

# DONKEY TRACKS

**JUNE, 2023**

#bluetotheCORE

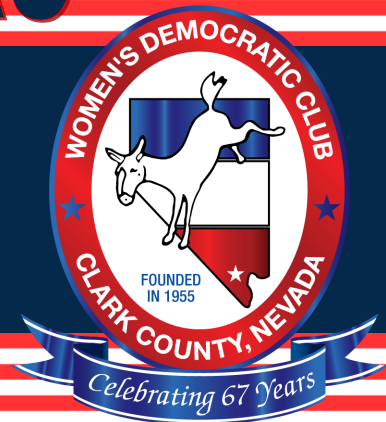
Visit our web site at:

[www.womensdemo.com](http://www.womensdemo.com)

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



Marla Turner  
President



Rhonda Nolen  
1st Vice President



Margie Gonzales  
2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas,  
Treasurer



ShaRhonda Ramos  
Corresponding Secretary



Mary Ella Holloway  
Recording Secretary



Ida Gaines  
Inspirationalist

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE



**ELEPHANT  
IN THE WOMB**



**MY BODY  
MY CHOICE**



# Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes.....



As we age we undergo lots of life changes. For most of us that includes career ups and downs, the ebb and flow of relationships, children leaving home, losing loved ones, health challenges, etc. Data has consistently shown that it's not the challenges of aging that are problematic, but how we handle the transition.

Most of us understand this in the context of our everyday lives, but can aging apply to organizations as well? The resounding answer is YES! And, just like our personal lives, how we handle the challenges of an aging organization is key to the organization's long-term success.

The Women's Democratic Club of Clark County is the longest serving Democratic Club in Nevada. This is a source of pride for all of us. However, with age comes challenges. As we approach our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, there are some things we are working on to protect the security and sustainability of our organization:

## **TECHNOLOGY:**

Generations X, Y, and Z have never known a world without computers or smart phones; they've never had to use the Dewey Decimal system or experience the impatience that comes from waiting 6-8 weeks for someone to receive and return their response to a hand-written, snail-mail letter. Their world is all about instant access to people, places, and things. Technology is absolutely critical to Women's Demo's sustainability, and we are working hard to streamline processes and revamp our communications. This includes an updated website with a members-only section including chat feature, use of a CRM system for meeting and informational notices, cash app payment options, digital tracking of attendance and membership, and more.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Our membership includes some seriously bad-ass women who shaped Nevada policy over many decades. These women met with leaders in our most sanctified halls, protested in numbers down the Las Vegas Strip and along the corridors of forgotten and disenfranchised communities, organized and elected women into office, and raised hell until their voices were heard, becoming leaders themselves in the process. Today, those same women face their own challenges of aging, so it is up to all of us to recruit younger members to learn from our role models and become the next generation of leaders.

## **INTEGRATION:**

As we endeavor to meet bigger and loftier goals, integration of community building, coalition-building, and relationship development is crucial. Outreach is an essential component of successful operations. The exchange of new ideas and information will help shape our operations and focus our energies.

## **FINANCIAL STABILITY:**

No organization (including non-profits) can survive without making money. We must look at designing systems from a member's perspective while still being flexible enough to allow the organization to grow where the world is going. That means meeting our member and community needs without going broke, and continuing to be both scrupulous and transparent about where we invest our resources.

## **MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE:**

It used to be easy to get a group of women together during a weekday for lunch. Today, women make up 57% of the US labor force and don't have the same ability to make a lunch meeting as they used to. Additionally, with Las Vegas being a 24-hour city, our members work varying hours. We are trying to meet the needs of our members by alternating meeting times and locations.

So, yes: our organization is changing. During this period of change, there will inevitably be growing pains. Trust that what is happening is necessary for the stability and sustainability of our legacy.

Thank you for being with us along the journey!



Marla Turner, President  
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

*"The lofty mountains and the seas,  
Being mountains, being seas,  
Both exist and are real.*

*But frail as flowers are the lives of men,  
Passing phantoms of this world."*

— Hiroshige's Tokaido in Prints and Poetry by Reiko Chiba





# Juneteenth

## and FATHER'S DAY

How America Continues to Hold Black Fathers in Bondage

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

Guest Speakers:



Ender Austin III



William Horne



Jovan Jackson

**L2 Texas BBQ**

**2250 E Warm Springs Rd**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89119**

purchase  
tickets  
[here](#)

Dinner will be served.  
\$25 for current WDC  
Members  
\$35 for non-members

Current members may pay at the door. RSVP to  
[info@womensdemo.com](mailto:info@womensdemo.com) by 6/13/2023 at noon

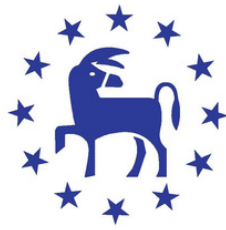
All Democrats welcome!

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County  
printed in-house





**Womens Democratic Club of  
Clark County and  
Paradise Democratic Club**



**2023**  
*Annual  
Summer*



AND FAMILY

**POOL  
PARTY**

We'll supply the grub and the beverages,  
you bring your own towels and sun screen.  
Bring your families - there will be lots of activities for the kids!  
**ALL DEMOCRATS WELCOME!**

**JULY 15, 2023**

**4:00 - 8:00 PM**

**ADDRESS PROVIDED ONE WEEK BEFORE EVENT**

FREE to current members of Women's Democratic Club and/or Paradise  
Democratic Club | \$25.00 non-members  
\$10 Children 11-18 | Free to children under 10

**GET TICKETS HERE:**

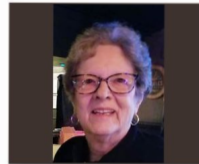
**[HTTPS://WWW.WOMENSDMO.COM/EVENTS-1/ANNUAL-BBQ-AND-POOL-PARTY-1](https://www.womensdemo.com/events-1/annual-bbq-and-pool-party-1)**

PRINTED IN-HOUSE

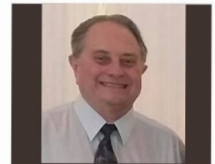
Save  
the Date



**Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D.**  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*



**Barbara Aupperle**



**Mike Aupperle**

*Bonnie Bryan Award Recipients*



*Spotlight Honorees*

**SPOTLIGHT DINNER  
SATURDAY EVENING  
OCTOBER 14, 2023**

INVITATION TO FOLLOW  
[WWW.WOMENSDemo.COM](http://WWW.WOMENSDemo.COM)

# If We Don't Raise The Debt Limit

## Nevada's Economy May Never Recover

By Zach Conine, Nevada State Treasurer



During the pandemic, Nevada experienced the worst economic situation we have ever seen. Our state led the nation in unemployment, thousands of Nevadans sought out emergency food and rental assistance, and countless small businesses were forced to close their doors.

Under my leadership as your state treasurer, we have made tremendous strides in putting our economy back on the right track since 2020.

Nevada continues to maintain [its highest credit ratings in history](#), our Rainy Day Fund now sits at its [highest balance ever](#), and the treasurer's office has generated an additional \$182 million in investment returns, which have contributed to most of the [\\$251 million in higher than anticipated revenues](#) forecasted by the Economic Forum.

Unfortunately, all of this economic progress we've made for Nevada families will be wiped out in an instant if Republicans in Congress continue to threaten defaulting on our nation's debt.

Playing politics with the full faith and credit of the United States isn't just dangerous, it's one of the most fiscally irresponsible things imaginable.

But that's exactly what [Republicans in Congress](#) are trying to do as they seek to hold our economy hostage, while trying to force drastic and damaging budget cuts for programs that people throughout Nevada hold sacred.

Across the country, many far-right politicians talk about the importance of fiscal responsibility, while at the same time making arguments that the United States should decide not to pay its bills.

And unfortunately, it's not just Republicans in Congress who are contributing to the problem with the debt ceiling. Just last week, former President Donald Trump said that the [U.S. should completely default](#) on its debt obligations. Similarly, in January, Gov. Joe Lombardo [told the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) that he didn't think the federal government should increase the debt limit.

As Nevada's chief financial officer who is responsible for keeping our state on solid financial ground, I cannot tell you how dangerous this sort of rhetoric is, and how damaging the outcome would be to all Nevadans regardless of their party affiliation.



If the U.S. was to default on its debt, interest rates would increase for everyday Americans almost immediately, unemployment would skyrocket, and the U.S. government's credit rating would likely be downgraded, making it harder to pay for vital public services and fund programs like Social Security and Medicare.

If Congress fails to act and we breach the debt limit, even if only for short period, it would have catastrophic effects for Nevada families, our state budget and the entire county.

[Experts estimate that we will hit the debt limit in the next three weeks](#). Unfortunately, Congressional Republicans are attempting to force the country to either go into default or impose serious economic harm to working families, students, retirees and individuals with disabilities.

The recent Republican bill to raise the debt ceiling contains a disturbing laundry list of cuts and attacks that are deeply unpopular with a wide majority of the American people. It also stands in stark contrast to President Joe Biden's plan to cleanly raise the debt ceiling without any extraneous policies.

The Republican plan would [offshore manufacturing and kill thousands](#) of good-paying jobs and would even jeopardize the [over 9 million jobs](#) expected to be created over the next decade by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

In fact, [Moody's Analytics says](#) the Republican proposal "would meaningfully increase the likelihood" of a recession and result in 780,000 fewer jobs by the end of 2024 compared with the clean debt limit increase that President Biden is calling for.

The Republican bill would also [slash education funding](#), causing our state to lose over [\\$40 million in annual funding for Title I schools](#), while also exacerbating Nevada's teacher shortage in the communities that need the most help.

Over 1,800 preschool and childcare slots would also be eliminated, while Pell Grants for over 38,000 college students would be significantly reduced.

We know that the promise of a strong public education system is the gateway to opportunity for families across Nevada, and the federal government should be doing all it can to support our kids, teachers and schools — not proposing drastic cuts in funding.

At a time when Nevadans are facing increased energy costs and rising prices for almost everything, the GOP plan would also [increase energy bills and raise taxes](#) on working families, while also stripping health care from [millions of Americans](#).

The bottom line is, Republicans in Congress are coming forward with a message of "we'll either force America to default on its debt and trigger a recession, or we'll take away health care, cut education, and kill more than 100,000 jobs."

This proposal is deeply unpopular, it's extreme and it's dangerous.

Instead of playing politics with our nation's debt ceiling, we need Congress to act immediately. We need to signal to the financial markets and to the world that the United States of America will pay all of its bills when they come due.

Anything short of that has the potential to negatively impact our economy unlike anything we've experienced before.

Once Congress passes a clean debt ceiling increase, Congressional leaders can work together through the budget process to identify the best ways to spend public dollars. But threatening economic collapse at the expense of workers, kids and retirees should have no place in our public discourse.

*Zach Conine currently serves as Nevada's 23rd state treasurer.*



SAVE *the* DATE  
**WOMEN'S**  
EQUALITY DAY LUNCHEON  
**August 10, 2023**

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County  
[www.womensdemo.com](http://www.womensdemo.com)

# ***Carol's Corner***

## ***By Carol Chesnut***



### **Abortion Laws and The Sanctity of Human Life**

**©Carol Chesnut**

I believe that the problems which arise from legal sanctions on abortions result from two main origins. One is the imposition of one religious view on all those whose beliefs differ on a very personal and critical topic. The other is far too narrow a focus.

In the first place, the Bible neither explicitly prohibits nor endorses abortions. Indeed, the Bible asserts that we are made in the image of God. Since women are the only humans with the full DNA and RNA set of genetic material, that implies to me that if there is a God, she must be female. Males have a truncated version of the set of genetic plans for forming human beings.

There are passages that some evangelical ministers have interpreted as denying permission, but they are not believed to have done that by actual Biblical scholars. The Bible does, of course, explicitly forbid the wasting of men's seed upon the ground; I know of no laws which focus on *that*, however. Even (and perhaps especially) this Supreme Court has not mentioned that prohibition.

Buddhism, which holds all life sacred, prioritizes lives' importance based on their degree of complexity. By that reasoning, protecting the life and health of the mother is deemed even more critical than the life which depends for its existence on developing in a healthy way in her womb, and which is only possibly going to develop into a human being if all goes well within that habitat. I will admit that view is human-centric, but as a human being myself, I find it compelling.

As to too narrowly focused a view, I do not believe one can only pay attention to the microscopic view of life and still make any accurate or wise conclusions. There is a great web-of-being which must remain healthy for human beings to thrive. So, the sanctity of life must apply to *all* of that web's health for us to thrive. And abortion prohibitions such as are now in place in Republican dominated states hurt everyone there.

Those laws jail and strip doctors of credentials when they dare to offer good, science-based health care to women of child-bearing age. Being rational, it drives those medical professionals either not to provide adequate health care to those women and their fetuses, or to leave the



state altogether so they can provide good health care to women elsewhere in states where their livelihoods are not threatened for doing it. That reduces the number of practitioners available to everyone in that state! It also chills professional confidence in offering good advice.

Environmentalists also understand that our health depends on having birds and bees and all the parts of the web-of-life, and that our ignorance about which are the vital nodes to maintain our existence makes keeping them all intact potentially critical to our own existence. Hubris may yet lead to our own destruction. And that makes the Republican war on accurate knowledge to be potentially fatal to human life.

Our focus needs to be on the larger view of what maintains mammalian life here. We have no Planet B!

Ergo, to protect our own lives, the lives of our children, and the livability of our planet, we need to sequester all who would impose their very megalomaniac laws on us to maintain and grow their power and wealth. It is our moral duty, and an existential necessity! Life is, indeed, sacred!



JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>June 15*</b> <b>EVENING</b> Meeting	<b>July 15</b> Annual Daytime BBQ Pool Party - NO MEETING	<b>August 10</b> <b>LUNCH</b> Meeting - Women's Equality Day Awards	<b>Sept 14</b> <b>EVENING</b> Meeting	<b>October 14</b> Annual Spotlight Dinner - NO ♡ MEETING	<b>Nov 9</b> <b>LUNCH</b> Meeting and Officer Elections	<b>Dec 9**</b> Annual Holiday Party - NO Meeting

Notes

\* June's meeting has been changed to June 15th instead of June 8.

\*\* Tentative Date



# Rhodes' Sentence Sends Message His Followers Unlikely To Hear



America's far-right provocateurs took another one on the chin this week with the sentencing of Oath Keepers militia group founder and former Nevadaan Stewart Rhodes to [18 years](#) in federal prison for seditious conspiracy in association with the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by a pro-Trump mob.

It's just a wonderful coincidence that Rhodes finds the penitentiary cell door slamming right before Memorial Day, a time set aside to remember our nation's true patriots and fallen heroes. Generations have answered the call to defend the country, not overthrow it in a violent temper tantrum after losing a free and fair election.

Convicted in November after failing to worm his way out of responsibility for his actions by shifting blame on his misguided followers, the 58-year-old UNLV graduate mouthed a familiar refrain at his sentencing before U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta.

"Like President Trump, my only crime is opposing those who are destroying our country," he said, at one point referring to himself as a "political prisoner."

Nathan Hale, Rhodes ain't.

Given a final opportunity to admit the obvious, that he'd led others on a violent fool's errand that resulted in five deaths, hundreds of injuries and more than 1,000 arrests, Rhodes wrapped himself in the flag of paranoid patriotism so admired by domestic terrorists and far-right extremists.

Rhodes' recalcitrance was clearly on Judge Mehta's mind when he said, "You sir, present an ongoing threat and a peril to this country, to the republic and the very fabric of our democracy. The moment you are released you will be prepared to take up arms against your government."

But only the government he disagrees with. Rather than limiting his protest to the shouts and foot-stamping of other Trump fans, Rhodes proposed overthrowing the mythical republic he has spent years claiming to so much admire. It's funny, though. At the moment on Jan. 6 he had every opportunity to unfurl the banner of freedom and charge into the Capitol, he veered off and let others do the dirty work of rioting on our democracy's sacred ground.

If Rhodes is working on his prison memoirs, I'm guessing he'll leave out that part of his hours-long trial testimony when he called his followers ["stupid"](#) and "off mission" for entering the Capitol.

"I had no idea that any Oath Keeper was even thinking about going inside or would go inside," Rhodes said, because that would open "the door for our political enemies to persecute us, and that's what happened, and here we are."

It was hard to mesh his view of the facts with a post-Jan. 6 recording of Rhodes to his followers bragging, "We should have brought rifles. We could have fixed it right then and there. I'd hang f---in' Pelosi from the lamppost." In actual fact, Rhodes wanted President Donald Trump to remain in power by invoking the Insurrection Act and having members of Congress arrested.

Rhodes, a disbarred attorney with a degree from Yale, had come a long way from the disrupted role played during the 2014 Bundy Ranch protest and armed standoff. His brand of hot-wind rabble-rousing failed to impress the loosely affiliated platoon of [III Percenter](#) militia members, who carried assault weapons into a protest dominated by unarmed supporters of cattleman Cliven Bundy.

The [Bundy standoff](#) not only provided a political and fundraising spotlight for conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and Trump dirty trickster Roger Stone, but it also raised the stature in the far-right community of the rancher's son, Ammon Bundy. Embroiled in a defamation case, these days Ammon has raised eyebrows on [Twitter](#) by comparing his predicament to some better known far-right provocateurs:

“It's happening everywhere, even in Idaho. They are going after anyone who opposes them. They took Tucker Carlson off the air, arrested former President Donald Trump & they're labeling Christians as domestic terrorists. Now they are coming after me...”

But Ammon is an amateur anarchist compared to Stewart Rhodes.

With his conviction and sentence, self-described patriot Rhodes joins the infamous company usually reserved for foreign terrorists. The judge made it clear he believes he's a genuine threat.

The judge is right. But this is America, and the next Stewart Rhodes is out there preparing for the chance to enter the fascist spotlight under the guise of a love for God and country.

*John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in Time, Readers Digest, The Daily Beast, Reuters, Ruralite and Desert Companion, among others. He also offers weekly commentary on Nevada Public Radio station KNPR.*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP—2023

### January

Nicole Bhat  
Jennifer Brown  
Forrest Darby  
Francine Green  
Stephanie Alvendia

### February

Cecia Alvarado

### March

Marbella Alfonzo  
Blanca Ortiz  
Sabrina Torres

### April

Honey Borla  
Anthony Doyle  
Estifania Esparza  
Sharifa Wahab  
Kevin Wong

### May

Joel Enriquez  
Olivia Enriquez  
Emilia “Amy” Nicolas



# Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



On Saturday evening, October 14, 2023, Women's Democratic Club of Clark County ("WDC") will celebrate our 68th anniversary at our Spotlight Dinner! "The Balance of Justice" is our theme and we will be honoring members of the judiciary: Justices Elissa Cadish and Linda Bell; Judges Nancy Allf, Gloria Sturman, Joanna Kishner, Tierra Jones, Ann Zimmerman, Karen Bennett Haron; Carolyn Ellsworth, Valorie Vega; and, U.S. District Court Judge Christina Silva. We will also honor Barbara and Mike Aupperle with the Bonnie Bryan award and Dr. Rachakonda Prabhu with our Lifetime Achievement award. Please save the date, **Saturday evening, October 14th!**

In addition, we will have our Silent Auction and it promises to be spectacular! One of our specialty items will be a wine barrel filled with wine bottles that vary in name brand and price! It's an assortment that works perfectly for parties or political events! We are asking our members for their spare bottles of wine to fill the barrel! If you would like to contribute, please bring the bottle to a meeting or send an [email](#) to let us know you need it picked up.

## "SHOWCASE A BARREL OF WINE"

A SILENT AUCTION SUPER ITEM



Just for a little nostalgia, here is a photo of the Spotlight Committee for the 1st Spotlight in 1987! 1st row, Beverly Carlino-Banta, First Lady Bonnie Bryan (honoree), Dorothy Eisenberg, Marie Ripps. 2nd row: Sarah Besser, Judy Klein, Sharon Segerblom, ?, Renee Diamond, Helen Myers, Lyndsey Jydstrup, Shelley Berkley and, Jan Jenkins.



In the July edition, we will have information on the Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund. We award scholarship(s) to Democratic young women furthering their higher education in Nevada. We have awarded tens of thousands of dollars to assist young women on their way to, UNR, UNLV, nursing schools and/or, trade schools. Please look for the update on how to apply and who is eligible. We will award the scholarship in August at our Women's Equality Day luncheon.



Where did the Supreme Court go? It went to political millionaires buying seats for right wing Republicans! The lies, under oath, that Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Comey Barrett spewed would have landed anyone else in contempt! Except, not in the past Administration. The bigger the lie, the better the position! The female population of the US is under siege and it is getting worse by the day! How dare they overturn a right that affects the health care and lives of every child bearing woman in America! Who are they that they hold the life and death of women in their written word!

Where did the Supreme Court go? It went to political millionaires

I am tired of demonstrating, tired of the rallies, and tired of having men decide what I can or cannot do with my own body! They must have forgotten where they came from! I've often thought that the past president's mother might have been our best argument for abortion!

Over 50 years, my generation has done everything we could to make reproductive rights, human rights! We all need to do everything we can. Join me.



# Post-Roe Abortion Bans Force Pregnant People With Life-Threatening Complications To Travel

BY: [KELCIE MOSELY-MORRIS](#)

Idaho woman traveled to Oregon to terminate pregnancy with fatal fetal anomalies

Jennifer Adkins' first pregnancy was near-perfect.

She sailed through her appointments and screenings with no complications, ticking every box and making lists of all the right questions to ask her medical professionals. By the time her unmedicated labor was over and the nurses placed her newborn son on her chest, Adkins felt like a superhero.

So when she discovered she was pregnant again the day after Valentine's Day, she was ready for another home run. The baby would be due on Halloween, and she and her husband affectionately referred to it as "Baby Spooky." Maybe they'd find out the sex beforehand, maybe it would be a surprise. They hadn't decided yet.

On April 21, Adkins saw her doctor for a routine screening by ultrasound to measure the collection of fluid behind the fetus' neck. And even without a medical degree, she could tell by the picture on the ultrasound that something was wrong. Sitting in the genetic counselor's office that afternoon, Adkins learned her 12-week-old developing fetus likely had Turner syndrome, a chromosomal abnormality that ends in miscarriage in 99% of cases. Turner's occurs when one of two X-chromosomes for a female is deleted, often from all cells. The few babies that do survive still have deletions in some cells that cause significant heart defects, fertility issues, kidney abnormalities and a range of other disabilities.

The normal measurement is less than 3 millimeters, according to Dr. Maria Palmquist, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Palmquist said Adkins' fluid measured at 11.7 millimeters, with additional fluid accumulating under the skin and around the body of the fetus, known as edema. The combination of increased fluid and skin edema is a condition known as hydrops fetalis, a severe form of swelling that is often fatal.

"The doctor said basically, lightning struck this pregnancy, there's nothing you can do," Adkins said. "This just happens in 1% of all pregnancies."

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June 2022 to overturn Roe v. Wade and allow states to regulate abortion access, 14 states have enacted near-total or total abortion bans, while others continue to pass abortion ban laws that become tied up in state and federal court. The patchwork laws create reproductive health care deserts, sometimes as much as an eight-hour drive or a flight across the country, forcing pregnant people to travel at great financial and often emotional costs, even if the termination of the pregnancy would prevent devastating health effects.

There are no abortion bans yet that criminalize the pregnant person. Instead, criminal penalties are focused on medical providers or others who help someone obtain an abortion. The charges in most states are felonies, with punishment ranging between two years and life in prison, and physicians face suspension or revocation of their medical licenses.

Because Adkins lives in a state with an abortion ban, she faced one of two options: Either continue carrying the pregnancy knowing it would almost certainly end in miscarriage or stillbirth and jeopardize her own health in the process — or make a trip out of state for termination.

*'Do we try? But for what purpose?'*

Idaho has a near-total ban on abortions that applies to any stage of pregnancy, with exceptions for cases of rape and incest with an accompanying police report during the first trimester or to save a patient's life. Health care providers who

violate the statute put their medical licenses at risk and face between two and five years in prison, along with civil penalties of \$20,000 against individual providers if family members decide to sue.

Since Roe fell, residents in states with bans like Texas have to travel much farther to obtain an abortion. The [Texas Observer](#) reported the average number of miles a resident must travel increased from 44 miles to 497 miles. Texans often go to New Mexico, where some abortion providers fled and [opened new clinics](#). Washington abortion providers have reported seeing patients from [seven states](#) around the country within one day.

In the Southeast, where nearly every state has a highly restrictive ban, states such as Louisiana and Mississippi are [hours away](#) from the nearest abortion clinic. For many, the closest state is Florida, and the outcome of a Florida Supreme Court case over a law banning abortion at 15 weeks could determine whether a six-week ban [signed in April](#) by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis will go into effect. If it does, the distance to access abortion for many residents in that region of the country will become much greater.

A study [released in April](#) conducted by international reproductive health care journal Contraception found that women who were forced to travel for abortion care described it as emotionally burdensome, saying it caused distress, anxiety and shame.

“Because they had to travel, they were compelled to disclose their abortion to others and obtain care in an unfamiliar place and away from usual networks of support, which engendered emotional costs,” the study said. “Additionally, travel induced feelings of shame and exclusion because it stemmed from a law-based denial of in-state abortion care, which some experienced as marking them as deviant or abnormal.”

Adkins said seeking care in another state made her feel like a criminal and a medical refugee of sorts, and she worried about what others would think of her for terminating. Another physician she saw for a separate issue wanted to keep the pregnancy out of her record entirely as a precaution.

“They make this out to be like people that seek abortions are horrible, horrible people, and murderers, and all this stuff, and I’m like, that could not be further from the truth. This is a baby that we love with all of our heart and soul. And because we are loving parents, we are choosing this route, not only to be loving parents to that baby, but also to our living son, because I have to think about what’s in my best interest so that I can still be here and be healthy enough to take care of my son who needs me,” Adkins said.

Idaho physicians have also stopped making referrals for patients in situations similar to Adkins’ in the wake of a legal opinion sent by Attorney General Raúl Labrador at the [end of March](#). Until there is a decision in a lawsuit over the opinion, physicians and Planned Parenthood facilities in Idaho have said they will not make any referrals for abortion-related care outside of the state.

Adkins said if she wasn’t as informed about the state’s laws, she wouldn’t have understood what doctors were saying about her options.

“They said that I was welcome to leave the state on my own accord and seek health care outside of the state,” Adkins said. “It was a very odd experience because we were talking basically in code. ... I understood the nuance, and I understood what they were implying, but it was a very surreal experience.”

A brief filed in the lawsuit on behalf of a health system in Idaho detailed a scenario nearly identical to Adkins’ on the same day she was diagnosed at a different facility. Like the case outlined in the brief, Adkins would be at risk for developing a condition called mirror syndrome, which causes the pregnant person to experience similar symptoms to that of the fetus. Dr. Palmquist told States Newsroom that it can lead to preeclampsia, a life-threatening state of high blood pressure in pregnant people that can cause seizures and organ damage.

Knowing all of this, Adkins decided it was in the best interests of her family, including the nearly 2-year-old son she already had and the daughter she would never get to hold, to terminate the pregnancy.



She hoped to miscarry within the following week so they wouldn't have to make the emotional three-day trip. So she scheduled another ultrasound, but there was still a heartbeat. She was desperate to fix it — desperate to stop being a walking coffin for a dying dream.

“It’s hard knowing that my body and the fetus are trying so hard to hang on,” Adkins said. “And we had to make a really hard decision. Do we try? But for what purpose? There’s no sense in bringing a child into this world that’s not going to survive anyway or have severe complications. And it’s not fair to any of us.”

### *Maternal-fetal medicine doctors continue fleeing to other states*

Idaho legislators made minor changes to the state’s abortion law toward the end of the legislative session in March to clarify that certain instances where the fetus has already died or ectopic or molar pregnancies would not fall under Idaho’s abortion ban, declining to proceed with an [earlier iteration](#) of the bill that included a clause exempting medical professionals from criminal liability. In that version, providers had to determine if an abortion was necessary “to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to treat a physical condition of the woman that, if left untreated, would be life-threatening.”

Dr. John Werdel, an obstetrician-gynecologist at St. Luke’s in Boise, said he wasn’t sure if Adkins’ situation would have qualified under the health language in the original bill. She likely would have had to wait until the health effects were more severe, he said.

Many reproductive care physicians in states where abortions are banned have left to practice in other states in recent months, including one maternal-fetal medicine doctor in Tennessee who [moved to Colorado](#) in January after starting what she described as a dream job in Tennessee in August.

Idaho’s abortion laws caused Palmquist, one of three maternal-fetal medicine physicians at Saint Alphonsus, to take a job at Desert Perinatal in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is one of several specialists in the state to leave over the new laws since January. She was packing her belongings on Thursday, hoping the laws change soon and allow her to return.

“Since June, it’s just become so complicated to take care of pregnancy complications. Things before that were so straightforward now make us take an extra four to six hours and multiple meetings,” Palmquist said. “Making sure we’re protected by EMTALA, making sure this is an emergency medical condition. Does the hospital administration agree, does legal counsel agree? All of that.”

A recent study published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine found from a survey of more than 2,000 current and future physicians on social media that 82% preferred to work or train in states with preserved abortion access. More than 76% of respondents said they wouldn’t even apply to states with legal consequences for providing abortion care.

“At least monthly, we are faced with caring for moms with significant complications, and there’s no chance of a viable outcome. But with Idaho’s restrictions, there’s a lot of anxiety about essentially practicing the standard of care,” Palmquist said. “A year ago, it would’ve been just so straightforward, and now there’s all this caution and hesitancy.”

### *The mounting costs*

Adkins and her husband left their son with grandparents to make the trip to Oregon on a Thursday for her appointment the following morning. The [Northwest Abortion Access Fund](#) and [Cascade Abortion Support Collective](#) helped pay for a hotel room, a rental car and the surgical procedure, which was \$850 by itself without insurance. Friends and family sent her Venmo donations for other expenses.

“I just started calling organizations because I was like, I don’t know what to do. And they said, ‘We’re here to help you.’ And it was so relieving but also absolutely heartbreaking to hear multiple times from multiple people, ‘You are not the only one. We get stories like yours all the time, every day,’” Adkins said. “Every day.”

The Planned Parenthood clinic was supportive and professional, she said, and they honored her request to be deeply sedated for the procedure. When she told them why she needed to terminate the pregnancy, they offered to take ultrasound photos beforehand.

“Everybody was like, ‘Oh my god, I’m so sorry you had to come all this way for this,’” Adkins said. “And they’re right. I shouldn’t have had to leave my son and travel hundreds of miles to do this.”

Since the procedure was performed in another state and at a Planned Parenthood clinic, Adkins had to ask the doctor to collect the remains of the fetus, the pregnancy tissue and the placenta and package them properly to be sent to a genetic testing clinic. She was also faced with rushing the package of remains to FedEx herself that same day.

While she doesn’t regret the decision, Adkins said it was a painful experience that could have been much easier if she had been able to access care in her own state.

“I deserve better, and so does everybody else,” she said. “We can’t stop things from happening in pregnancy. That’s why we have modern medicine, to help guide us and protect the things we do have control over. So if we can’t stop those horrible things from happening ... why make it even worse by making the worst experience someone has to go through — learning that they will not give birth to a happy, healthy baby — why do we make that even worse by saying, ‘We don’t value your life enough to try to save it or prevent something bad from happening to you in the meantime?’”

*Our thanks to the Nevada Current. If you would like to see more articles, please use this link:*

[www.nevadacurrent.com](http://www.nevadacurrent.com)



**Got Wine?  
Can we have some?**

**ASKING FOR  
DONATIONS OF  
BOTTLES OF WINE  
FOR A PREMIERE  
GIFT BASKET TO BE  
AUCTIONED OFF AT  
AT OUR UPCOMING  
SPOTLIGHT DINNER  
IN OCTOBER 2023.**

Bring it (or them) to any  
women's demo meeting  
or email us to  
[info@womensdemo.com](mailto:info@womensdemo.com)  
and we'll arrange to  
take it off your hands for  
you.



# WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

# 2023

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ Twitter \_\_\_\_\_

Instagram \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes [ ]**  
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

**General Membership:** \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [ ] Money Order [ ] Cash [ ]

**Past WDC Presidents and Current Students:** \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [ ] Money Order [ ] Cash [ ]

**Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation:** Paid By: Check [ ] Money Order [ ] Cash { } Online [ ]

**I am interested in participating on the following Committees:**  
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

Ambassador Committee [ ] Candidate Donation Distribution Committee [ ] Communications/Media [ ]

Fundraising Committee [ ] Membership Committee [ ] Renee Diamond Scholarship Committee [ ] Rules & Bylaws [ ]

Thank You For Joining  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY  
PO Box 759  
Las Vegas, NV 89125  
(702) 551-4963  
womensdemo.com  
FB - Women's Democratic Club of Clark County  
Email - womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com  
Twitter - @womensdemocc