

HOLD YOUR OWN

The MVHS community responds to the overturning of Roe v. Wade

"I WAS ASTONISHED, AND I HAD SO MUCH HATE FOR THOSE WHO VOTED TO OVERTURN."

— ANIKA RAMACHANDRAN (9)

"HORRIFIED SINCE AMERICA IS LITERALLY GOING BACKWARDS AT THIS POINT. LIKE, WHAT'S NEXT?"

— AASHI VENKAT (11)

"I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS JUST ANOTHER CASE OF THE MEDIA TWISTING THINGS OUT OF PROPORTION BUT THEN I READ THE FULL CASE THAT LED TO IT BEING OVERTURNED AND I WAS STILL SHOCKED AND APPALLED."

— KRIPA MAYURESHWAR (12)

"ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT AND RAGE."

— LEMON LIU (11)

"IF PEOPLE WERE REALLY PRO-LIFE, THEY WOULD THINK ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE MOM. ALSO, THAT'S JUST REFLECTIVE OF A STATE'S STANCE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND HOW THEY TREAT WOMEN; I'M NOT GOING TO GO TO A STATE LIKE THAT."

— STEPHANIE ZHAO (12)

"BANNING THINGS ISN'T GOING TO STOP THINGS FROM HAPPENING. IT ONLY BANS SAFE WAYS OF ABORTION."

— CHRISTINA LOU (11)

"I WASN'T SURPRISED. I WAS EXPECTING THIS GIVEN THE CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SUPREME COURT."

— ALAN TAI (11)

"WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING???"

— SHANNON YU (9)

A LOOK FORWARD

The Supreme Court decision has crossed out two regions in the US in regards to where MVHS students see themselves in the future

the south

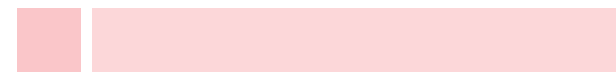
Many students will not be applying to colleges in Texas or the South. Many states in the South enacted trigger bans against abortion, with Texas banning abortion at all stages of pregnancy with no exceptions.

the midwest

While states like Illinois have recognized the right to abortion under the state's constitution, a majority of the Midwest moved to ban abortion. However, court rulings in Indiana and Ohio have blocked these bans from being enacted.

BY THE NUMBERS

5% of MVHS students agree with the Supreme Court decision



95% of MVHS students disagree with the Supreme Court decision

Based on a survey of 114 students

MAKING THE CALL

The Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade brought new change to the MVHS community

When the Supreme Court announced its decision on the *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women Health Organization* on June 24, 2022, the MVHS community reacted to the decision in a variety of ways.

"I remember when it first came out that [Roe v. Wade] was going to be overturned, I was extremely shocked," senior Anna Jerolimov said. "But then knowing that it would go up to the states after that, I knew that we're extremely privileged to live in [California] where there's that protection knowing it's not going to directly affect us. So my first thought was how bad I felt for women in these other states where they're going to have their rights to their bodily autonomy being taken away because of a Supreme Court decision that didn't necessarily represent the opinion of the majority of the population."

In a 6-3 decision, the conservative majority of the Supreme Court upheld the Mississippi state law outlawing abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, while a 5-4 decision overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, giving states the authority to regulate abortion. However, due to the rule of judicial precedent, where the court must

follow the decision of previous similar cases, U.S. Government teacher Benjamin Recktenwald believes that there was no reason for the Supreme Court to hear the case.

"This wasn't done because our society had changed or there was a general change in the public's idea about abortion," Recktenwald said. "It was because suddenly they had an opportunity. A vocal, very vigorous minority had an opportunity to get what they wanted, and they jumped on it. There are no new arguments [to the case], so why would they want to change it?"

“WE NEED TO VOTE, GET OUT ON [THE] STREETS [AND] BRING THIS TO PEOPLE. THIS ISN'T SOMETHING FAR AWAY.”

— SENIOR SALONI GUPTA

Just because they can. Not because there's a legal argument or constitutional issue, just because they can."

With the Supreme Court decision, trigger laws in states such as Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana were enacted, automatically banning abortion access. Other states, such as California, New York and Washington have moved to expand access to abortion. These different stances towards abortion across the country have affected where MVHS students view themselves in the future, with many upperclassmen deciding that they would not move to states with abortion restrictions.

"A lot of people seem to say this doesn't mean they're going to ban abortion," junior Katherine Poliektova said. "But it starts with this and then they start banning abortion. Personally, I would rather not take the risk and have to go through a process that isn't supportive of me. I'm not going to have a clear choice if I make the choice to move in those areas [where abortion is banned], and I'd rather have the clear choice available to me so I can make what is best for myself."

"THE SUPREME COURT HAS SHOWN THAT IT WAS READY TO IGNORE JUDICIAL PRECEDENT AND THE CONSTITUTION TO PUSH FOR CERTAIN MORAL STANCES. THE DECISION IS MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE, BUT THE DECISION IS THE EXPECTED OUTCOME BASED ON THE TREND OF THE COURT." — ERIC JU (12)

"IT'S HONESTLY TERRIFYING BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE SUCH A HUGE STEP BACK INTO THE PAST. WE'RE GOING FROM A PLACE WHERE THE COUNTRY HAD SOME HOPE FOR THE FUTURE TO FEELING LIKE WE'RE BEING SENT BACK YEARS. THIS TAKES AWAY SO MANY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE. ISN'T AMERICA A FREE COUNTRY? THIS FEELS LIKE SUCH A BETRAYAL, I'VE LIVED IN THIS COUNTRY MY ENTIRE LIFE AND NOW IT FEELS LIKE ITS ROOTING AGAINST ME." — SUHANA MAHABAL (9)

"EXPECTED, YET STILL DISAPPOINTED IN THIS DECLINING COUNTRY." — TAIMIN ZHOU (10)

In response to the decision, many protests were organized for and against abortion rights. With a protest happening in San Jose on June 25, Jerolimov decided to attend with seniors Gauri Manoj and Mira Wagner to protest and cover the event for El Estoque.

“THERE ARE NO NEW ARGUMENTS [TO THE CASE], SO WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO CHANGE IT? JUST BECAUSE THEY CAN.”

— U.S. GOVERNMENT TEACHER BENJAMIN RECKTENWALD

"As we were walking [to the protest], and as we were walking back, we had a sign that [said], 'My body, my choice,' and there were these men who came up to us and called us stupid or [said that we were] protesting for the wrong things," Jerolimov said. "I think it's interesting because in Cupertino, no one would ever come up to you and state their opinion like that. It [was] kind of a culture shock, even though we only [went] one city over [to San Jose]."



A CALL FOR ACTION Decker in green, senior Saloni Gupta advertises for Politics Club by standing on the Rally Court stairs with her sign. Gupta was sent a package of stickers and signs from her abortion rights group to bring the fight for legalizing abortion to MVHS on Club Info Day. "My main goal was to get the stickers out [and] get the green wave going," Gupta said. "In other states, [the ban to abortion access] is really happening to girls that are just like everyone else. So we need to bring it to life for all these people here and tell them that we need to do something." Photo by Reeya Sawhney

The push back against the decision returned to the MVHS community during Club Info Day on Sept. 16. Inspired by the abortion rights group she was part of, senior Saloni Gupta organized the Politics Club booth to call for legalizing abortion across the nation through a theme of green signs and distributing stickers to students who went to the booth.

"I wanted to make a statement to [MVHS] that we need to fight [and] we need to care about this more," Gupta said. "In California, we're sheltered [and] we don't have this going on. It's a fairly safe state for abortion rights. But in other states, this is really happening to girls that are just like me, girls that are just like everyone else. So we need to bring it to life for all these people here and tell them that we need to do something."

After Club Info Day, Gupta continued to relate Politics Club more with abortion rights, aiming to create fundraisers and events at school to bring more attention to the effects of the decision in other states across the nation.

"We need to vote, we need to get out on [the] streets [and] we need to bring this to people," Gupta said. "We need them to understand that this isn't something far away. Even if it was a little step, at least I was making [the step] forward for women's reproductive rights."

As the country moves forward with the decision, questions arise regarding Justice Clarence Thomas' argument to reconsidering past rulings on

contraception access and same-sex marriage, leading many to push for changes to the Supreme Court. Despite agreeing with the idea of adding more judges on the bench, Recktenwald believes these changes will only create a dangerous precedent in the future.

"I don't think the Supreme Court as an institution is not necessarily the problem," Recktenwald said. "I actually think the way [the Supreme Court] is organized is possibly the best of the three federal government branches. I think it's more the way the people on the court have turned it into [being] all about politics as opposed to what the Constitution [says], what's best for our nation [and] what's right."

With the Supreme Court entering its new term on Oct. 3, new cases relating to affirmative action, voting rights and free speech have yet to be heard. However, the effects of the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* remains across the nation and in MVHS.

"We just [had] a couple of people decide for thousands of people what their reproductive rights should be," Poliektova said. "That's just incorrect. It challenges [the] system of the Supreme Court, and if it should exist and what restrictions it should possibly have. I think that is an interesting discussion to have, although I didn't like it had to be brought up this way."