



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Legislation Watch - Take Action Today!

NCJWSTL is closely monitoring the following legislation this week and we are asking you to take action:

HB 485 - This bill would allow the concealed carrying of firearms in churches and other places of worship by a person with a valid concealed carry permit.

HB 701 - This bill is an anti-Red Flag Law bill. Red Flag Laws allow loved ones or law enforcement to petition a court for an order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns. If you recall, many believe the shooting at Central Visual and Performing Arts School could have been prevented had a Red Flag Law been in place.

These two bills are up for a hearing on Wednesday afternoon. Please contact members of the Missouri House Emerging issues Committee and urge them to vote NO on HB 485 and HB 701. [Click here](#) for the committee's contact information.

HJR 43 - This bill would attack our citizen initiative process by making it harder to get a citizen initiative on the ballot and more difficult for measures to pass once on the ballot.

NCJWSTL testified in opposition to HJR 43. It has already passed the House. Please contact your Senator and urge them to vote **NO** on HJR 43 if and when it comes to the Senate floor. [Click here](#) to find your Senator's contact information.



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

Banned Books and the Power of School Boards: Why This Election Matters

WHY
SCHOOL
BOARDS
MATTER

When: Thursday, March 30 | 7:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Highly politicized issues have dominated local school board races in the past few years, often making school boards synonymous with controversy. It wasn't always this way. Ultra-conservative groups have spent decades trying to influence school boards and education policies and, in Missouri, they are succeeding.

Please join Congregation Shaare Emeth and NCJWSTL for a virtual panel discussion about the role of school boards in our communities and the tools you can use to vet your candidates. Then make your vote count on April 4, 2023, in the Municipal Elections the following week. Our panel will feature The Honorable Jill Schupp, Kevin Seltzer of the Parkway School Board and Nancy Price, League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis.

Please [click here](#) to register.

Tell Congress: It's Beyond Time for Equal Pay in our Country!

Equal Pay Day 2023 was March 14th. Pay discrimination is a persistent problem in our country that perpetuates poverty and robs women of what they've earned. The [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to ensure that it provides robust protection against sex-based pay discrimination.



Among other provisions, this bill bars retaliation against workers who voluntarily discuss or disclose their wages and closes loopholes that have allowed employers to pay women less than men for the same work.

Sixty years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, the wage gap persists, with dire impacts on women and families. Women working full-time, year-round are typically paid only 84 cents for every dollar paid to men.

Women of color experience the most significant losses. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) women make 80 cents for every dollar paid to white men, Black women are paid 64 cents, Latinas are paid 54 cents and Native American women are paid just 51 cents.

Please [click here](#) to tell Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and provide new tools to ensure women—especially women of color—are paid what they're owed.

Join the Call for a Fair Judiciary in Israel



National Council of Jewish Women believes in an Israel where all women, children and families should not just be able to exist, but thrive. A fair, independent and qualified judiciary is a crucial element of a healthy democracy that centers dignity, equity and justice for all.

We are alarmed and deeply concerned at the proposal from the new government of Israel to overhaul the Israeli judiciary and override the powers of Israel's Supreme Court. This plan must not come to fruition. Especially not as members of the coalition government express their intent to restrict the rights of those of broad sectors of Israeli society — like women, Arabs and the LGBTQ+ community.

Please [click here](#) to join NCJW in saying that this proposal to overhaul the judiciary must not be allowed to advance!

April Lunch and Learn - Criminal Justice with Lindsay Runnels



Thursday, April 20, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Lindsay Runnels

When: Thursday, April 20 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Lamar Johnson was convicted in 2004 of shooting a man several times in broad daylight. No physical evidence connected him to the incident. After spending 13 years in prison, the state's attorney's office concluded that eyewitness testimony during the trial was flawed and that the two witnesses who identified Johnson as the gunman had said that he merely "looked similar" to the shooter.

One of the attorneys instrumental in securing his freedom is Lindsay Runnels, whom we are thrilled to welcome as our April Lunch and Learn speaker. Runnels is an attorney at Morgan Pilate, LLC in Kansas City, Missouri. She specializes in trial and post-conviction criminal defense, innocence, and civil rights litigation. She is a former clinical professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law where she was the director of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic in partnership with the Midwest Innocence Project.

Please join us to hear about this incredible effort to free an innocent man and what we can do to advocate for others who are wrongly convicted.

Please [click here](#) to register for the March Lunch and Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at 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 2023! 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, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.

- **\$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

Misinformation has been prevalent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but in recent months anti-vax activists and



conspiracy theorists have latched on to a new phrase to help their cause: "died suddenly." Anti-vaxxers hoping to convince people that COVID vaccines are linked to sudden deaths among younger people have invoked the term while trying to exploit tragic events like the death of soccer journalist Grant Wahl, or Damar Hamlin suffering a cardiac arrest during an NFL game. Though that theory has no scientific evidence to support it, the "died suddenly" rhetoric has gained a lot of traction on social media. How

did this movement gain so much traction so quickly?

[Click here](#) to read Kiera Butler's article from Mother Jones, "The Far-Right Bounty Hunter Behind the Explosive Popularity of 'Died Suddenly'."

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