

State Courts

In the wake of *Dobbs*, state courts have more power than ever to expand or deny reproductive freedom to constituencies. Luckily, in NC in November we will have an opportunity to elect pro-choice judges who will stand up for our right to abortion and reproductive autonomy.

What are state courts doing to affect reproductive freedom?

- State Supreme Courts have made critical rulings to protect, restrict, or criminalize abortion access in addition to a number of other issues such as voting rights, sexual violence, gun legislation, and health care.
 - Judges who oppose reproductive freedom have upheld total abortion bans, even in cases of life-threatening pregnancies.
 - Judges who support reproductive freedom have ruled that state constitutions protect the right to an abortion and have shot down restrictions on public funding to reproductive care.

Recent State Court Rulings on Abortion Access

- Protecting Abortion Access
 - In Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court ruled that a law that blocked Medicaid from being used to fund abortions was unconstitutional.
 - In Kansas, the state Supreme Court reaffirmed that the state constitution protected the right to abortion, striking down an existing abortion ban.
- Restricting Abortion Access
 - In Arizona, the state Supreme Court ruled to uphold an 1864 law banning abortion in all cases except to save a woman's life.
 - In Florida, the state Supreme court upheld the right to ban abortions, allowing a six-week ban to take effect.
- All of the judges who made these key decisions **face elections**. These cases are why we can't skip judicial races in November.

Source: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/state-court-abortion-litigation-tracker>

