



The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

**LM IN ACTION: PROP 1 – PROTECT OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY THIS NOVEMBER WITH THE NYS ERA**

Across the country, state governments are restricting people's rights and freedoms, including the right to abortion, the right to be treated fairly, and not to be discriminated against because of who they are. Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, twenty states have either banned or restricted abortion care. Many of us took it for granted that our reproductive freedom would always be protected and were shocked to realize our rights are not as safe as we thought. Since then, reproductive rights like access to abortion, birth control, and IVF have been under attack across the country. Additionally, there is a full-blown assault on trans people's rights, with hundreds of anti-trans bills introduced—and many passed—in state legislatures across the country just this year.

We might like to think we are safe from these attacks here in New York, but there are loopholes in our state constitution that leave us vulnerable to the whims of those in office. Though we have strong laws protecting us from discrimination, we know that laws are not enough. They can be easily changed or repealed completely, as we have seen time and again in recent years as political winds shift.

When we enshrine a right in the state constitution, we protect it from political attacks. All New Yorkers deserve the freedom to control our own lives, futures, and healthcare decisions, including the right to abortion. That's why we need Proposition 1, or what has been previously called the New York Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment that puts the power in the hands of the people. Prop 1 will protect our rights and reproductive freedoms—including the right to abortion. We must ensure those rights are permanently protected here in New York, so we can never be caught off guard again.

Prop 1 cements these rights so they cannot be rolled back in the future and closes loopholes in the state constitution to make sure that no New Yorker can be discriminated against by the government, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, pregnancy status, disability status, or whether someone is LGBTQI+.

Specifically, Prop 1 will:

- Cement New Yorkers' right to abortion in our state constitution.

- Ensure the government cannot discriminate against older New Yorkers or pregnant New Yorkers, or LGBTQI+ New Yorkers when it comes to hiring, promotions, and pay.
- Ensure that older New Yorkers and those with disabilities have the access they need to vote.
- Protect access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, birth control, and IVF by preventing future State laws banning abortion and/or punishing or prosecuting pregnancy outcomes like miscarriages.

Legal Momentum has long been supporting the New York Equal Rights Amendment and participating in the [coalition](#). Passing Prop 1 would greatly advance our mission and help ensure gender equality is protected under our state constitution. Learn more about Prop 1 [here](#).

This November, make sure to vote for **protecting our rights and freedoms**.