



#FundAbortionLA Campaign Guide

Overview

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE launched the #FundAbortionLA campaign to directly fund abortion care and logistical support needs for anyone seeking care in Los Angeles county. The campaign is asking the LA County Board of Supervisors to support access to reproductive and sexual health services for our community by allocating \$200,000 to ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, the only statewide abortion fund in California.

We're launching this campaign in the face of unprecedented attacks on reproductive justice and abortion access across the country. While we are fortunate that most private insurance plans, as well as Medi-Cal, provide coverage for abortions, people still fall through the cracks of coverage. And some people who travel to California seeking abortion care can't get the care they need and can't afford the cost of additional expenses that come with getting an abortion, such as lodging, childcare, transportation, food and much more. Los Angeles County has the largest population in California, which means that there's a great need for abortion funding in LA communities.

As we witnessed the devastating impacts of Senate Bill 8 in Texas, we now know how easy it has become for states to limit the autonomy of anyone with the ability to give birth. Across California, including in Los Angeles County, we are seeing an increased need for abortion care both from local community members, as well as people traveling to our state. We only expect those numbers to increase as states continue to introduce and pass anti-abortion restrictions and bans.

The legal right to abortion is meaningless if it is not accessible. By dedicating funding to ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, we can support hundreds of people who face economic and logistical barriers to accessing the abortion care they need and deserve in LA County. People with low-incomes are often forced to make impossible choices between covering their basic necessities, like rent and food, and paying for their abortions. And this disproportionately impacts Black, Latinx, immigrant, and refugee communities.

Talking Points

Every person should have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare, including abortion. Even in a reproductive freedom state like California, that is not a reality for many people in Los Angeles County.

- It's the duty of local governments to find creative and equitable solutions to fit the needs of our community members.
- The people who are already failed by our complicated health systems, including Black, Indigenous, people of color, low income folks, young people, transgender and non-binary people, are also the most harmed by barriers to accessing care. These barriers include needs such as funds for the abortion, transportation to and from a clinic, lodging for multiple day appointments, childcare, and much more.
- A budget item to support procedural and practical support of abortion care and other reproductive healthcare services in Los Angeles County is an important step towards ensuring everyone has access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.



#FundAbortionLA Campaign Guide

Talking Points

Abortion funds continue to receive an increase in requests for financial assistance for abortion care due to the significant economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the erosion of abortion access across the country.

- ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, California's only statewide abortion fund, has supported nearly 500 callers in 2021 with over \$70,000 in support for procedural and practical support needs. But this is only a small fraction of the financial support callers need to access their care.
- Abortion funds are community-based organizations, often run by volunteers, that help people in their communities pay for their abortion care.
- They grew out of a need to step in where elected officials have failed, with policies that ban abortion coverage or don't provide adequate funding for this care. A fund will typically pledge a few hundred dollars to their clients to support them in accessing care.

When someone in Los Angeles County has decided to end their pregnancy, it is important that they have equitable and timely access to abortion care, regardless of income or other socioeconomic status. Low wages, high co-pays and deductibles, and navigating Medi-Cal can make it burdensome to access care.

- Nearly half of Americans are unable to afford an unanticipated \$400 expense. We know this is true for many of our community members. For those in Los Angeles struggling to make ends meet, this means that they may have to make the impossible choice between paying for basic needs or paying for their healthcare.
- Denying or delaying care can have profound and lasting consequences. Studies show that a person who wants an abortion but is denied is more likely to live in poverty and is more likely to not be able to cover their basic living needs.

As California prepares to respond to a significant influx of patients seeking abortion coming to the state, major cities and municipalities, including Los Angeles County need to take proactive action to ensure equitable, accessible reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

- According to the Guttmacher Institute, if the U.S. Supreme Court weakens or overturns Roe v. Wade, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion.
 - This would lead to an increase in women of reproductive age (15-49) who may drive to California for abortion care. Guttmacher Institute estimates a 2,923% increase in women who may drive to California for care.
- As we work towards rebounding from the initial impact of the pandemic and preparing for a potential gutting of Roe v. Wade, funding procedural and practical support is a proactive commitment to economic justice and removing barriers for those seeking care in LA County.

We need Los Angeles County to set the standard as a place where abortion is truly accessible for ALL.



Sample Tweets

- @LACountyBOS let's #FundAbortionLA to ensure that everyone seeking abortions in LA can get care free from barriers!
- @LACountyBOS let's #FundAbortionLA to ensure that abortion is accessible for ALL getting care in LA County!
- @LACountyBOS we need to allocate funding for abortion access to @access_rj to ensure that everyone seeking abortions in LA County can get the care they need! #FundAbortionLA
- Every person should have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare, including abortion. That's why we need to #FundAbortionLA! @LACountyBOS
- Even in a reproductive freedom state like California, many people still cannot access the care they need. We need to #FundAbortionLA to ensure everyone has access to reproductive healthcare! @LACountyBOS
- I want to live in a community where my elected officials ensure we all have access to the reproductive care we need. @LACountyBOS let's #FundAbortionLA to make this a reality!
- When someone in Los Angeles County decides to end their pregnancy, it is important that they have equitable and timely access to abortion care. @LACountyBOS we need to #FundAbortionLA to ensure this happens for everyone seeking care!
- Denying or delaying abortion care can have profound and lasting consequences. @LACountyBOS we need to #FundAbortionLA to ensure everyone seeking care in LA County can access the abortions they need when they want them!
- @access_rj is the only statewide abortion fund providing financial and logistical support for people seeking abortion care. They need to be better resourced to ensure everyone can receive the care they want in LA County! @LACountyBOS #FundAbortionLA

Sample Public Comments

- I want the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to allocate \$200,000 to ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, California's only statewide abortion fund, to support access to reproductive and sexual health services for our community. We need to fund abortion, LA!
- Even though California is a reproductive freedom state, many people are still falling through the cracks and are unable to access the abortion care they need when they want it. I'm urging the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to allocate \$200,000 to ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE to ensure abortion access is a reality for everyone seeking care in Los Angeles. Let's fund abortion LA!
- We're witnessing reproductive freedom be undermined across the country which will force people to travel across state lines to access abortion care. We need to increase abortion access in California to ensure everyone living here and anyone traveling here can access the care they need free from barriers. We need the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to allocate funding to ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE to make abortion access a reality for ALL.



PO BOX 3609
Oakland, CA 94609
510-923-0739
ACCESSRJ.ORG

How to Attend Meetings & Make Public Comments


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
LIVE VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 AT 9:30 AM


TO LISTEN BY TELEPHONE ONLY:
(877) 873-8017
ENTER THE ACCESS CODE WHEN PROMPTED:
Access Code (English): 111111
Access Code (Spanish): 222222

TO WATCH THE MEETING LIVE:
View information being shared from your computer or mobile device
bos.lacounty.gov/Live-Broadcast
www.youtube.com/c/LACountyBOS

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:
For all regular Agenda items (excluding the Public Hearing Items)
(877) 226-8163
PARTICIPANT CODE: 1336503 - Starting at 9:00AM
(Press 1 then 0 to address the Board)
For Public Hearing Agenda Nos. 3 through 9
(877) 692-8955
PARTICIPANT CODE: 4433663 - Starting at 10:00AM
(Press 1 then 0 to address the Board)

TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ONLINE:
PublicComment.bos.lacounty.gov
(Note the Agenda Item number and Board meeting date on your correspondence.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

 @LACountyBOS

Subscribe to our #FundAbortionLA Campaign Newsletter

Send an Email in Support of #FundAbortionLA to the Board of Supervisors

#FundAbortionLA Phonebanking Script