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**NEWS**

# Democrats for Life cancels Yolanda Flowers support over abortion stance, 'lack of courage'

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By **Sarah Swetlik | [sswetlik@al.com](mailto:sswetlik@al.com)**

Democrats for Life America, a political group that supports certain abortion bans as part of a right to “whole life,” announced that advocates have removed an endorsement of Alabama gubernatorial candidate Yolanda Flowers.

Flowers, a former educator and political newcomer, won Alabama's Democratic party nomination for governor on June 21, three days before the overturn of Roe v. Wade. She is the first Black female nominee for the office.

In a press release, Democrats for Life said Flowers sought the group's endorsement by filling out a standard form on the group's website. They claimed that Flowers changed her views on abortion from what she initially presented.

Flowers said Democrats for Life was aware of her stance from the beginning.

“I’ve always stated that women have the right to do they want to do health-wise for their own bodies,” Flowers said in an interview Tuesday. “People just took that out to left field, but I’ve always been pro-choice.”

According to their website, Democrats for Life states that they believe “laws should prosecute doctors and clinics who profit from abortion” and call for Democrats to “pass laws protecting pre-born life.”

“Ms. Flowers sought DFLA endorsement for her gubernatorial race by posing as a pro-life Democrat,” wrote director Kristen Day in a statement. “The organization spent significant time and resources working to further her campaign. We were profoundly shocked when she started issuing confusing statements and ultimately changed her position to pro-choice.”

Flowers’ social media and platform doesn’t specifically mention abortion, but her interview responses have been generally favorable of abortion remaining legal in the state.

Flowers told AL.com in June that she believes abortion should be legal for safety reasons, though she did add that she would like to see counseling for patients considering pregnancy termination.

“We don’t need to ban abortion, but abortions need to be done safely,” Flowers said during the interview. “I’m not trying to sway them, I’m not trying to change their

minds, but just giving them information and informed choices so that they can make a real choice."

According to the most recent data from the Public Religion Research Institute, 42% of Alabamians surveyed believe that abortion should be legal in some or all cases, with 52% saying it should be illegal. When it comes to candidates and voting, 22% said it was non-negotiable that the candidate share their views on abortion. Contrastingly, 28% said it wasn't a major issue that would change their vote, while the 45% majority said it was one of many important issues.

Day wrote that the "lack of courage and integrity by the candidate only harms the Alabama Democratic party" and will negatively impact the party's ability to win seats.

Flowers will face Republican incumbent Gov. Kay Ivey in Nov. A recent poll from Morning Consult showed that 62% of registered voters surveyed in Alabama approved of Ivey's performance.

Alabama's highest office has remained solidly Republican since 2003. Pew Research Center reported that 50% of Alabamians consider themselves conservative, while 29% say they're moderate.

"In a year where Republicans are heavily favored, a moderate position of a meaningful safe, legal and rare position with expanded support for pregnant women would have gained traction with the Alabama electorate," said Rev. Harriet Bradley, director of African American outreach for Democrats for Life. "Overall this push for radical abortion values indicates a lack of seriousness for Democrats in this red state."

Democrats for Life America could not be reached for additional comment.

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