

City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
District 6

MATT DORSEY

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STATEMENT

Supervisor Dorsey’s statement on the reversal of *Roe*, Justice Thomas’ ominous opinion on LGBTQ+ precedent

*Concurring opinion that U.S. high court must now ‘correct the error’ of landmark marriage equality precedents makes clear *Roe* is ‘only the first target of court’s far-right majority’*

SAN FRANCISCO (June 24, 2022) — Supervisor Matt Dorsey today issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which overturned 1973’s landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision. A [concurring opinion](#) by Associate Justice Clarence Thomas made specific reference to a need to “correct the error” of other prior decisions, including those establishing marriage equality rights for same-sex couples in California and the United States. As a 14-year veteran of the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office under former City Attorney Dennis Herrera, Dorsey played a key role in that office’s nine-year legal battle for marriage equality, which successfully struck down the anti-LGBTQ+ Prop 8 in 2013.

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade* rips away the right of women to make health care choices over their own bodies,” Dorsey said. “The ruling plunges women back to a dark time in our history that we once couldn’t have imagined, but which became possible with a 2016 election that would solidify a far-right majority on our U.S. Supreme Court. Reversing this constitutional right that has stood for nearly 50 years has grave consequences for women and many others across our nation.

“June isn’t solely Pride month, it’s also when the U.S. Supreme Court issues its opinions. Recent years have given our LGBTQ+ community cause to celebrate during Pride, with landmark rulings for equality like *Obergefell* (2015), *Hollingsworth* (2013) and *Lawrence* (2003). My own role in one of those legal battles over the course of nine years in the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office made our victory in *Hollingsworth* — striking down California’s Prop 8 as unconstitutional — an especially sweet Pride celebration.

“But today’s high court has robbed us of all cause to celebrate. Pride 2022 can’t just be a celebration, but a call to action. We knew today’s ruling would be ominous, but Justice Thomas’ concurring opinion on *Dobbs* (2022) makes clear that *Roe* is only the first target for this court’s far-right majority. Elections have consequences, and we must all do our part now to protect and expand rights rather than diminish them.”

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