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What's At Stake: President Trump Promised To Nominate Justices To Overturn Roe

Then-Candidate Trump: "If we put another two or perhaps three justices on, that's [overturning Roe v. Wade] really what's going to be — that will happen."

Then-Candidate Trump: "Because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states."

Then-President-Elect Trump: "The judges will be pro-life."

Then-Candidate Donald Trump:

WALLACE: Mr. Trump, you're pro-life. But I want to ask you specifically: Do you want the court, including the justices that you will name, to overturn Roe v. Wade, which includes — in fact, states — a woman's right to abortion?

TRUMP: Well, if that would happen, **because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states.** [Trump-Clinton Presidential Debate in Las Vegas, [10/19/16](#)]

Then-Candidate Donald Trump:

WALLACE: But what I'm asking you, sir, is, do you want to see the court overturn — you just said you want to see the court protect the Second Amendment. Do you want to see the court overturn Roe v. Wade?

TRUMP: Well, **if we put another two or perhaps three justice on, that's really what's going to be — that will happen.** And that'll happen automatically, in my opinion, because I am putting pro-life justices on the court. I will say this: It will go back to the states, and the states will then make a determination. [Trump-Clinton Presidential Debate in Las Vegas, [10/19/16](#)]

Then-Candidate Donald Trump:

O'REILLY: I have a question from a viewer. Diane Ranke from Silver Spring, Maryland. Donald Trump says he is pro-life. Please ask him to name one specific thing he would do to protect the sanctity of human life. Can you?

TRUMP: Well, I think that are what we're doing and I think it's a very important element in what I have done. I have become pro-life. I was in a meek fashion pro-choice, but I have become pro-life. But I become pro- life. And the reason is, I have seen, in my case one specific situation, but numerous situations that have made me to go that way. I will protect it and the biggest way you can protect it is through the Supreme Court and putting people in the court. And actually the biggest way you can protect it, I guess, is by electing me president.

O'REILLY: All right. So, you are going to get a judge who would overthrow — overturn Roe v. Wade? That's a specific thing —

TRUMP: Well, overturn or — look, I'm going to put conservative judges on. I think one of the biggest things happening in terms of this election are, you know, it could be as many as five judges will be appointed over the next four and a half years. So we're talking about five judges. And I think probably the most important thing that one of the most important thing, other than the security itself of the country is going to be the appointment of four to five Supreme Court justices and I will be doing that. [Fox News, [5/10/16](#)]

Then-Candidate Donald Trump:

O'REILLY: All right. So, let me just get this straight. So that Diane's question is answered.

Your specific thing to protect the sanctity of life would be appointing a Supreme Court justice that would overturn Roe v. Wade. Do I have it?

TRUMP: Well, they will be pro-life and we will see what about overturning. But we will appoint — I will appoint judges that will be pro-life, yes. [Fox News, [5/10/16](#)]

Then-President-Elect Donald Trump: “I’m pro-life,” he said. “The judges will be pro-life.” Asked specifically whether he wants the Supreme Court to repeal the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion nationwide, Trump replied that if the decision were overturned the issue of abortion would be decided by each state. “If it ever were overturned, it would go back to the states,” he said. But does that mean some women would be unable to receive abortions, assuming their home states ban them? Asked to clarify, Trump replied: “Yeah, well, they’ll perhaps have to go, they’ll have to go to another state.” [CBS, [11/13/16](#)]

STAHL: During the campaign, you said that you would appoint justices who were against abortion rights. Will you appoint— are you looking to appoint a justice who wants to overturn Roe v. Wade?

TRUMP: So look, here`s what`s going to happen: I`m going to— I`m pro-life. The judges will be pro-life. They`ll be very—

STAHL: But what about overturning this law—

TRUMP: Well, there are a couple of things. They`ll be pro-life, they`ll be— in terms of the whole gun situation, we know the Second Amendment and everybody`s talking about the Second Amendment and they`re trying to dice it up and change it, they`re going to be very pro- Second Amendment. But having to do with abortion— if it ever were overturned, it would go back to the states.

STAHL: But then—

TRUMP: So it would go back to the states and—

STAHL: —some women won`t be able to get an abortion?

TRUMP: No, it'll go back to the states.

STAHL: By state—no some—

TRUMP: Yeah. Well, they'll perhaps have to go— they'll have to go to another state.

STAHL: And that's okay?

TRUMP: Well, we'll see what happens. It's got a long way to go, just so you understand. That has a long, long way to go. [CBS 60 Minutes, 11/14/16]

Trump Campaign Spokeswoman Hope Hicks: “Mr. Trump gave an accurate account of the law as it is today and made clear it must stay that way now — until he is president. Then he will change the law through his judicial appointments and allow the states to protect the unborn. There is nothing new or different here.” [NY Times, [4/1/16](#)]