

OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



2024 IMPACT REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 A Message from the Executive Director
- 2 Celebrations
- 5 Member Assistance Program
- 8 Campaigns
- 12 Reproductive Justice Table
- 13 Back-to-School Drive
- 14 Notable Collaborations
- 15 Fundraising Snapshot
- 16 Media Highlights



FROM FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RHIANNON CARNES

Dear Friends,

I am proud to bring you our 2024 Impact Report, which highlights the hard work we accomplished last year as we continue to build power and fight for Reproductive Justice across Ohio and the nation.

After passing the Reproductive Freedom Amendment in 2023, our primary goal last year was to support the legal battles necessary to implement the amendment, including filing an amicus brief to end Ohio's mandated 24-hour waiting period to receive abortion care. During the first half of 2024 we collected testimony from our clients and volunteers to illustrate the undue burden of the waiting period, which can force patients to wait weeks before receiving care. I am thrilled to share that a temporary injunction has been issued against the waiting period, with OWA testimony cited as one of the deciding factors.

In addition to this victory, 2024 also brought:

- the celebration of OWA's fifth anniversary,
- the first full year of Member Assistance Program services,
- deep relational organizing to get out the vote and expand our membership base,
- our fourth annual Back to School Drive, and much more!

While 2024 did not bring the electoral results we had hoped, we have been here before, and our vision remains strong and steadfast: We will continue to center and serve Ohio's BIPOC communities, standing in our power and fighting for self-determination. No matter how the political conditions try to tear us down, we push back in the face of adversity, leading with the hope and perseverance that have carried us for generations.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us, and for always supporting Black and Brown leaders on the front lines in the fight for Reproductive Justice!



Ohio Women's Alliance amicus brief leads to pause of Ohio's mandated 24-hour waiting period

On July 11, Ohio Women's Alliance filed an amicus brief supporting the lawsuit against Ohio's mandated waiting period brought by abortion providers, the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU Ohio, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Less than two months later, a judge issued a temporary injunction, which immediately allowed clinics to begin providing same-day treatment to patients.

"We file this amicus brief today on behalf of every Ohioan who has faced unnecessary hardship because of restrictions on the care that is promised to us in the Ohio Constitution through the Reproductive Freedom Amendment," says Ohio Women's Alliance **Founder & Executive Director Rhianon Carnes**. "We launched the Member Assistance Program to make sure our community has the critical support they need as they access essential reproductive healthcare. The 24-hour waiting period, coupled with the shortage of clinic appointments, is the result of ongoing unconstitutional attacks on reproductive freedom, making it impossible for every Ohioan to get the care they need. We are fighting for an Ohio where all people can thrive, and lifting restrictions like this is crucial to a brighter future where our bodily autonomy is respected, not discarded."

In addition to forcing patients to have two appointments to obtain care, the waiting period also required clinics to provide stigmatizing anti-abortion propaganda.

Ohio's 24-hour waiting period abortion law paused by judge

BY: SUSAN TEBBEN - AUGUST 26, 2024 4:45 AM



(Getty Images)

Included in the amicus was testimony from over 20 clients and volunteers from OWA's Member Assistance Program, who outlined how unnecessary and burdensome the waiting period is for clients, who already face hardship in order to access care at one of Ohio's only nine abortion clinics. The law especially impacts clients who need to travel for care and often don't have the resources for travel, lodging, and childcare for one appointment, let alone two.

Discovery in the case will continue through May 2025. Scan the QR code to stay tuned on the status of the case!



OWA Celebrates 5 Years!



On August 1, **nearly 100 OWA members and supporters** gathered at The Gogo in Columbus to mark OWA's 5th anniversary with fellowship, games, dancing, and more. In her remarks, OWA Founder & Executive Director Rhiannon Carnes thanked supporters for believing in her vision: "When we founded Ohio Women's Alliance, we did so to fill the gaps in leadership development among Black women, people of color, and gender-expansive people across Ohio, which is why it's so important to us to invest in new and existing leaders through a Reproductive Justice lens that prioritizes those of us who have been historically marginalized." Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate all that has been and the many good things to come for Ohio Women's Alliance and OWA Action Fund!



Rhiannon Carnes Honored by Ms. Foundation and theGrio

On May 14, Ohio Women's Alliance **Founder & Executive Director Rhiannon Carnes** was honored by the Ms. Foundation at their 2024 *Women of Vision Awards: Seeding Solidarity & Sisterhood!* Joined by her family, OWA's senior leadership team, and hundreds of feminist leaders from across the country, Rhiannon was recognized and celebrated for her work as a leader in the fight to pass Ohio's Reproductive Freedom Amendment. Fellow awardees included Jamarah Amani, Executive Director of Southern Birth Justice Network; Culture House leaders Raeshem Nijhon, Carri Twigg, and Nicole Galovsky; civil rights and social justice advocate Lateefah Simon; and youth activist and Gold Award Girl Scout Sophia Madrigal.



In June, Rhiannon was also named one of the 2024 Grio Heroes who were celebrated during theGrio's annual live Juneteenth Celebration!



View Rhiannon's Grio Heroes feature at minute 7:24!



Member Assistance Program

Serves **over 900 clients**

Established in April of 2023, 2024 was the first full year of the Member Assistance Program, which provides support to people who need abortion care in the form of transportation, lodging, childcare, lost wages, and more. Clinics report that 30% of abortion appointments are missed; when practical support is provided, only 2% of appointments are missed. Let's take a look at the 2024 impact of the Member Assistance Program:



909
requests for support

\$78,848

in direct funding to support clients (stipends for childcare, travel, meals, lost wages)

\$67,490

in indirect funding to support clients (hotels, volunteer reimbursements, rideshares, flights, interpretation)

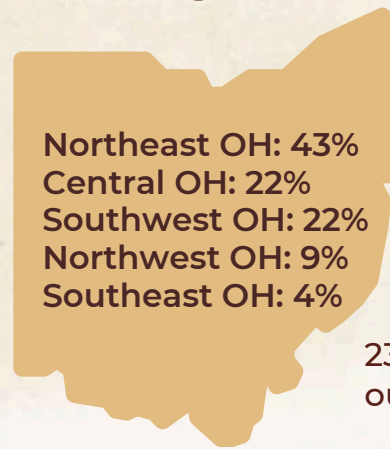


28,066
miles driven



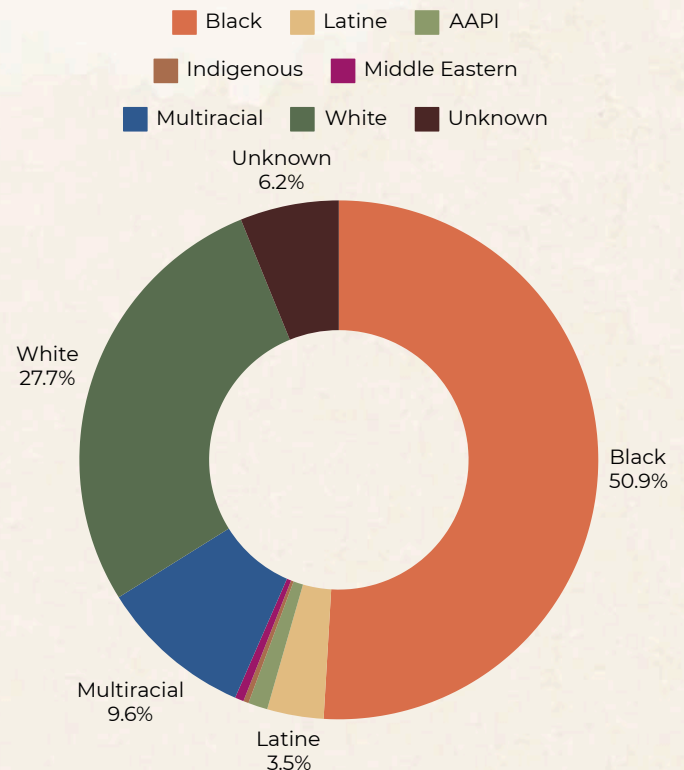
374
nights of lodging

Client Geographic Demographics



23% of clients live outside of Ohio

Client Racial Demographics



Member Assistance Program

2024 MAP Highlights

- The MAP volunteer corps grew to over 90 people located across Ohio and in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, and Washington, DC.

Volunteers overwhelmingly provide positive feedback about their experiences providing support for MAP clients.



- **MAP staff, volunteers, and clients submitted written testimony for an amicus brief submitted by Ohio Women's Alliance in support of the plaintiffs in *Preterm v. Yost*.** The testimonies described the emotional distress and financial difficulty created by a state law requiring all abortion seekers to endure a minimum 24-hour waiting period for abortion care; this law effectively required all patients to have at least two appointments at a clinic, which, due to clinic and patient schedules, could in fact be several days or even weeks apart and were not medically necessary.
 - **On August 23, 2024, a Franklin County judge enjoined the state from enforcing its 24-hour waiting period** (along with some other restrictions) for abortion care. Ohio clinics began seeing most patients for one-day visits.
- **MAP developed stronger relationships with out-of-state clinics providing later abortion care**, such as the DuPont Clinic, and practical support organizations that assist clients with long-distance travel, including the Brigid Alliance and Elevated Access. These partnerships enabled us to better serve clients by providing us with logistical and financial support for expensive travel needs like flights and hotels.
- **OWA team members Myia Rucker and Colleen Damerell welcomed the first MAP intern, Izzy Bryer, a bachelor of social work student at OSU.** Under Myia and Colleen's supervision, Izzy has quickly learned the ropes of MAP case management and has been an asset to the program, a kind and punctual coordinator for clients, and a whiz at data entry!

2024 Client Reflections

"MAP literally did every single thing well. I was treated with care and dignity that went above and beyond my expectations."

"You made the stress of this situation easier to cope with and made me feel less alone. My anxiety was so high; until I met your organization I couldn't function. It couldn't have happened without out your help, and I hate to think of that outcome. Thank you."

"The expertise and kindness shown to us , your willingness to go the extra mile to help my family is invaluable. I felt like we had an actual team of caring, talented people standing in our corner on one of our hardest days. I can't express how grateful and appreciative we are.. You guys did everything well- you made everything easier. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you. This has been a difficult time for my daughter. It's felt chaotic in some ways uncertain. Your organization has taken some of that off of my plate and allowed me to focus that energy on supporting my daughter with a clear head and open heart. I've felt compassionate via text which isn't an easy task. Knowing that someone is thinking of us and checking in means more than I can express."

"This experience has helped me a lot. If it wasn't for MAP I would have not gotten what I thought was best for me."

"The overall service was excellent all around. I was kinda stressing...after my first appointment, but after I was put in contact with MAP, it made things a lot easier to move forward with my decision."

"I'm so thankful grateful to have found them...I can't think of one thing they didn't do for me from checking on me to feeding me, childcare, travel, and the level of emotional and mental support...I was having a rough time being afraid of the procedure itself, but knew it was the only option that would be good for me and my kids. Having another child was not an option whatsoever...Even after hours Colleen made sure to be there every step if I needed to talk. I don't even have anyone around me who provided that level of support on every level...THANK YOU AGAIN!!"

Thank you to our incredible network of MAP Volunteers who support our clients each day!

2024 Campaigns

Our 2024 campaigns were focused on deep relational organizing within our communities with the goal of understanding both voter apathy and the issues most significantly impacting Ohio's Black and Brown communities.

Over the summer, our canvasser conversations were focused on:

- deep listening about barriers to Reproductive Justice faced by Ohio communities
- destigmatizing abortion
- educating voters about the Ohio Supreme Court's role in implementing the Reproductive Freedom Amendment

While our summer canvassers were out in the field at festivals and community events, we ran message testing to determine the most effective ways to reach our base in the lead-up to the November election.

While the election did not yield the results we hoped for, as the pages that follow demonstrate, Ohio Women's Alliance and OWA Action Fund were still able to reach over 3.7 million Ohioans through our digital campaigns and voter outreach programs.

Since our founding in 2019, OWA has never measured our success through electoral outcomes alone. The deep relational organizing we conduct aims to empower our communities to be civically engaged year-round, the results of which will ripple across Ohio for many years to come as we continue fighting for liberation.



2024 Digital Campaigns

As an organization with only five years under our belt, in 2024, we were proud to invest in two large-scale digital campaigns focused on persuading Ohioans to sign on as “Reproductive Justice Voters” (Ohio Women’s Alliance) and to vote for the Democratic slates of Ohio Supreme Court candidates (OWA Action Fund) to protect abortion access. While Ohio and the nation experienced significant electoral losses last year, the hard work of our canvassers along with these digital campaigns planted seeds that will bear fruit in primary and general elections for many years to come.



View our 2024 OWA digital campaign video



5.2 million+ impressions



1 million+ people reached



4,210 clicks

View our 2024 OWA Action Fund digital campaign video



5.8 million+ impressions



2.7 million+ people reached



2,248 clicks

2024 Canvasser Campaigns

OWA Action Fund Spring Campaign



17

canvassers (15 BIPOC)



27,629

phone calls

Goals: Voter education; voter turnout; persuasion for Ohio Supreme Court Candidate Judge Teri Jamison

OWA Summer Campaign



6

canvassers (4 BIPOC)



492

site-based conversations



5,151

phone calls

Goals: Bust stigma around Reproductive Justice; determine which RJ pillar resonates most with our base in preparation for fall campaign season

OWA Action Fund Fall Campaigns

Phone Program



17

canvassers (15 BIPOC)



344,973

phone calls

Goals: Voter education; voter turnout; persuasion for Democratic slate of Ohio Supreme Court candidates

Door Program



3

canvassers (all BIPOC)



3,477

doors knocked

Goals: Voter education; voter turnout; persuasion for Vice President Kamala Harris' Presidential run



OWA Action Fund 2024 Door Canvassers

Canvasser Reflections

“My most meaningful experience was with a young lady that learned that voting for your senator's and judges is just as important as voting for your President.”

“I spoke with a woman who was happy to hear what we are doing and loved how we're trying to educate people that their voice most certainly matters. It made me feel amazing. That's why I love working with OWA, it gives me an opportunity to do something good for others with my life.”

“I had several great, meaningful conversations with people. My favorite was actually with someone who was not the person on the call list, but it was their mother. The person was away at college and had put their mom's records down. However, she asked me what I wanted to share so she could get the message to her daughter. I ran through the gist of the script with her and she was so proud to tell me that she was very passionate about all of these things, she had already made sure her daughter had registered to vote, and that they had talked about all of these issues (and more) + how important it was to be an informed and active voter. As a mother of a 16 year old daughter, it was nice to connect with someone similar to me (worried about the world their child is being handed, trying to raise an informed voter, etc.). I felt a little spark of hope.”

Planting Justice Campaign Event

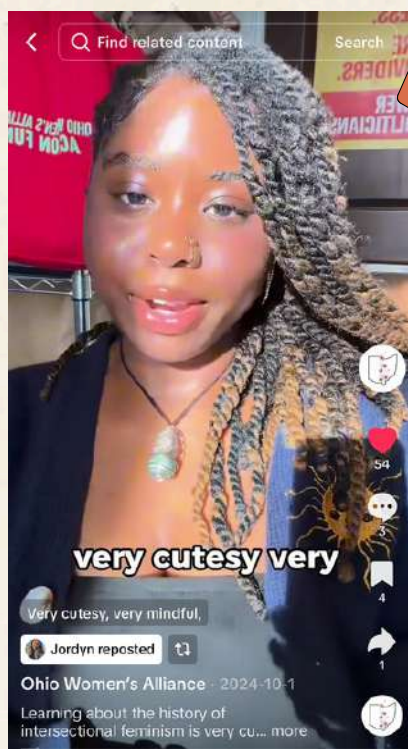
During campaign season, OWA Action Fund partnered with [Abortion Forward](#) and [People's Justice Project](#) to host a planting party at [Seventh Son Brewing](#) in Columbus. Over 40 guests gathered to learn more about the importance of electing Ohio Supreme Court candidates who would protect abortion access. Participants also practiced some self care with by creating planters donated by [The Brass Hand!](#)



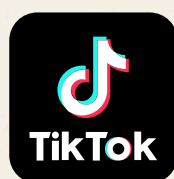
2024 Reproductive Justice Table



The Ohio Women's Alliance Reproductive Justice Table is a space explicitly dedicated to helping young women and gender-expansive people in Ohio identify, innovate, and launch their own ideas while being supported by experienced leaders in the Reproductive Justice movement. From April through December, the third annual cohort of fellows engaged in trainings on relational organizing, collective strategy, enhancing advocacy campaigns, transformative justice, and wellness practices for movement leaders. Their fellowship culminated with a digital campaign



Visit our TikTok page to check out the 2024 RJ Table digital campaign!



Thank you to our partners that hosted skill-building workshops for this year's cohort!

- [Relational Uprising](#)
- [Rank the Vote Ohio](#)
- [Collaborative for Sexual Health Equity & Learning \(CSHEL\)](#)
- [People's Justice Project \(PJP\)](#)
- [Black Voters Matter](#)
- [Reale Justice Network](#)

OHIO RISING



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK & SUPPLY DRIVE

On Saturday, August 3, we hosted our 4th annual Back-to-School Drive at Saunders Park in the Mount Vernon neighborhood in the Northeast corner of Columbus, where over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to families, with an additional 230 backpacks that were distributed to our partners at Star House; Justice, Unity, and Social Transformation (JUST); and Just Choice.

Neighborhood kids enjoyed a bounce house, snow cones, and a giant chess game while their parents learned more about how to get more involved with OWA and our partners! This was our first year hosting the drive in Mt. Vernon, and we were happy to expand our reach to build new relationships, provide tools and resources to Columbus families, and introduce them to Ohio Women's Alliance and the work that we do through our Ohio Rising youth empowerment programming.

Ohio Rising is integral to our mission to build a powerful, sustainable movement for Reproductive Justice in Ohio. RJ includes the right to live in safe, sustainable, healthy communities, which means:

- families and youth have the resources they need
- families and youth have access to the knowledge and tools to be civically engaged, empowering us to make lasting change in our communities, and
- children learn about Reproductive Justice, bodily autonomy, and how to step into their power as young leaders



Thank you to our 2024 Back-to-School Drive sponsors, New Voices for Reproductive Justice and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, along with our partners ABC Black Iconic Figures, Columbus Parks & Recreation, Just614, JustChoice, People's Justice Project, Royal Oak Initiative, and Star House!



330
backpacks filled with
school supplies
distributed to
Columbus families!

2024 Notable Collaborations



In February, OWA Staff joined hundreds of Black leaders at the [Movement for Black Lives Conference](#) in Atlanta.



In March, Rhiannon Carnes was the keynote speaker at the [University of Cincinnati's Black Feminist Symposium](#).



In May, OWA Staff facilitated a Reproductive Justice roundtable as part of [YWCA Columbus'](#) annual Racial Justice Challenge.



In October, OWA Action Fund hosted an Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse with [ACLU Ohio](#), [Equality Ohio](#), [New Voices for Reproductive Justice](#), [Ohio Youth Alliance](#), [Survivors Not Victims](#), [Trans Allies of Ohio](#), and [URGE Ohio](#).



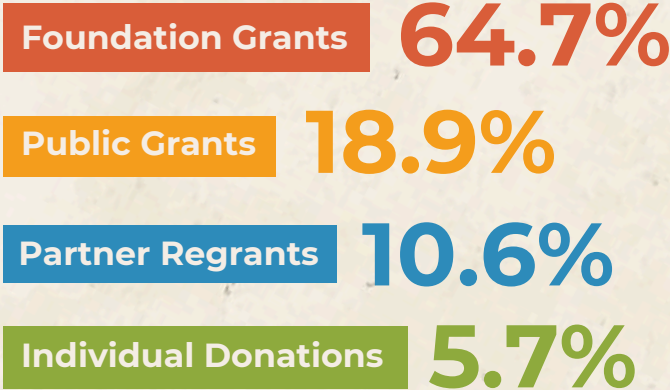
In October, Rhiannon Carnes joined former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown on the keynote panel at [YWCA Columbus'](#) annual [Activists & Agitators](#) event.



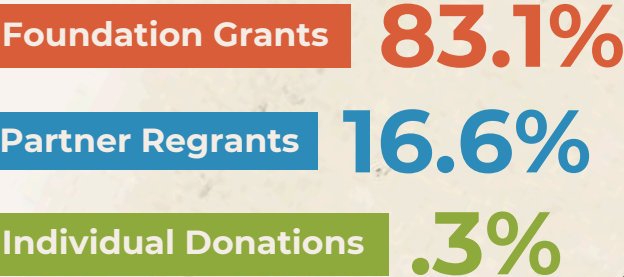
In November, Deputy Director Jordyn Close was a guest panelist on [Charting the Course: Advancing Our Advocacy Post-Election](#), a event hosted by the [Ms. Foundation](#) and [RoadMap](#).

2024 Fundraising & Financial Snapshot

2024 Ohio Women’s Alliance Income: \$1,372,629.00



2024 OWA Action Fund Income: \$562,405.01



*Review OWA’s 2023
voluntary audit
review.*

Note that annual income figures reflect a multi-year, restricted funds release schedule. Additionally, in 2024, OWA engaged Stefanek Regalbuto CPAs & Business Advisors to complete an independent, [voluntary audit review of the organization's 2023 financial statements](#), which are linked for review. OWA is committed to conducting a voluntary audit review each fiscal year moving forward, provided the organization has the resources to do so. Each annual Impact Report will include the previous year's audit review of financial statements in addition to an overview of the current year's fundraising efforts.

The work we were able to accomplish in 2024 could not have been possible without the generosity of so many. **Thank you for your support!**

2024 Media Highlights

OHIO CAPITAL JOURNAL

Affidavits seek to spell out hardships from Ohio's 24-hour abortion waiting period

by Susan Tebben

Double the costs, double the travel, double the child care. Those were the stories of some who struggled to receive abortion care because of Ohio's 24-hour waiting period and two-visit mandates, according to a new court brief in a lawsuit attempting to eliminate the regulations.

The Ohio Women's Alliance submitted a "friends of the court" brief in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas case, including affidavits from clients and OWA volunteers who have helped individuals access reproductive care through the group's Member Assistance Program (MAP).

"Ohio's 24-hour waiting period, forced second clinic visit, and state-mandated informational and biased counseling requirements continue to pose significant barriers for Ohio women and MAP clients seeking necessary reproductive care," wrote Columbus attorney Jeffrey A. Ruppert, on behalf of the OWA.

The lawsuit is among several attempting to roll back existing regulations in state law regarding abortion services.

To further the argument that the 24-hour waiting period and required two visits cause undue delays to care, individual stories were a part of the brief, including Kristen in West Virginia, who drove nearly five hours to Cleveland for care. She wrote that she was "immediately sent into a panic" when she found out state law mandated two visits.

"I didn't understand the purpose of it, what it changed looking back, or how it helped," she wrote in her affidavit. "All I know was that with three children already and a full-time job, I didn't see how getting the medical procedure I needed was possible."

A breast cancer patient who wrote that "continuing

the pregnancy would have probably cost me my life" had to travel 400 miles to receive care in Dayton, and in total, it took 24 days before they were able to receive treatment.

"Because there are so few clinics in Ohio that provide these resources, some people are forced to drive hours to find a clinic to get care," the person, identified in the affidavit as "AT" wrote.

There are only nine clinics who provide abortions currently operational in Ohio.

Other patients included in the brief talked about losing income and paying more for child care because of the mandatory waiting period, and Ohio clinics were "further overwhelmed" with patients coming from states with stricter bans.

A patient named Imani did the opposite, telling the court she left Ohio because of the waiting period, incurring higher costs because the requirements in state law "proved insurmountable."

There were also accounts of those who were delayed past the 22-week gestational limit for abortions in the state because of "multi-week gaps between appointments caused by the 24-hour rule," the OWA said in its brief.

"For someone with means, the barriers brought on by a 24-hour waiting period could potentially be manageable, but for an unhoused single parent living in a shelter two hours from the nearest abortion provider, these additional barriers can mean the difference between receiving the care she needs or being forced to remain pregnant against her will in an already incredibly challenging life situation," a Cincinnati attorney and MAP volunteer identified as Rebecca wrote in her affidavit.



2024 Media Highlights cont'd

The OWA also cited a study done by the [Ohio Policy Evaluation Network](#) which concluded that between 2014 and 2018, a mere 6% of patients were able to obtain an abortion within 24 hours of their first appointment, and that the requirements in state law were drivers for the delays.

Now that the Ohio Constitution includes abortion care as part of the reproductive rights approved by 57% of voters last November, the OWA said that amendment “requires this court to take a hard look at any law that burdens Ohioans’ individual and fundamental right to abortion.”

“The challenged requirements and their real-world impact substantially interfere with Ohioans’ reproductive freedom without any valid medical justification,” the OWA wrote.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost [has already pushed back](#) against arguments that the 24-hour waiting period is the reason care is not being received by some. He argued that it was not state mandates that were holding up care, but the delay “rather is attributable to several factors outside of the state’s control,” according to court documents in the case.

teenVOGUE

What Black Women Activists Want You to Know About Organizing for Reproductive Justice by Atima Omara [Read the article](#)

...The team behind the recent abortion rights win in Ohio deployed a similar strategy. The Ohio Women’s Alliance (OWA), always a Black-led reproductive justice organization, took the lead on voter of color outreach for the Ohioans United for Reproductive Freedom ballot coalition. “We were the largest field program out of the entire repro coalition,” said Jordyn Close, deputy director of OWA, on reaching out to scores of Black and brown women, nonbinary, and queer folks across the state, Close said. Close, an abortion storyteller herself, facilitated recruitment of her fellow Black and brown abortion storytellers to be featured in the coalition’s ad campaigns, and all the work seemed to pay off: Exit polls showed that 60% of female voters, 83% of Black voters, and 77% of voters under 30 voted yes on the issue...

...“The legal access to abortion does not make it a reality for everyone,” said Close. “So, make sure to consistently support organizations that are doing practical support and abortion funding. We’re seeing an increase in client requests and client needs, and we’re also seeing a decrease in funding and donations.”...

rewire news group

What Happens After Abortion Wins at the Polls? by Garnet Henderson [Read the article](#)

...Ohio is the most recent state to have passed an affirmative abortion-related ballot measure. In 2023, [more than 56 percent](#) of voters approved a constitutional amendment protecting the right to abortion until the point of fetal viability, a medically variable point that is generally thought to occur between 24 and 26 weeks of pregnancy.

It was a hard-won victory, said Jordyn Close, deputy director of Ohio Women’s Alliance and board president of Abortion Fund of Ohio. Following the strong pro-abortion rights showings in 2022, conservative lawmakers in Ohio were determined to block a similar result in their state. They mounted a special election in August 2023 in which voters were asked to weigh in on a measure that would have made it more difficult to change the state’s constitution.



2024 Media Highlights cont'd

That August measure, which was unsuccessful, was known as “Issue 1.” So was the abortion rights amendment that was on the ballot in November.

“We had to run a ‘Vote No on Issue 1’ campaign for the August special election and then immediately turn around and tell everyone to ‘Vote Yes on 1’ in November,” Close said. But Ohio voters showed up to support abortion rights—and they did it with a Republican trifecta in control of their state legislature and in the governor’s office, making Ohio the only state to have passed an affirmative measure with a Republican-controlled state government.

Many Republican lawmakers immediately expressed a desire to undermine Issue 1. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost acknowledged that the state’s six-week abortion ban—which was then blocked by court order—couldn’t be enforced, but said his office would continue to enforce the rest of the state’s numerous abortion restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period, a 22-week ban, and TRAP laws...

...But advocates want Ohio voters to stay tuned, because this November, they have the opportunity to flip their state’s supreme court—the very court that will make the final rulings on whether abortion restrictions stay or go.

“So many people don’t even know that there is a state supreme court,” Close said. “Even just getting over that barrier, let alone trying to make people understand which judges will be more values-aligned—because judges are expected to be unbiased—there are just so many barriers to the general population, the average Ohioan, feeling well-informed.”

“In addition to that, especially this year, with everything that’s happening at the top of the ticket, there is a very deep sense of voter apathy, which is completely understandable,” Close added. “There’s a genocide going on ... and abortion funds can’t support people in the same way that we have.”

To counter the inherently “extractive” nature of electoral work, Close said Ohio Women’s Alliance works to be a presence in the community at all times—not just when an election is coming up.

“It is really upsetting to me to think about going into particularly Black and brown communities, and asking them to vote without showing up for things that they need,” she said. “So we really prioritize ... making sure that we’re building partnerships with other direct service resources so that we can be a political home for people to get the things that they need, so that they do feel empowered to be more civically engaged.”

State-level ballot initiatives have already been controversial within the movement because several protect abortion rights only until the ill-defined point of fetal viability. Many advocates say this leaves some of the most vulnerable abortion seekers unprotected, and dooms the reproductive rights movement to repeat its past mistakes.

In Ohio, for example, reproductive justice groups like Ohio Women’s Alliance didn’t want to see a viability ban enshrined into the state constitution, but they ended up campaigning for the measure anyway. “We experienced an Ohio that did not have access,” Close said. “Our six-week ban was in effect for 82 days, and it was absolutely terrible. We very clearly saw what would happen if we did not have any level of protection, and so I think that changed the narrative for us.”

A ban on abortion at any point in pregnancy is still a ban, Close said. But shifting the broader movement’s priorities in line with that value would require culture change work within and outside the movement.

“I’ve seen a lot of the heat being turned on organizers that are just trying to make things better in their states that are faced with the choice of telling people that they have to continue their pregnancies or campaigning to make their state 50 percent better,” Close said. “I think that the focus on the viability clauses is pointed at the wrong group of people. In my opinion, it speaks to a need for electoral campaign reform.”

Thank you for reading our 2024 Impact Report!