

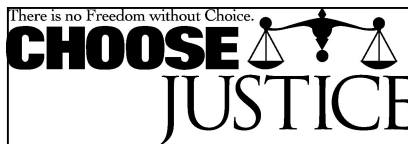


PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF NARAL PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA & NARAL PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA FOUNDATION

Senate confirms John Roberts as Chief Justice *Dayton votes NO, Coleman votes YES*

John Roberts' nomination as Chief Justice of the United States was approved by the U.S. Senate on a 78 to 22 vote on September 29th, 2005.



Though we're deeply disappointed that the Senate – including Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman - supported the nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice we are pleased that the fundamental issues of privacy and women's reproductive freedom were at the forefront of his hearing process.

Moreover, we are extraordinarily proud that in stark contrast to Norm Coleman, Senator Dayton stood up for our fundamental freedoms and opposed John Roberts' nomination to serve as Chief Justice. Senator Dayton's action shows that John Roberts did nothing during his hearings to alleviate pro-choice Minnesotan's fears that he poses a threat to a woman's right to choose.

During his confirmation hearings Roberts' intellectual prowess and rhetorical agility was in ample supply; however, that does not excuse his evasions on basic questions about important constitutional issues. For three days Roberts repeatedly refused to give straight answers about civil rights, including the right to privacy.

While Roberts wanted to give the impression he respected the right to privacy and the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, his answers look dangerously similar to the responses Thomas gave senators during his confirmation hearings 14 years ago. Thomas also gave grandiose remarks about respecting precedent and the right to privacy during his confirmation hearings. One year later, Justice Thomas voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania*. In fact, the far right points to these similarities to assure their supporters that Roberts will follow Thomas' lead in either eviscerating the core principles of *Roe* or overturning the landmark decision altogether. 🗳️

ROBERTS-LED SUPREME COURT TO REVISIT HEALTH EXCEPTION

In a little more than a month, the Supreme Court will hear *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England*, which could severely restrict the protections from *Roe*, if not render *Roe* an empty shell of a decision. In *Ayotte* the Court will reconsider whether laws restricting access to abortion must contain an exception to protect women's health. If they overturn lower courts' decisions, women will lose the constitutional right to terminate pregnancy to protect their own health. Plainly put, the Court will determine whether *Roe's* protections will be eviscerated. 🗳️

Prevention First! *Emergency Contraception*

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has made expanding access to emergency contraception (EC) a central piece of our work and a key component of our *Prevention First* campaigns. We have identified two major areas where access to EC can be improved:

- ◆ In the emergency room for survivors of sexual assault; and
- ◆ At the pharmacy counter for all women to be able to fill legal prescriptions without refusal from pharmacists who try to impose their moral beliefs on patients.

In the Emergency Room

In the 2006 legislative session, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will again work with our allies in the state legislature to introduce "EC in the ER" legislation,

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The mission of **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota** (a 501 c(4) non-profit organization) is to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

The mission of **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation** (a 501 c(3) tax-deductible non-profit organization) is to educate citizens about past, present, and future reproductive health issues. Our educational programs work in the areas of student organizing, research, public education, and leadership development to promote reproductive policies that give women real choices in their lives.

The **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Election Fund** is a state political fund devoted to electing pro-choice candidates to state office.

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Robynne Curlee	<i>Organizing Director</i>
Meghan Kane	<i>Grassroots Organizer</i>
Rachel Nolan	<i>Office Manager</i>
Derek Burrows Reise	<i>Development Director</i>
Tim Stanley	<i>Executive Director</i>

~FIELD CANVASS STAFF~

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Molly Erickson	<i>Canvasser</i>
Missy Golke	<i>Field Manager</i>
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Kari Reinke	<i>Canvasser</i>
Misty Winters	<i>Canvass Director</i>

* The Abortion Provider Expansion Project (APEP) is a collaborative program between the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation and Pro-Choice Resources.



In memory NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota loses member of team

Here at NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota we had the pleasure of working with Christine Maixner during the summer of 2005. During that time we all discovered what a unique and amazing person Christine truly was.

She had an incredible sense of humor and a zest for life rarely seen. She was beautiful and bold and had a bright and generous spirit. Christine's presence would light up a room and she had a way of making people feel instantly comfortable. She was totally dedicated to this movement and her talent for reaching people was uncanny. No matter which Minnesota community we went to, you could count on Christine to effectively organize and mobilize the people, making her one of the most talented activists our movement has seen. Christine was one of our most consistent and effective organizers in our office and was very proud of the work that she did here. We were very proud of her.

Although our time with Christine was short, all of us here feel as though it was a gift and a blessing to have known her. We feel grateful that her last months were spent here with us and that she left this earth fighting for a cause she truly believed in. Christine will be missed always and her presence will never be forgotten. We pray for her family and friends during this difficult time. May she rest in peace. ☠

Christine Maixner passed away on August 19, 2005. She was 35 years old.

Christine with the rest of the canvass staff, NARAL Pro-Choice America president, Nancy Keenan, and NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota executive director, Tim Stanley, last June. (Christine is the upper-most left of the picture.)



New staff join NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota!

Meghan Kane, Grassroots Organizer

I joined the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota team at the beginning of September and am so excited to be a part of this organization! I graduated two years ago from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota after studying Psychology and Women's Studies and volunteering at the Rape Crisis Center there.



Rachel Nolan, Office Manager

In September, I joined the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota team. I am excited to be a part of this amazing organization and wonderful staff. I began my involvement with NARAL with an internship in the spring of 2005. I graduated the University of Minnesota with a BS in Family Social Science. It was while volunteering at the Women's Resource Center that I became passionate about the pro-choice movement.



I am honored to be a part of the NARAL staff. I look forward to working along side the many volunteers to promote the full range of reproductive rights afforded to all women.

After spending the past year as an Americorps VISTA volunteer, I learned first hand about the systematic oppression present in all levels of our society. I am dedicated to fighting for choice and am honored to have been given the position of Grassroots Organizer. I look forward to working with you all!

FDA delays decision on EC—AGAIN!

Still no action on Plan B over-the-counter status

Despite a written promise to Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to issue a decision on over-the-counter status for the "Plan B" emergency contraception by September 1st, the FDA has again stalled. They claim that there remain unresolved issues about the safety of the medication, despite overwhelming recommendation by the FDA's own Advisory Committee on Reproductive Health Drugs and on Nonprescription Drugs to approve EC for over-the-counter status. In delaying their decision, the FDA did not give a

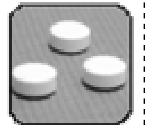
timeline for when they would revisit the issue.

The delay prompted the resignation of Dr. Susan Wood, director of the FDA's Office of Women's Health. She stated that she "can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended for approval by the professional staff here, has been overruled".

Lester Crawford, the Commissioner of the FDA, also resigned recently.

(Continued on page 6)

WHAT IS EC? EDUCATION IS KEY TO ACCESS



There is a lot of misunderstanding about what exactly emergency contraception does. Emergency contraception (EC) is a dosage of ordinary birth control pills that reduce a woman's chance of becoming pregnant by up to 89% when taken within days of unprotected sex. **EC does not cause abortion.**

As we head into the 2006 Legislative Session, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will be working intensively to educate lawmakers and coalition partners about EC: what it is, how it works, why women need access to it, and how expanding access to EC will benefit Minnesota.

With the assistance of two graduate students at the University of Minnesota and a law student of William Mitchell College of Law, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has created a presentation to be used in educating key leaders about why access to EC is critical to ensuring reproductive justice for the women of Minnesota.

(Prevention First! continued from page 1)

which would guarantee that survivors of sexual assault are offered EC as an option to prevent pregnancy when they are treated in the emergency room. We have found through three separate surveys conducted by the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation that approximately 50% of Minnesota ERs do not routinely offer EC to rape survivors; we will work tirelessly to ensure that provision of EC to rape survivors becomes the standard of care in Minnesota.

At the Pharmacy Counter

You may have heard reports in the media recently about women being denied their prescriptions by pharmacists who believe it is their right to impose their own

moral beliefs on women by denying them prescriptions to EC. The fact of the matter is that when pharmacists refuse to fill prescriptions for EC, a woman's right to practice personal responsibility for herself is violated. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has conducted a phone survey of select pharmacies in Minnesota, and found that only 55% of the pharmacies contacted regularly stocked EC. Metro area pharmacies were much more likely to stock EC than rural pharmacies, confirming our suspicion that women in rural areas have less access to EC. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will use this and other research about access to EC in Minnesota pharmacies to help direct us on how to most effectively influence policy to ensure that women can fill their prescriptions.

We've temporarily moved!

Minnesota Women's Building getting re-vamp

For the last five years the Minnesota Women's Building at 550 Rice Street in Saint Paul has been our one and only home. Since August, we've moved out temporarily as the building undergoes a significant renovation. In the meantime, visitors and volunteers can find us at our temporary location in downtown Saint Paul at 413 Wacouta Street (directions on our website: www.prochoiceminnesota.org/p06contactus.shtml). We hope to be back in the fresh, beautiful building within a couple months.

Recently NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota staffers visited the building to check on the status of the renovation and found much had already been done. Pictures on the right! 📷



ABOVE: Building sign recently uncovered on front of the building.

BELOW: The basement conference room (where we have mailing parties) will have nice new carpeting, fresh paint, new lighting, and updated chairs and tables.

BOTTOM: The entry-way of our office will be more bright, open, and inviting.



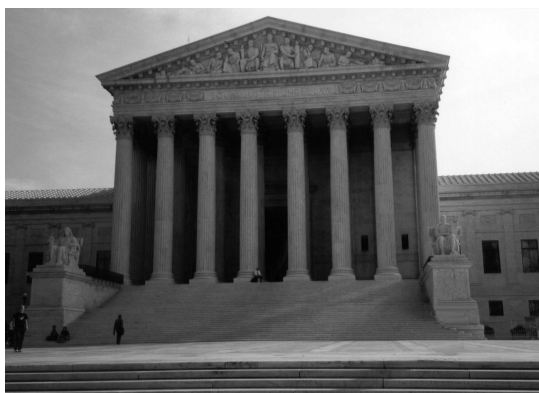
Roberts fills one seat

Battle for Court's swing seat to commence

We all knew the political terrain of the Supreme Court battle would be rough. But we didn't back down from the fight and neither did you. We will always stand up for fundamental American freedoms, including a woman's right to choose. Thanks to you, during the Roberts confirmation process we helped thousands of pro-choice Minnesotans reach their senators, gathered thousands upon thousands of petitions to protect women's reproductive rights and elevated Minnesotans' awareness of the issues at hand more than we ever could have imagined.

Despite Roberts ascension to the High Court for what could be the next 30 years, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will continue to advocate on your behalf. We opposed the John Roberts nomination because it was the right thing to do. We promise to continue building on your efforts as we shift to the next phase of the fight: The vacancy left by Sandra Day O'Connor's retirement.

O'Connor, a judge who always put reason above ideology, is the swing vote on the court. By the time you read this, the fight



for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's seat will likely have been engaged and our resolve will be tested yet again.

As NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota moves forward, our ability to win depends on you. We need to keep up the momentum through the fall, because what we do now helps us build for the next fight. We need each person reading this newsletter to do a gut-check and see what more you can do to help us make politicians respect the will of America's pro-choice majority. Please tell as many pro-choice friends as you can that we cannot afford to back down now. We need you to tell them to stand up now and send a message to all senators that Americans support *Roe v. Wade*. This fight is not over.

Thank you for what you've done so far and for your renewed resolve to do even more as we move forward to the next phase in the fight to protect women's lives. 📷

2005 House Tour & Silent Auction the best yet

Annual signature event in its fourteenth year

On September 14th was our 14th annual House Tour and Silent Auction. The event was held at a beautiful home near Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. Event goers were able to look through the remodeled home and sample some delicious treats from the new catering crew at *JustUs Gourmet*.

The weather was a perfect warm fall day and everyone had

lots of fun. Auction packages ranging from a night on the town, to artwork, to hilarious t-shirts were quickly bid on. We will thank all the generous individuals and businesses that donated to the auction in a future newsletter. We owe a special thanks to our event intern, Erin Parrish, who made everything come together. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event a raging success! 🌟



A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of the House Tour & Silent Auction

Choice Defenders (\$500-999)

Friends of Lisa Goodman
Jennifer Martin
Meadowbrook Women's Clinic
MN Women's Campaign Fund

Guardians (\$250-499)

Robbinsdale Clinic, P.A.
Midwest Health Center for Women

Patrons (\$100-249)

Terrell Brown
The Law Offices of R. Leigh Frost
Luanne Koskinen
Miriam McCreary, M.D.
Bonnie Watkins
Darcee Weber

LEFT: Just outside the picture, executive director Tim Stanley thanks attendees and recognizes public officials attending. Political attendees included Sen. Steve Kelley, Rep. Phyllis Kahn (who also catered), St. Paul School Board member Al Oertwig (all pictured); as well as Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar, Sen. Scott Dibble, Sen. Linda Higgins, Minneapolis City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council candidates Lisa McDonald and Betsy Hodges, and Hennepin County Attorney candidate Andy Luger (not pictured).

BELOW: Silent auction participants check out great packages, from wine, to theatre tickets; and from artwork, to autographed books.



A Culture of Freedom and Responsibility

Framing what it means to be pro-choice

You may have heard President Bush referring to “a culture of life” when talking about abortion. It’s the type of rhetoric that can make it tough to talk about reproductive rights without being defensive. But the pro-choice movement has a message that positively and clearly articulates our pro-choice values. We, as a pro-choice movement, believe in a Culture of Freedom and Responsibility. **Our core values in this culture are Personal Freedom, Personal Decision Making, and Personal Responsibility.**

◆ **Personal Freedom:**

We believe that every American has the right to personal freedom, including the right to choose an abortion. We reject efforts to make abortion more difficult or dangerous to obtain, and we insist on Supreme Court justices who believe that the Constitution affords Americans the right to Personal Freedom.

◆ **Personal Decision Making:**

We believe that the government and politicians should not interfere in our personal lives. We believe that women deserve better family planning services to improve their ability to make the right decision for themselves, and that all women deserve to determine their own health care options.

◆ **Personal Responsibility:**

We believe that women are smart and take responsibility for themselves, and women deserve access to tools that aid in exercising personal responsibility. We believe that access to comprehensive sexuality education, family planning services, and birth control will enable women be personally responsible and reduce STIs, unintended pregnancy, and abortion. ☼

Walk for Justice a success

Join us next year!

For a second year in a row, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota activists, members, staff members, and Board members participated in the Headwater’s Fund Walk for Justice.

The Walk for Justice is an annual event for Twin Cities progressive organizations to raise funds and awareness for their cause.

Thanks to all the walkers and their

sponsors, we had one of the largest contingents out of the over 100 participating organizations. We were able to raise over \$6,000 to support the educational, organizing, and research efforts of the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation.

Please join us next year! The Walk for Justice occurs on the third Sunday of September at Boom Island Park in Minneapolis. ☼



Never let your membership expire... Stop that fundraising mail... *Be a Choice Marathoner*

Return the attached envelope today to become a **Choice Marathoner**. *Choice Marathoners* help assure us raise the resources we need to protect women’s lives. *Choice Marathoners* give a small gift every month or quarterly, deducted from their credit card or bank account, and they never have to write a check.

Choice Marathoners know that as long as they’re in the program,

they’ll never receive fundraising mail from us. Some are *Choice Marathoners* because they want to make a gift to support Choice, but need to spread the payments out over a full year. Others are *Choice Marathoners* because they live too far away to volunteer.



Choice Marathoners carry the torch in preserving women’s private medical decisions. To join, visit www.prochoiceminnesota.org or check the box marked *Choice Marathoner* on the envelope attached to this newsletter.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to be a *Choice Marathoner* over the phone, contact Rachel at 651-602-7655 or info@prochoiceminnesota.org. ☼

WISH LIST

We need the following items! If you have them around, please consider making a donation. Contact 651-602-7655 or info@prochoiceminnesota.org.

- ◆ Computer screen projector
- ◆ Mini-fridge
- ◆ Laser printer (less than 3 yrs old)
- ◆ Oversized envelopes
- ◆ Folders
- ◆ Glue sticks, highlighters, markers, and pens
- ◆ VCR and/or DVD player
- ◆ Hospitality items: snacks, pop, bottled water, etc.



NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

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IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

↓ Check your address label and renew today with the enclosed envelope!

If you ARE up-to-date: **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR!** Make sure you are always current. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to sign up for the **Choice Marathoner** program for monthly or quarterly gifts—and stop that fundraising mail!

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Walkers from the 2005 Headwaters Fund Walk for Justice on September 18th. The Walk took place on a sunny and warm Sunday afternoon through the Mississippi in Minneapolis. Pictures courtesy of Jessica Jerney.



Pro-choicers Walk for Justice
September 18, 2005