

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is RTLACO?

A. The Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio is an association of prolife organizations which collaborate on advocacy for the right to life in law and public policy. We engage at the federal, state, and local levels. We are officially a 501(c)(4) organization, i.e., we are recognized as a non-profit but donations to us are not tax-deductible to the donor.

Q. Who are our member organizations?

A. RTLACO currently has about 28 member organizations throughout the state of Ohio. Some of our more prominent members are:

- Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati**
- Cleveland Right to Life**
- Dayton Right to Life Society**
- Greater Toledo Right to Life**
- Created Equal**
- Mission America**

Q. What is the relationship between RTLACO and our member organizations?

A. Member organizations retain complete autonomy over their policies, finances, and programs. RTLACO is managed by a board of directors whose members are provided by our member organizations. RTLACO typically takes the lead on engagement with Ohio and federal public officials and advocacy for or against proposed laws and policies. Our members include both 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.

Q. What does RTLACO consist of?

A. RTLACO consists of a board of directors (currently 17 members), from which a six-person executive committee manages day-to-day affairs. We are an entirely voluntary organization – we have no paid staff and no permanent office space. Our board members and other volunteers work from their homes and/or the member organizations with which they are affiliated.

Q. What are the primary advocacy functions of RTLACO?

A. We have three primary functions:

- (1) Identifying and endorsing prolife candidates for elective office.**
- (2) Engaging with legislators to enact prolife laws.**
- (3) Engaging with relevant executive branch agencies (e.g., the Ohio Department of Health) to monitor enforcement of existing laws and policies.**

Q. What is our endorsement policy for candidates?

A. Candidates must truly earn our endorsement, both by their prior record and through the completion of a comprehensive survey. They must be in fundamental agreement with our [RTLACO policy document](https://www.rtlaohio.org/files/ugd/fe2a3a_bf48ce921446453081cd49e0a2ae2033.pdf) [hot link to https://www.rtlaohio.org/files/ugd/fe2a3a_bf48ce921446453081cd49e0a2ae2033.pdf] We do not endorse candidates simply because of their party affiliation and we do not feel obligated to endorse a candidate in every race. In short, we have great confidence that those candidates who do receive our endorsement are firmly committed to the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

Q. Are member organizations required to support all advocacy positions, including the legislative agenda, of RTLACO?

A. – No, that is the benefit of a coalition. As independent organizations, our members can support, or not support, any specific bill or policy. However, because our members helped to set our legislative agenda and actively influenced the final consensus position, they can respect the process even though they may not fully agree with the RTLACO final position. Obviously, we do not expect members to be *opposing* our endorsed position.

Q. How is RTLACO funded?

A. Like other non-profits, the bulk of our revenue comes from donations from individuals and organizations, to include in-kind contributions. We also receive annual dues from our member organizations, which are nominal.

Q. What is the relationship between RTLACO and Ohio Right to Life (ORTL)?

A. RTLACO was formed in 2017 largely from prolife organizations which were formerly chapters of Ohio Right to Life, who wanted to pursue a more aggressive strategy of advocacy. Although there is no formal relationship between RTLACO and ORTL, we are happy to work with any other right to life organization and we recognize the importance of unity and consensus among prolife groups if we expect to achieve our right to life goals. Some of our member organizations remain chapters of Ohio Right to Life and some are not.

Q. How has the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision of June 2022 impacted the legal right to life in Ohio?

A. The *Dobbs* decision held as follows: “The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.” Thus, in the absence of any federal law governing abortion, Ohio law now solely determines the legality and availability of abortion. This places a new importance on the Ohio court system, in particular the Ohio Supreme Court. While the legislature has recently passed – and the governor signed – a number of prolife bills, most of them remain stalled in the courts. The most notable of these is the so-called Heartbeat Law (SB 23). Even with favorable court rulings on these laws, the optimal solution to banning abortion in Ohio is a constitutional amendment.