



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:

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.



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

HJR 43 has been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee TODAY at 1:30 PM.

As HJR 43 is nearing the Senate floor, it is important to call your Senator and tell them you oppose all changes to the initiative petition process and to vote **NO** on HJR 43. Dial 1-833-491-0334 to record a voicemail message or [click here](#) to find your Senator's direct contact information.

HB 351 - This bill authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers and period products and will be voted on tomorrow in the Missouri House Children and Families Committee. Please contact members of this committee by [clicking here](#) and tell them to vote **YES** on HB 351.

HB 627 - This bill would establish a so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights." While this may sound harmless, its aim is to dictate what topics may be taught in Missouri's K-12 schools, such as banning lessons on equity or true historical events. This bill will be up for a vote on Wednesday in the Missouri House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. Please contact members of this committee by [clicking here](#) and tell them to vote **NO** on HB 627.

Protest for Trans Rights

When: Wednesday, March 29 | 2:00 PM CT
Where: Missouri State Capitol | 201 W Capitol Ave., Jefferson City
[RSVP Here](#)

Last week, the Missouri Senate passed **SB 49**, an egregious attack on transgender youth in our state in an effort to deny them access to evidence-based, medically necessary and lifesaving gender-affirming



healthcare. The Missouri Legislature has sent a clear and pointed message to all trans Missourians — you are not valued and your very existence can and should be questioned.

Enough is Enough.

NCJWSTL is proud to partner with our friends at PROMO, all LGBTQ+ Missourians and allies to protest anti-trans legislation at the [Protest for Trans Rights](#). The protest will take place on the steps of the Capitol building. NCJWSTL will be there in full force to let our legislators know that this is not OK.

For more information and to ride with NCJWSTL, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Municipal Elections are April 4th - Make Your Plan to Vote!



EVERY ELECTION MATTERS. The results of elections affect everyone - those who vote and those who do not. Yet voter turnout for April municipal elections historically averages only 21% in St. Louis City, 17% in St. Louis County and 15% in St. Charles County. Those who do vote have an exceptionally large voice in how local government is run. Shouldn't your opinions be included in such important decisions?

By coming together as voters, we make the future and make our voices heard. [Commit to being a voter. Make your plan to vote.](#)

Because of the new law in Missouri, you must present a valid phot ID to cast a regular ballot:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's or non-driver's license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's card;
- A nonexpired U.S. passport;
- Another photo ID issued by the U.S. or state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the November 2020 general election.
- Voter ID cards issued by your county clerk are not valid forms of photo ID for the purpose of casting a vote.

Please [click here](#) to commit to vote in all elections!

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



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

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

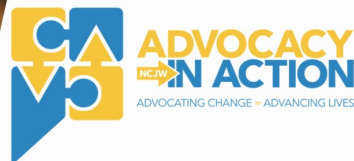
Highly politicized issues have dominated local school board races in the past few years, often making school boards synonymous with controversy. It wasn't always this way. Ultra-conservative groups have spent decades trying to influence school boards and education policies and, in Missouri, they are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

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



There aren't enough alarm bells in the world to ring when it comes to the state of Black maternal health in the United States. And, a report from the Centers for Disease Control confirms some of the biggest fears about Black maternal health, things aren't getting better. They're getting much, much worse.

According to the report, from 2018 to 2021, the Black maternal mortality nearly doubled.

[Click here](#) to read Jessica Washington's article from *The Root*, "Black Women Dying During Pregnancy or Childbirth Have Increased and It's Getting Worse!"

Donate to Support NCJWSTL &
Transform Our Community

NCJWSTL | 125

CREATING CHANGE AND IMPACTING LIVES SINCE 1895



2019 WINNER
BBB TORCH Award
*Celebrating Exceptional
Ethics and Service*
BBB Serving Eastern & Southwest Missouri &
Southern Illinois

Share this information with your
social network!



Share



Tweet



Share

Be sure to follow us on Social Media!

