



Brandon Pickett

✉ bpickett@sbcv.org

📘 facebook.com/brandon.pickett

# Pray & Protect

There are certain times in our personal and ministry lives, whether we are going through them or just after, that we recognize as pivotal moments. I believe that this year is one of those times. That is why I am writing a unique editorial for this edition.

This November, Virginians will be asked to consider and vote on two proposed constitutional amendments concerning marriage and abortion. Constitutional amendments are not ordinary legislation. Once approved by voters, they become the legal framework of the Commonwealth—often for generations. Because of their lasting impact, these amendments deserve careful, prayerful attention from God’s people.

**At the heart of both amendments are questions not of politics but of Scripture.**

King Jehoshaphat, in 2 Chronicles 20:12, famously prayed, **"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you,"** when facing a massive, superior invading army. This honest, desperate prayer led to a divine promise that the battle was God's, resulting in an incredible victory. **So, in the face of incredible opposition, we don't look to the opposing forces but to the Lord.**

**Does God care or say anything in Scripture about life? About marriage? About gender? Of course, we believe the answer to all of those questions is a resounding YES!**

## THIS NOVEMBER ...

Virginians will be asked to vote on two proposed constitutional amendments:

1. Redefining marriage.
2. Abortion.

The two proposed amendments are:

**1.** One allows for an almost unchecked freedom to abort babies until the moment of birth by anyone, at any time, anywhere (titled: *Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment*). Even the name of this amendment is meant to cause confusion and mask its real purpose.

The Bible affirms that life is sacred and purposeful. **"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb"** (Psalms 139:13–16). God’s words to Jeremiah reaffirm this truth: **"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you"** (Jeremiah 1:5). These passages remind us that human life is not accidental or disposable—it is known and valued by God from the very beginning.

**2.** The other proposed amendment redefines marriage and removes the specific God-given difference between a man and a woman (titled: *Marriage between two adult persons/repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition/affirmative right to marry*). Currently, the language in the Constitution of Virginia states, "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions."

## Read the full amendments:

### MARRIAGE AMENDMENT:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/HJ9>



Scan to view  
House Bill HJ9

### ABORTION AMENDMENT:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB781>



Scan to view  
House Bill HB781



The Bible shows us that marriage is not merely a cultural tradition but a God-ordained covenant. Scripture declares, **“A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife”** (Genesis 2:24). Jesus Himself reaffirmed this in Matthew 19:4–6. This biblical understanding of marriage is a cornerstone for family stability and the flourishing of children. We know and believe that God, as the Creator, specifically designed both man and woman from the beginning to be unique and gifted in their own special way (Genesis 1:27/Psalms 139:14).

The abortion amendment is often presented as a matter of personal autonomy. We’ve heard the phrase, “My body, My Choice.” We know that this is meant to distract us from the real goal – to destroy a life. Proverbs urges us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to protect the vulnerable.

**“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.”** — Proverbs 31:8 (ESV)

Genuine compassion for women actually comes through support systems that offer hope, resources, and life-affirming options for both mother and child. And a love for women and children doesn’t stop with what happens during pregnancy and birth but continues with love, care, and support throughout their lives.

As pastors and church members, our calling is not based on political loyalty but on faithfulness to the Gospel. The churches of the SBC of Virginia have always sought to proclaim the Gospel clearly while standing courageously for biblical truth. In times like these, let us lead through prayer, speak with wisdom, and act with conviction—protecting women, strengthening

families, and upholding the sanctity of life. May we remain faithful.

A former pastor and boss of mine used to say, “What is the action item?” Here it is as plainly as I can write.

This is a time when we cannot be silent. Every pastor and church must ask the Lord what they should do within their God-given mission. We understand that each church is unique and will tackle this as God leads.

**But, we can all PRAY!**

**We can be INFORMED.**

**And, we can use the privilege we have to VOTE.**

Please urge your congregation, family, and friends to Vote NO on both proposed constitutional amendments. ●

## Resources Available

**We will have resources for your church.**

Feel free to use any or all of these as you preach, teach, and share the truth of God’s Word and how it speaks to these issues.

Please be on the look out for resources this summer.