



Initiative 1698 (I-1698): The Heartbeat Initiative

Summary: I-1698 is a pro-life initiative requiring that an ultrasound be performed prior to an abortion. Abortions will be prohibited if a fetal heartbeat is detected.

Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) Support: The bishops of Washington state support I-1698 and encourage parishioners to gather petition signatures. Signatures may be gathered at churches with the expressed approval of the pastor.

Petition Deadline: June 24, 2020

Organizers ask that petitions be postmarked and mailed to them by this date so that petitions can be counted and prepared for submission to the Secretary of State.

To Obtain Petitions: Petitions may be obtained from Carolyn Crain of the Heartbeat Committee, hazel_x2@comcast.net or 503-984-5659. If you have any questions regarding allowing signature gathering at your parish, please contact the WSCC at 206-301-0556 or wsc@WACatholics.org.

Initiative Details

- I-1698 is an initiative to the people that requires an ultrasound of a fetus be performed no less than 24 hours prior to an abortion. If a heartbeat is detected, it will be unlawful for an abortion to be performed.
- Abortion exceptions will be made for cases preventing the death of a pregnant woman. Exceptions are also made for cases involving a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of a pregnant woman.
 - Abortions performed under these circumstances will be documented in a pregnant woman's medical records and will be maintained by the performing physician for at least seven years.
- Results of ultrasounds will be reported to the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Terminations occurring when a pregnancy is diagnosed as medically futile are not defined as abortions.
- Initiative text https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/finaltext_1793.pdf
- Details from the Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/initiatives.aspx?y=2020&t=p>

259,622 signatures must be collected from registered voters. The Secretary of State recommends collecting at least 325,000 signatures to allow for invalid signatures.