

NBC's *Today*

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7:00:51 a.m. [TEASE]

20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Battle Over Abortion]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Breaking overnight, the battle over abortion heating up again. North Carolina banning most abortions after 12 weeks.

PROTESTERS: Shame! Shame! Shame!

GUTHRIE: Republican lawmakers overriding the governor's veto overnight to make it the law of the land. The reaction just ahead and how the issue could impact the 2024 presidential race.

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7:06:38 a.m.

2 minutes and 43 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Abortion Bill Veto Showdown]

HODA KOTB: Let's move now to breaking news overnight tied to the abortion debate. Republican lawmakers in North Carolina overriding the governor's veto of a ban after 12 weeks, allowing it now to become law. NBC's Stephanie Gosk is here with details. Hi, Steph, good morning.

STEPHANIE GOSK: Hey, Hoda, good morning. You know, in the wake of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, North Carolina has been considered a safe haven by some women seeking an abortion in the south. But now, the landscape is shifting for them yet again with new obstacles making it more difficult to get the procedure.

PROTESTERS: Shame! Shame! Shame!

GOSK: Overnight, U.S. abortion access facing another major shift as one of the remaining southern states to allow abortions tightened restrictions.

PROTESTERS: Shame! Shame! Shame!

GOSK: Late protests in the North Carolina capital after the state banned the procedure after 12 weeks.

PROTESTERS: Shame! Shame! Shame!

GOSK: The Democratic governor, Roy Cooper, vetoed the new ban and went on the road trying

to persuade others to join his side but a united Republican party voted to override him.

PRO-LIFE WOMAN: People of the state are just family values, conservative people.

GOSK: Supporters say the bill is a compromise since, according to the CDC, 90 percent of abortions occur before 20 weeks, and it allows for cases of rape, incest, and health of the mother, but it includes more restrictions like mandated doctor visits and more regulations for clinics.

ABORTION SUPPORTER IN LAB COAT: With all the restrictions, it's going to really, really limit access to abortion at all.

GOSK: Governor Cooper saying, overnight "several Republican lawmakers broke their promises to protect women's reproductive freedom." It's all part of the changing landscape for abortion access across the country since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year as many southern and Midwestern states have banned abortions entirely or under six weeks. North Carolina was one of the only southern states with lighter restrictions. After the *Roe* decision, the state had an increase in the number of abortions provided, suggesting that women from surrounding states may have traveled there, according to a non-profit that supports abortion access.

FEMALE ABORTION SUPPORTER #2: This is about making sure that politicians stay out of my family decisions, out of my doctors' offices.

GOSK: And it comes as two other states are considering changing access this week. South Carolina is locked in a fierce fight over banning abortions after six weeks in pregnancy and, overnight, Republicans in Nebraska moved the 12 week abortion ban forward. What this ensures is that abortion will remain in the spotlight, at the center of political debate as we head into the 2024 election. The Republican front-runner, former President Trump has been under pressure to say whether he would sign a national abortion ban, so far refusing to answer the question — the very political question directly.

KOTB: Yeah, yeah.

GUTHRIE: Not ruling it out, not ruling it in.

GOSK: That's right.

KOTB: Thank you, Steph.

GUTHRIE: Thank you.

GOSK: In the middle, yep.