



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

**\*\*Please note that because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be a 5 Ways to Advocate e-blast next Monday (November 28th). Happy Thanksgiving from NCJWSTL. Wishing you an abundance of food, family, happiness and fellowship.**

***Want to help people seeking access to reproductive healthcare in our region?***

***Here is an opportunity to make a "hands-on" difference in someone's life...***

NCJWSTL has partnered with local clinics to provide direct support services to patients. Help us help women in our region by ordering from our [Amazon Wish List](#). These items will be stocked at the clinics for patients in need. NCJWSTL volunteers will coordinate and deliver everything to the clinics.

- **Please [click here](#) for the NCJWSTL Clinic Wish List.**
- **Please make sure that NCJWSTL is the shipping address when you place an order (295 N. Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63141).**

***\*Thanks in advance for your help and support\****

## **Tell Secretary of State Ashcroft to Say NO to Banning Books!**

Now is the time to make your voice heard! Members of the public can now **formally** weigh in on an attempt by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft to block **public funding for libraries** if they offer books that might appeal to the sexual interests of minors and are supportive of the LGBTQ+ community. In essence, he is attempting to ban books.

**[You have until December 15th to submit comments to Secretary Ashcroft](#)** voicing your opposition to this

proposal. Depending on these comments, the rule could be reworked or it could go before a bipartisan panel of state lawmakers who could vote to send the matter to the full House and Senate.

**Below are some sample talking points:**



- Librarians believe that parents can and should be responsible for what their own children read. By allowing anyone to challenge material, this rule would infringe on the First Amendment rights of parents as well as older children.
- There is already a process in place to review books that are on library shelves, based on the professional expertise of librarians.
- For libraries, the loss of state funding would have a profoundly negative impact in their communities. The public library system is a basic community service.
- The placement of books and materials in libraries is something that should be left up to people with training and experience in the profession of librarianship.

Comments may be submitted to the Secretary of State's office via email at [comments@sos.mo.gov](mailto:comments@sos.mo.gov) or by traditional mail to Office of the Missouri Secretary of State, P.O. Box 1767, Jefferson City, MO 65102. **Comments submitted via email must include "15 CSR 30-200.015" in the subject line.**

## 75 for the 75th: A virtual activity to support the NCJW Israel Granting Program



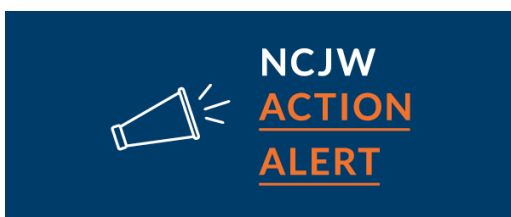
Did you know? [NCJW's Israel Granting Program](#) seeks to improve the lives of women, children and families throughout Israel. The organizations and projects we fund advance women's empowerment and gender equality, and strengthen shared society and democracy in Israel. In celebration of our program and Israel's 75th birthday, we are excited to announce a special effort to raise funds for these organizations making critical change. You can read more about these incredible programs by [clicking here](#).

How will this work? [Participants can pledge \\$75 to walk 75 miles\\*](#) in celebration of the ISRAEL GRANTING PROGRAM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY. The celebration will include in-person meet-ups to foster community and build engagement. The effort itself will start on January 1, 2023 and run until April 26, 2023, which is Israel Independence Day. Once you register, we will send instructions on keeping track of your progress. At the end of the effort, we will have a drawing for a special prize!

\*As an alternative to walking 75 miles, participants may run 75 miles, swim 75 hours, exercise for 75 hours, play pickleball (or other racket sports) for 75 hours, play soccer (or another team sports) for 75 hours, read 75 hours, advocate for 75 hours. Really, anything you want. We hear that Ellen Alper is going to bake 75 cookies!

Please [click here](#) to register for 75 For the 75th. For more information, please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

## Tell the Senate: Protect Electoral Count Integrity



Ever since the January 6th, 2021 insurrection on the capital, we believe it is paramount that the Senate clearly define and modernize the electoral count process to mitigate future abuse of power.

The good news is the [Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act](#) of 2022 modernizes and clarifies the process of certifying the presidential election, and a **version was passed by the House on September 21, 2022**.

[Now we need you to take action!](#)

Please [click here](#) to send an email to your Senators demanding they pass this act and continue to advocate for meaningful voting rights reform.

# December Lunch and Learn - Gun Violence Prevention Strategies with Gail Wechsler



Thursday, December 15, 2022  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

*Gail Wechsler*

**When:** Thursday, December 15 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the U.S., killing more than 39,000 people and causing nearly 85,000 injuries each year. Just a few weeks ago, a 19-year-old former student at St. Louis' Central Visual and Performing Arts High School used an AR-15-style rifle and more than 600 rounds of ammunition to kill a student and teacher and injure several others.

These deaths are preventable.

For our December Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Mom's Demand Action's Missouri State Communications Lead and NCJWSTL board member Gail Wechsler, who is an expert on legislative advocacy and school safety as pertaining to gun violence. Every time there is a school shooting, we all seem to be at a loss about what to do. Gail will help guide us in how to better make an impact.

**Please [click here](#) to register for the November Lunch and Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) or call 314.993.5181**

## Take Action & Join the A-List



**Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2022!** Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

***Together we can make a difference!***

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2022.

- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

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Join the A-list [here](#).

## Interesting Listening



In Israel, marriage and divorce are governed by Jewish law and controlled by the ultra-Orthodox rabbinical courts. If a Jewish woman wants a divorce, she has to get permission from her husband, in the form of a document called a get—and he can refuse. That's exactly what happens to about 1 in 5 Jewish women in Israel who want a divorce, according to a recent survey.

We are doing something a little different this week - instead of an article, we are bringing you a podcast. We hope you find it as eye-opening as we did.

[Click here](#) to listen to the Jewish Women's Archive's podcast episode, "Fighting for Israel's Chained Women."

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Transform Our Community**

# NCJWSTL | 125

CREATING CHANGE AND IMPACTING LIVES SINCE 1895



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