.

City of Ojai
City Council Resolution No. 22-51

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of August, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Francina, Haney, Stix

NOES: Weirick

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA

By:

Betsy Stix
Betsy Stix, Mayor

August 31, 2022
Date signed

ATTEST:

Gail Davis
Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Matthew T. Summers
Matthew T. Summers, City Attorney