



The Reproductive Justice Lens Initiative Analysis Tool

INTRO TO THE RJ LENS TOOL

The Reproductive Justice (RJ) Lens Initiative Analysis Tool can be used to analyze ballot initiatives through a Reproductive Justice Lens. The tool helps us focus on how a ballot initiative would impact a person's ability to have control over their gender, bodies and sexuality, and how certain communities would experience the most concentrated impacts.

A new point of view: lifting up the RJ perspective

The RJ Lens Initiative Analysis Tool can be used to look at initiatives that might not traditionally be considered reproductive justice issues. Using a Reproductive Justice Lens to look at these issues can help lift up and bring attention to the reproductive justice impacts of these initiatives.

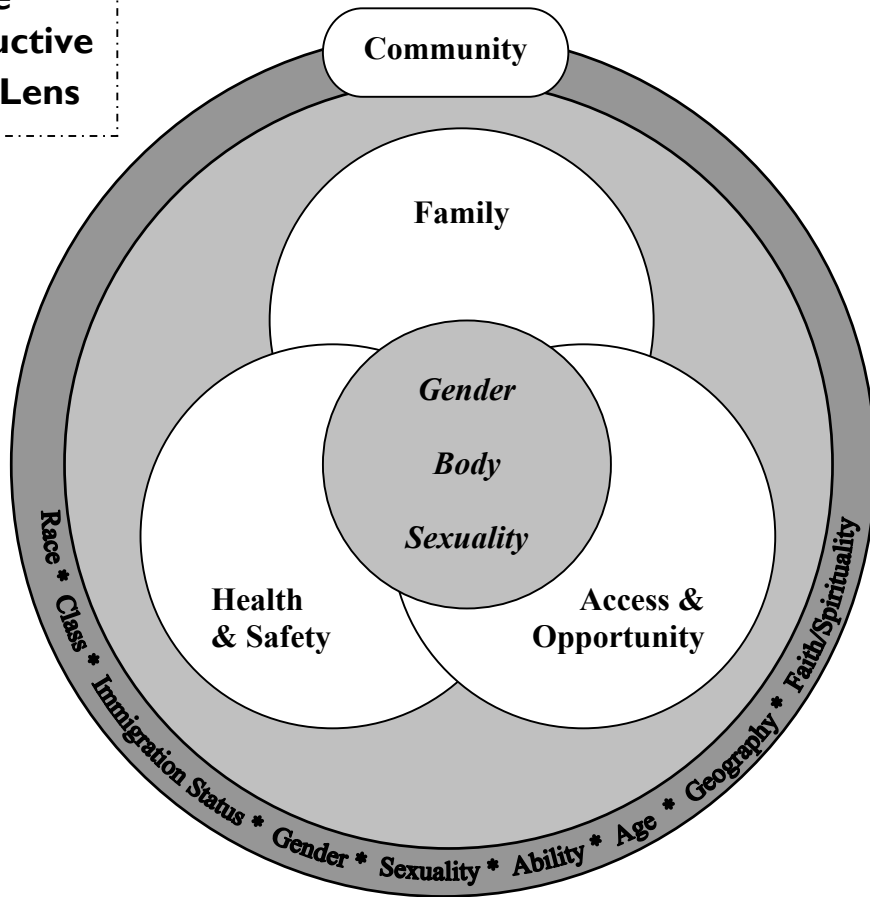
Connection to movement building

By focusing on the reproductive justice impacts of a ballot initiative, the RJ Lens Initiative Analysis Tool can be used to look at a range of initiatives across the country, help make the reproductive justice connection between these initiatives, and foster alliances across communities, geography and social justice sectors. Through these alliances, groups can learn from and support each other to move their electoral work forward together. This is just one way of applying a movement building approach to electoral organizing – working collectively to magnify impact is what movement building is all about!

KEY DEFINITIONS & CONCEPTS

- **Reproductive justice** exists when all people have the social, political and economic power and resources to make healthy decisions about our gender, bodies and sexuality for our selves, our families and our communities.
- The core problem that we are trying to address is **reproductive oppression**, which is the controlling and regulation of our gender, bodies and sexuality by governments, institutions and societies.
- The reproductive justice framework draws on the **intersectionality** of identities and experiences that affect individuals and communities, including race, class, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, ability and age.
- A reproductive justice analysis recognizes that all of us come from **community** and that our communities are vitally important, and applies community-centered framing and approaches, rather than individualistic.

**The
Reproductive
Justice Lens**



Looking at an initiative through an RJ Lens

Big picture question:

How does this measure increase or challenge people's ability to have control over their gender, bodies and sexuality?

Gender means...

- Gender roles & expectations
- Gender identity & expression
- Gender-based oppression

Body means...

- Physical control: detention, separation from family
- Physical conditions: work, home, neighborhood
- Health care: withheld or forced

Sexuality means...

- Sexual health
- Knowledge about sex
- Sexual identify, expression & behavior

FILL IN THE CHART BELOW to use the RJ Lens to analyze an initiative!

Family means any way that you define a family – it can be the family you’re born into, the family you choose to create, and those who share their lives with you.

How does this measure impact people’s ability to have control over their gender, bodies and sexuality in relation to family?

Health & Safety means complete well-being – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual

How does this measure impact people’s ability to have control over their gender, bodies and sexuality in relation to health and safety?

Access & Opportunity means having health care, education, jobs, housing, and a life where you can thrive.

How does this measure impact people’s ability to have control over their gender, bodies and sexuality in relation to access and opportunity?

Communities are defined by race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, immigration status, age, ability, geographic region and faith/spirituality, and the intersections of these identities.

Which communities are most impacted by this measure, and how?

LOOKING AT THE BIGGER PICTURE: SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS	
Who's behind this measure? What other ballot measure, bills or causes do they support?	
How does this measure unite communities?	
How does this measure divide communities?	
How will this measure add or take away resources from programs that support communities?	
What communities does this measure target? How does this measure support or hurt communities that have been marginalized by racism, sexism, class oppression, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, ageism and other forms of oppression?	
Has this same measure, or a similar measure, been on the state ballot in the past? What was the outcome? What were strategies used to pass or defeat it	
What's the bigger picture? Is this initiative part of a pattern or trend happening across the country that's following a particular agenda?	