



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

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****

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.

Tell the Senate: Confirm Justice-Centered Judges and Strengthen our Federal Courts



Regardless of the outcome of any one election, **justice-centered courts are vital to protecting our democracy.** The only way to bring balance to the federal judiciary is for the Senate to confirm equal justice champions right now, making room for it to act on many more between now and 2025.

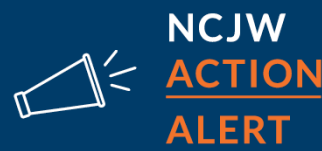
[There are dozens of nominees awaiting confirmation that have the backgrounds our democracy needs](#)

[represented on the bench immediately.](#) The Senate can make the choice to strengthen our federal courts by confirming at least ten nominees and everyone voted out of committee this year **MUST** get a confirmation vote in our push to fill every seat by the end of the 117th Congress.

Please [click here](#) to urge the Senate to take immediate action on strengthening our federal courts!

Urge the Missouri Legislature to Pass Clean Slate Legislation

It's December, and in the Missouri Legislature, that means it's time for bills to get pre-filed. NCJWSTL anticipates that there will be several bills that we will have to fight against, but we are keeping our fingers crossed that there will be some bills to support during the 2023 legislative session. Clean Slate legislation is one of them.



What is Clean Slate legislation? Simply put, it's designed to offer Clean Slates to Missourians with criminal records who are eligible for, but unable to access, expungement. Automating the record-clearing process is good for our community and our neighbors. Our communities thrive when people have access to basic human needs, and a past record should not prevent our neighbors from accessing housing, better-paying jobs, and recreation.

Criminal records should not be a life sentence. Current Missouri law recognizes that by allowing the expungement process for up to three misdemeanors and a felony. However, because of costs and bureaucracy, fewer than 1% of eligible people are able to access expungement, despite its life-changing potential.

Please [click here](#) to urge the Missouri Legislature to pass legislation to implement record clearance in Missouri.

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 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.**

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 Moms 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 December Lunch and Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call 314.993.5181

Fighting Bigotry & Hatred with Betsy Cohen from the St. Louis Mosaic Project



When: Thursday, December 15 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

NCJWSTL is excited to be a co-sponsor of this exciting event focused on how the St. Louis Mosaic Project is transforming our region into one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas for foreign-born people and promoting regional prosperity through immigration and innovation.

Executive Director Betsy Cohen launched The St. Louis Mosaic Project as a response to an economic impact report outlining St. Louis as a city lagging in immigrant growth and highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. Betsy also is the author of *"Welcome to the U.S.A., You're Hired! A Guide For Foreign-Born People Seeking Jobs,"* a book discussing search strategies and career development for foreign-born job seekers. This program, part of the Mirowitz Center's "Fighting Bigotry & Hatred" series, is co-sponsored by the St. Louis Mosaic Project, NCJWSTL, ADL Heartland and JCRC St. Louis.

Please [click here](#) to register.

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.

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

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

Interesting Reading



After the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, Google faced heightened scrutiny from lawmakers and activists over storing the location data of people who go to abortion clinics. This prompted the company to announce in July that it would automatically delete location data related to sensitive facilities, like abortion clinics, domestic violence shelters, or rehabilitation centers. But according to a report in the *Guardian*, there have been serious issues with how Google's policy change has been implemented.

[Click here](#) to read Kylie Cheung's article from *Jezebel*, "Google Isn't Deleting Users' Abortion-Related Data, Despite Post-Roe Promise."

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