

*Roe v Wade

(Continued from page 1.)
right to abortion came from, rather it provided several areas of the Constitution that might provide such a right. Alito wrote that the Casey decision "did not defend this unfocused analysis," instead grounding the right in the "liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The court's opinion recognized that the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause has been found to guarantee certain rights that are not spelled out in the Constitution, but that those rights are "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition." Abortion, the court said, "does not fall within this category," as "such a right was entirely unknown in American law" until the late 20th century.

The earliest sources for a right to an abortion, the Court said, are "a few" state and district court decisions from "shortly before Roe," and "a small number of law review articles from the same time period."

Alito referenced the dissenting opinion from Justices Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan, and Sonia Sotomayor, stating that it "is very candid that it cannot show that a constitutional right to abortion has any foundation, let alone a ‘deeply rooted’ one, ‘in this Nation’s history and tradition.’"

"The dissent's failure to engage with this long tradition is devastative to its position," Alito wrote.

The majority opinion also noted that the dissent did not provide any "serious discussion" of the states' interest in protecting the life of a fetus, while also making clear that the Court's ruling "is not based on any view about if and when prenatal life is entitled to any of the rights enjoyed after birth."

The court then addressed the concept of stare decisis – the tradition of following established court precedent.

"Overruling a precedent is a serious matter," Alito wrote. "It is not a step that should be taken lightly."

Still, he said, if the Supreme Court never overturned precedent, "American constitutional law as we know it would be unrecognizable, and this would be a different country."

The Court then asserted that there are five reasons why Roe and Casey should be overruled: "the nature of their error, the quality of their reasoning, the ‘workability’ of the rules they imposed on the country, their disruptive effect on other areas of the law, and the absence of concrete reliance."

The Court explained that Casey's test of whether a law places an "undue burden" on the ability to get an abortion "has scored poorly on the

workability scale," citing the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who said that the test is "inherently standardless."

The majority criticized Casey for its vagueness and ambiguity, and its failure to give a "clear answer" as to how to apply its undue burden test.

The opinion went on to explain that Roe and Casey disrupted other areas of law, claiming that they "have diluted the strict standard for facial constitutional challenges," ignored key judicial principles, and "distorted First Amendment doctrines."

Addressing the issue of reliance, the Court stated that such an interest typically arises "where advance planning of great precision is most obviously a necessity." Alito wrote that Casey itself "conceded that those traditional reliance interests were not implicated because getting an abortion is generally ‘unplanned activity.’"

As for Casey's claim that people have made decisions about their relationships in reliance on abortion being an available option, the Court said that this is not concrete enough, and that "this Court is ill-equipped to assess ‘generalized assertions about the national psyche.’"

Alito then addressed the argument made in Casey that "[t]he American people’s belief in the rule of law would be shaken if they lost respect for this Court as an institution that decides important cases based on principle, not ‘social and political pressures.’"

While he recognized that there is indeed "a special danger" that the public will view a decision this way, Alito countered that "we cannot allow our decisions to be

affected by any extraneous influences such as concern about the public’s reaction to our work."

Public reaction to a possible overruling of Roe well before the Court handed down Friday's decision. A leak of a draft opinion by Alito from February that reached the same conclusion caused nationwide debate and promoted pro-choice activist protests at the homes of the six conservative justices.

In addition, dozens of pro-life pregnancy centers were vandalized since the opinion leak, Catholic churches were targeted for protests and unrest, and a suspect was charged with attempted murder for allegedly trying to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Despite this, Alito wrote that the response to the Court's ruling was unknown at the time the case was decided, nor would it matter.

"We do not pretend to know how our political system or society will respond to today’s decision overruling Roe and Casey. And even if we could foresee what will happen, we would have no authority to let that knowledge influence our decision," he wrote. "We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives."

As for any future constitutional challenges to abortion restrictions, the Court said those laws should generally be valid as long as they have a rational basis.

People protest about abortion, Friday, June 24, 2022, outside the Supreme Court in Washington.

The dissent accused the majority of ignoring a woman's interest in making decisions about child bearing for herself.

"It says that from the very moment of fertilization, a woman has no rights to speak of. A State can force her to bring a pregnancy to term, even at the steepest personal and familial costs," Breyer, Kagan and Sotomayor said.

"Across a vast array of circumstances, a State will be able to impose its moral choice on a woman and coerce her to give birth to a child," they added.

The dissent also claimed that the court's ruling jeopardizes other rights, such as the rights to contraception and same-sex marriage.

"They are all part of the same constitutional fabric, protecting autonomous decisionmaking over the most personal of life decisions," the dissenting justices said.

A number of Republican-led states have already passed "trigger laws," in the event Roe was overturned, that would immediately restrict access to abortion.

Georgia, Iowa, Ohio and South Carolina all have laws banning abortions after the six-week mark, which have been ruled unconstitutional but would likely be revisited if Roe is overturned, the Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research group, has reported.

On the other hand, pro-choice advocates will have to work to codify Roe or enact looser abortion restrictions by passing state-level legislation.

New York passed a bill in 2018 designed to codify Roe, and other blue states are expected to follow suit after the Supreme Court's ruling.

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
West Holmes Water Association
PWS# 260027
June 2022

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Upper Meridian Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the West Holmes Water Association have received moderate to higher rankings in terms of susceptibility to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Otis Clark at 662.299.8088. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please join us at any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday in May at 6:00 PM at 199 Marcella Road.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2021. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2021, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity, microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/L MCLG	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
10. Barium	N	2018*	0.092	0.056 - 0.092	ppm		2	2 Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2018*	1.9	.8 - 1.9	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2018/20*	0	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2018*	.169	.166 - .169	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2018/20*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAA5	N	2021	10.5	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
82. TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2021	3.55	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2021	1.1	9 - 1.5	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2021.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7562 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The West Holmes Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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