



# 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 282** - This bill, which is being voted on today in the [Missouri House Rules - Legislative Oversight Committee](#), would change the law regarding firearm concealed carry permits on public transportation. Currently, it is a crime to board a bus with a dangerous or deadly weapon or carry such a weapon in a terminal.



NCJW  
**ACTION**  
**ALERT**

Firearms on public transit do not make people safer. Missouri already has a higher rate of violence than the national average for places people are already allowed to carry firearms. Please contact the members of the House Rules - Legislative Oversight Committee by [clicking here](#) this morning and tell them to vote **NO** on HB 282.

**HB 253** - This bill, which has already passed the house and is scheduled for a hearing in the Missouri [Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee](#) tomorrow, is one of several "open enrollment" bills.

These bills are extremely problematic because it would adversely impact smaller and poorer school districts financially and even force some of them to close. In addition, there is very little evidence that shows open enrollment increases performance for students. Please contact members of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee today by [clicking here](#) and tell them to vote **NO** on HB 253.

## The Language of Abortion: How to Talk With People who Don't Believe What you Believe

The Language of Abortion: How To Talk With People  
Who Don't Believe What You Believe

Sunday, April 30, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CT



Marlene  
Hammerman



Brian Silva



Dr. Diane  
Rosen



**When:** Sunday, April 30 at 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

More than ever, it's now a critical time to talk about abortion with your friends and family – even if you disagree about the issue. The U.S. Supreme Court took away our constitutional right to abortion and robbed our ability to control our bodies and future healthcare decisions. **Discussing it openly is one way you can fight back.**

We know these are not easy conversations to have with those who may not share our same perspectives on abortion. This is why NCJWSTL is excited to partner with American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice to offer a workshop on how to confidently talk about abortion, give you the tools necessary to have what may be difficult conversations, and increase the possibilities for positive outcomes.

Our speakers are **Brian Silva**, Vice President of Outreach and Engagement at Americans United for Separation of Church and State and **Dr. Diane Rosen**, a local OBGYN. The program will be moderated by NCJWSTL Past President **Marlene Hammerman**, who has been entrenched in the abortion rights battle for decades.

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

## Municipal Elections are TOMORROW - Make Your Plan to Vote!

I WILL  
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!

## Tell Congress to Pass the EACH Act!

NCJWSTL believes every person should have comprehensive insurance coverage for the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, so they can make personal decisions about their body, health and future. The [Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance \(EACH\) Act](#), which was recently reintroduced in congress, would do just that by removing dangerous and discriminatory barriers to abortion coverage for those enrolled in federal health programs.



While abortion is banned in 13 states (including Missouri) with further restrictions on the horizon, it is essential to pass the EACH Act to help lay the groundwork for a more equitable future that prioritizes access to abortion for everyone. Urge your lawmakers to support the EACH Act **today** to ensure that abortion care is there for all of us — however much we earn, wherever we live, and whoever we are. Everyone deserves respect, dignity, and equal access to the resources needed to control their body, family, and future, including insurance coverage of abortion.

Please [click here](#) to urge your member of congress to pass the EACH Act.

## 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](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 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



Abortion bans across the country are forcing medical providers to choose between their obligation to their patients or possible lawsuits, loss of licenses and incarceration.

Those on the frontlines of this chaotic landscape are fearful of running afoul of ever-changing law, in some cases struggling to provide life-saving care. In most cases, doctors have stayed in abortion-restrictive states, because despite restrictions on their medical practice, they have ties to their patients, their communities, their families.

[Click here](#) to read Poppy Noor's article from *The Guardian*, "The Doctors Leaving Anti-Abortion States: ' Couldn't do my Job at All.'"

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CREATING CHANGE AND IMPACTING LIVES SINCE 1895



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