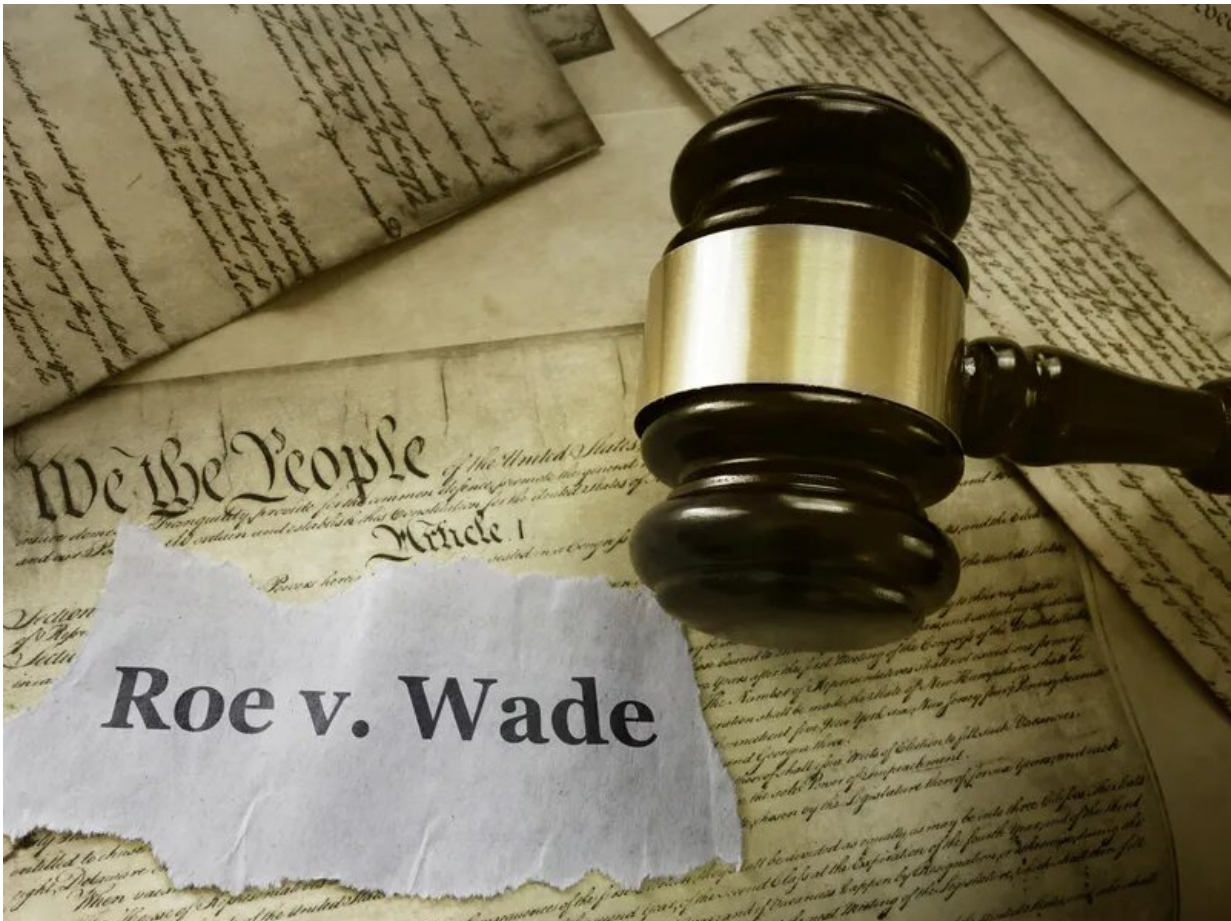


# Supreme court set to overturn Roe v. Wade, leaked draft opinion shows

May 3 2022

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The U.S. Supreme Court is on the verge of striking down the landmark

Roe v. Wade ruling, a leaked draft opinion shows.

In the [draft opinion](#), a majority of the court voted to overturn the 1973 decision that granted [abortion rights](#) to all American women.

"It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of [abortion](#) to the people's elected representatives," Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the draft opinion, which was crafted and circulated among the justices back in February. The landmark ruling "was "egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issues, *Roe* and *Casey* have enflamed debate and deepened division," the draft opinion stated.

The news was first reported by *Politico*.

Alito's opinion was backed by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, while Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan were working on dissents. The stance of Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. remained unclear, the *The New York Times* reported.

This is the first [time](#) in the Supreme Court's history that an early draft opinion has been leaked before the final decision was announced, and they often change before the court's decision is announced, the *Times* noted. The Supreme Court is expected to issue its final opinion in [late June or early July](#).

"The Court has no comment" on the leaked draft opinion, Supreme Court public information officer Patricia McCabe told the *Washington Post* Monday evening.

If the [court's](#) final decision does match the leaked [opinion](#), it would

represent a massive shift in U.S. law and trigger political clashes nationwide about whether and how [abortion](#) should be limited.

Roughly half of U.S. states are expected to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, mostly in the South and Midwest, the *Times* reported. Without access to legal abortion, illegal and dangerous abortions are likely to continue, with the burden likely disproportionately falling on poor women who can't drive to other states for the procedure.

Research has suggested that overturning *Roe* would reduce the number of legal abortions by around 14 percent, according to the *Times*. Many states would still provide the procedure, and some are taking steps to help women in states that ban it. But women who cannot travel will be left with few options: Ordering pills online, conducting dangerous procedures themselves or going through with the birth.

**More information:** Visit the Guttmacher Institute for more on [abortion laws](#) across the United States.

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