

RESOLUTION NO. 6442-2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Sebastopol has the duty to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Sebastopol's citizens through mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, A draft opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), obtained by the news entity Politico, revealed that the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, a bedrock of American law, may be on the verge of being reversed. According to the acquired document, a majority of Supreme Court of the United States privately voted to strike down the historic case; and

WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade (Roe) is the 1973 Supreme Court of the United States decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of a women's right to choose in the United States. Now almost 50 years later, these rights are threatened; and

WHEREAS, As news of the impending draft opinion surfaced, suggesting that Roe v. Wade will soon be overturned, crowds of protesters across the country marched and chanted in support of abortion rights in cities throughout the nation, such as New York, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Louisville, and Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court of the United States decision recognizing and confirming the "right to privacy" in the federal Constitution protects the right for pregnant people to choose to have an abortion prior to viability is in imminent danger of being overturned; and

Whereas, This potential decision could set a dangerous precedent for many other rights we take for granted. Our current laws must continue to protect women's rights to make safe decisions about their own bodies and their own healthcare.

WHEREAS, California is already home to the Reproductive Privacy Act, which provides that every individual possesses a fundamental right to privacy with respect to reproductive decisions; and

WHEREAS, The Sebastopol City Council is not speaking out as a proponent or opponent of abortion, but, only as an advocate of the fundamental right of a woman to choose and we do not feel it is appropriate for Supreme Court of the United States to savagely curtail that right; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastopol urges the Supreme Court to Reconsider This Potential Decision and Not Overturn Roe v. Wade.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL declares itself an advocate of the fundamental right of a woman to choose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL urges the State of California and Sonoma County to increase funding for the rights of women to choose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL, a steadfast supporter of the unalienable rights of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," set forth in the Declaration of Independence,

and a woman's right to choose, is echoing the call of President Biden, and is now respectfully requesting that Congress work to codify the Roe decision, thereby providing a nationwide right for women to choose.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by City of Sebastopol City Council following a roll call vote:

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Glass, Gurney, Rich, Vice Mayor Hinton and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

APPROVED:

Mayor Patrick Slayter

ATTEST:

Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney