



Nov. 8 Voters Asked to Define Life at Fertilization

Three Constitutional Initiatives will be decided by Mississippi voters on the November 8, 2011 General Election ballot. Initiative 26, commonly known as the Personhood Amendment, would define the term "person" when used in state law to include every human being from the moment of fertilization.

**From the website of Mississippi Secretary of State
Delbert Hoseman:**

Initiative 26 "Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Mississippi: SECTION 1. Article III of the constitution of the state of Mississippi is hereby amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION TO READ: SECTION 33. Person defined. As used in this Article III of the state constitution, "The term 'person' or 'persons' shall include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof."

An Updated Statement from the MSMA Board of Trustees

MSMA realizes there are strong feelings both for and against Proposal 26 that we recognize and appreciate. Our concern is not with those issues and we do not in any way wish to take sides.

Our concern is how this amendment will affect the common practice of obstetrics and gynecology. We fear that it will place in jeopardy a physician who tries to save a mother's life by performing procedures and employing techniques physicians have used for years.

The common procedures we use now could be interpreted as murder or wrongful death if Proposal 26 passes. This justifiably will limit the physician's options and deter use of common lifesaving procedures.

It is for this reason only, the MSMA Board of Trustees cannot support Proposal 26.