

## Ireland Referendum

A majority of the citizens of Ireland voted in favor of abortion in a referendum on 25 May 2018. They voted in favor (“Yes”) of the 36<sup>th</sup> Amendment to approve elective abortion (below right), and change Article 40.3.3 of the *Constitution of Ireland* to remove “the right to life of the unborn” (left below). The vote was 1,429,981 “Yes” (66.4% of votes), and 723,632 “No.” For the second time in history (after Portugal in 2007), the citizens of a nation (as opposed to a government or court decision) voted directly for the so-called “right” to kill their own children.

<b>Current Constitutional Law</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>
<p><b>Article 40.3.3</b>                      “The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.                      “This subsection shall not limit freedom to travel between the State and another state.                      “This subsection shall not limit freedom to obtain or make available, in the State, subject to such conditions as may be laid down by law, information relating to services lawfully available in another state.”</p>	<p><b>36<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill 2018</b>                      “Provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy.”</p>
<p><b>What 40.3.3 does:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires the State to protect, “defend and vindicate” the “right to life of the unborn” and “of the mother.”</li> <li>• The language of the first paragraph is consistent with God’s design and purposes for civil government (but paragraphs 2 and 3 violate that trust).</li> </ul>	<p><b>What the 36<sup>th</sup> Amendment would do:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Article 40.3.3 by removing the 3 paragraphs, and replacing them with the above language;</li> <li>• Allow the State to enact any policies they desire to “regulate the termination of pregnancy” – in truth, to give government sanction to the murder of innocent unborn children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voting against the 36<sup>th</sup> Amendment would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve “the right to life of” children in the womb and pregnant mothers;</li> <li>• Call the State back to its God-given duties to enact and defend righteous laws protecting innocent human life;</li> <li>• Preserve the lives of at least 65,000 Irish children just during the next 12 years;</li> <li>• Prevent the European Union from having a unified position to impose abortion on developing nations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Voting for the 36<sup>th</sup> Amendment would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove State and legal protection of the “right to life of” children in the womb;</li> <li>• Allow the State to abdicate its trust and duty to create and enforce righteous and just laws that protect innocent human life;</li> <li>• Allow the State to promptly enact a new “<b>Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy</b>” policy.</li> </ul>

**The Government of Ireland has drafted a new policy, the “Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy,” which is being deliberated upon in Parliament, and which would approve:**

- Aborting a baby “up to 12 weeks of pregnancy without specific indication”;
- Aborting a baby if 2 doctors say there is a “risk to” mother’s “physical or mental health”;
- Aborting a baby if 1 doctor says there is a “risk of health” in an emergency;
- Aborting a baby anytime if 2 doctors think the baby may have a “fetal condition likely to lead to death before or shortly after birth or for maternal health” (Policy 1 to 9).