A Change in Direction

A timeline of over 50 years of abortion history

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On June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Before June, access to abortion was considered a federal constitutional right. There’s been a history regarding abortion before and after the overturning Roe v. Wade, with dueling groups of people that are anti-abortion or believe in abortion rights. After it was overturned, it gave the states the right to regulate — or ban abortion entirely. Indiana is one of states with new laws regarding abortion. Here is a list of events that lead to the eventual overturning.

**1970**

May 18
Jane Roe v. Henry Wade filed on behalf of Wade in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas Dallas Division.

May 22
Roe filed a lawsuit against the local District Attorney Henry Wade, claiming abortion laws were unconstitutional. A three-judge panel in the U.S. District Court ruled in her favor.

**1971**

The Supreme Court agreed to hear Roe’s case.

**1973**

January 22
The Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision in favor of Roe, holding that women have the constitutional right to an abortion under the 14th Amendment.

1976

The Hyde Amendment passes, prohibiting government funds from being spent on abortion services except for rape, incest or life-threatening situations.

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May 2
A Politico report details a leaked Supreme Court draft opinion indicating the Court would overturn Roe v. Wade.

June 24
The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to uphold Mississippi’s law, with the decision to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision with a 5-4 vote. Abortion laws are now left for the states to decide.

July 25
A special session called for Gov. Eric Holcomb’s taxpayer refund and to have the House and Senate look at new regulations on abortion for Indiana.

August 5
SB 1, a ban on abortion with exceptions for rape and incest, serious health complications for the pregnant person and “lethal fetal anomaly,” passed through the House and Indiana Senate, and SB 1 is signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

September 15
SB 1 takes effect in Indiana.

Sources: txcourts.gov, supremecourt.gov, kff.gov, Politico, in.gov