

'40 Days for Life' Begins Campaign in Sheboygan

SHEBOYGAN — The Sheboygan County "40 Days for Life" campaign begins on Wed., Sept. 24, and runs through Sun., Nov. 2.

Each day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. volunteers will stand on the sidewalk at the southeast corner of S. Taylor Dr. and New Jersey Ave. in Sheboygan (outside the Planned Parenthood headquarters).

Sunday's rally at the Knights of Columbus Hall included a discussion about recent legislative actions and judicial rulings about abortion and what they mean.

The speaker was Jake Curtis of Grafton, general counsel for Wisconsin's Institute for Reforming Government.

IRG states its mission as "to simplify government at every level by offering policy solutions to thought leaders in American government in the areas of tax reform, government inefficiency, and burdensome regulations."

Curtis said that while IRG does not work specifically on pro-life issues, he was happy to describe the legislative actions and court decisions that have shaped the status of abortion in Wisconsin today.

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion and returned the authority to regulate or ban abortion to individual states.

"The Dobbs decision kicked the issue back to the states," said Curtis. "We in Wisconsin still had a statute on the books."

In Wisconsin abortion was not unavailable for 15 months (June 2022 to September 2023).

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit to challenge the state's 1849 abortion ban. His lawsuit argued that more recent, detailed abortion restrictions enacted over the past 50 years effectively repealed the



Jake Curtis

older ban.

In 2023, a Dane County Circuit Court judge sided with the argument that the 1849 law prohibited feticide, not necessarily all consensual abortions, allowing the lawsuit to continue.

On July 2, 2025 the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the old state law that criminalized almost all abortions.

Curtis said the constant references to an "1849 law" was a clever tactic by opponents. "There are a lot of laws from 1849 that we still enforce," he continued. "I think it's a horrible decision, not only for its outcome."

He quoted from the dissent written by Supreme Court Justice Brian Hagedorn: "The Wisconsin Constitution vests the lawmaking power of the people in

the state legislature. But today, the Wisconsin Supreme Court effectively deletes a law from the books, taking this power unto itself. This is pure policymaking, driven by antagonism toward a law the majority does not like."

Abortions are now provided by Planned Parenthood in Milwaukee, Madison and Sheboygan.

Wisconsin still has restrictions, such as a 2015 state law that prohibits most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Wisconsin also bans telehealth appointments for "medication abortions" by mandating that a physician be physically present in the same room as the patient to observe that person taking the medication.

Wisconsin also imposes a 24-hour waiting period for abortions by requiring the patient to get in-person counseling from a physician at least one full day before the abortion takes place. And the state requires a woman to get an ultrasound 24 hours before obtaining an abortion.

Twelve states have banned abortions. Seven have bans during the first 18 weeks of pregnancy, and 22 (including Wisconsin) have bans after the first 18 weeks.

Nine states and the District of Columbia have no bans in effect.

Could abortion be banned in Wisconsin? "There is not wide support for a total prohibition in this state," Curtis said. "There is no easy solution here. We would need more public education before having a statewide referendum. We have to be realistic."

Curtis said there are hopeful signs. "Wisconsin has a very robust center right movement," he stated. "We do have really good groups that do have funding."

He mentioned the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL), which focuses on individual liberty, the rule of law, and constitutional government.

"We pray for an end to abortion," said Sheboygan 40 Days for Life organizer Germaine Souik. "We ask God to put an end to abortion by changing hearts and minds to value the sanctity of life from conception. Every abortion ends a human life."

"We pray for vulnerable expectant mothers and fathers, and for healing for those who regret prior abortions. We look for opportunities to tell others of the life affirming, compassionate care offered at Anchor of Hope just across S. Taylor Dr. from Planned Parenthood," she continued.

Souik said this will be the 15th campaign (40 Days for Life held its first Sheboygan event in February 2018). She encourages more people to get involved.

She said some recent good news is July's closing of Planned Parenthood's referral facility in Delavan. "It would be great if the abortion pill would be banned," she added.

• For information about the Sheboygan campaign, visit: www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan.

To get involved in Sheboygan or for more information, contact Germaine Souik at ggsouik@gmail.com or 920/458-9120.

The Week's Weather

Summer Ends: +82.6° to +56.3°

Fahrenheit temperature readings are taken daily at 11:59 p.m. at one of the Weather Underground Stations in the Village of Random Lake, measuring the previous 24 hours.

Date	Today's High	Today's Low	Precipitation
Tues., Sept. 16	80.40°	56.30°	None
Wed., Sept. 17	82.60°	56.50°	None
Thurs., Sept. 18	81.50°	59.70°	None
Fri., Sept. 19	77.00°	63.20°	None
Sat., Sept. 20	72.50°	62.80°	0.19" (rain)
Sun., Sept. 21	75.80°	62.70°	0.06" (rain)
Mon., Sept. 22	72.80°	59.40°	0.59" (rain)

Inches of rain in 2025: 0.03 in January; 0.22 in February; 3.54 in March; 2.69 in April; 4.42 in May; 2.04 in June; 2.37 in July; 5.98 in August; 1.18 in September.

Inches of rain in 2024: 1.76 in January; 0.50 in February; 3.84 in March; 3.31 in April; 6.77 in May; 7.93 in June; 2.61 in July; 5.02 in August; 1.41 in September; 0.91 in October; 3.49 in November; 1.21 in December.

Inches of rain in 2023: 0.87 in January; 1.72 in February; 2.45 in March; 2.13 in April; 1.00 in May; 1.49 in June; 3.03 in July; 3.59 in August; 1.95 in September; 4.26 in October; 1.43 in November; 1.77 in December.

Inches of rain in 2022: 0.02 in January; 0.24 in February; 4.53 in March; 3.35 in April; 1.58 in May; 4.14 in June; 4.39 in July; 5.04 in August; 2.35 in September; 1.25 in October; 2.60 in November; 1.83 in December.

Inches of rain in 2021: 0.56 in January; 0.36 in February; 1.75 in March; 1.32 in April; 3.68 in May; 2.88 in June; 1.17 in July; 5.19 in August; 1.90 in September; 1.91 in October; 0.48 in November; 2.22 in December.

Inches of rain in 2020: 1.21 in January; 0.19 in February; 2.58 in March; 1.94 in April; 4.66 in May; 4.68 in June; 4.37 in July; 2.49 in August; 2.60 in September; 2.49 in October; 1.75 in November; 0.85 in December.

Inches of rain in 2019: 1.09 in January; 1.18 in February; 0.93 in March; 3.75 in April; 3.11 in May; 3.68 in June; 1.95 in July; 3.35 in August; 5.29 in September; 6.73 in October; 2.16 in November; 1.85 in December.

Inches of rain in 2018: 1.17 in January; 1.50 in February; 0.80 in March; 1.69 in April; 5.21 in May; 1.68 in June; 2.43 in July; 9.84 in August; 3.24 in September; 3.94 in October; 1.58 in November; 1.76 in December.

Inches of rain in 2017: 1.86 in January; 2.53 in February; 2.14 in March; 5.07 in April; 2.97 in May; 4.27 in June; 4.21 in July; 3.44 in August; 0.43 in September; 2.89 in October; 1.23 in November; 0.40 in December.

Inches of rain in 2016: 0.45 in January; 0.33 in February; 3.51 in March; 1.16 in April; 2.61 in May; 4.47 in June; 5.01 in July; 2.68 in August; 7.46 in September; 3.19 in October; 1.75 in November; 1.57 in December.

Inches of rain in 2015: 0.50 in March; 4.29 in April; 3.36 in May; 2.40 in June; 1.44 in July; 3.71 in August; 2.51 in September; 2.41 in October; 3.56 in November; 2.49 in December.

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