



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!

## Tell Texas: Drop the Lawsuit Against Planned Parenthood

I  
STAND  
WITH  
PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD®

**The state of Texas is suing the three Texas Planned Parenthood affiliates and Planned Parenthood Federation of America for nearly \$1.8 billion.**

This lawsuit, based on false allegations that Planned Parenthood health centers defrauded the state's Medicaid system, is part of a coordinated disinformation campaign to try to shut Planned Parenthood down and eliminate affordable health care options for Texans.

The facts are clear: Planned Parenthood health centers did nothing wrong. They legally provided essential health care services to thousands of Texans, including birth control, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings.

Please [click here](#) to tell Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to drop this politically-motivated lawsuit and end these attacks on Planned Parenthood health centers and patients.

## Research Release: Gender Parity and Racial Diversity on Civic Boards and Commissions in Missouri

**When:** Thursday, August 24 | 9:00 - 10:00 AM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Across the nation, women are historically underrepresented on civic boards and commissions. This gender disparity is especially glaring on "power boards" that have enormous impacts on public policy and the allocation of financial resources. We hope you'll join us as we discuss the results of this research and how we plan to use it to inform policymakers, elected leaders, advocacy groups and potential members of boards and commissions.

Please [click here](#) to join United WE and the University of Missouri–St. Louis as they dive into their findings on women's participation on civic boards and commissions in Missouri.



# THIS THURSDAY! Help Assemble Free Emergency Contraception Kits with NCJWSTL and Temple Israel



**When:** Thursday, August 24 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM CT  
**Where:** Temple Israel | 1 Rabbi Alvin D. Rubin Drive  
[RSVP Here](#)

NCJWSTL's longtime coalition partner, the Missouri Family Health Council (MFHC), is partnering with organizations and business to increase access to emergency contraception (EC) by distributing Free EC kits across Missouri. In fact, NCJWSTL has distributed almost 100 kits since the project began a couple of months ago! These individually-packaged kits contain two doses of levonorgestrel emergency contraception (an over-the-counter medication sometimes called "Plan B" or "the morning-after pill"), safer sex supplies (like condoms), and sexual health education and consent resources.

We are excited to partner with Temple Israel on July 24th at 7:00 PM to assemble Free EC kits that will be distributed across Missouri. Your support and help will allow MFHC to increase access to these needed items for anyone who might need them.

*The event is open to the community, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register.*

## Help Gather Signatures to Put Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages on the Ballot!

NCJWSTL is part of [Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages](#), a statewide effort to gradually raise Missouri's minimum wage to \$15 by 2026 and allow employees to earn paid time off to care for themselves and loved ones through an initiative on the November 2024 statewide ballot.



We need your help to put this on the ballot. Will you help gather the signatures we need to deliver fair wages and the freedom to earn paid time off to care for ourselves and our families?

Join us for these upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- Saturday, August 26th & Sunday, August 27th - Festival of Nations
- Saturday, August 26th - St. Louis Labor Council Labor Day Picnic

Please [click here](#) to volunteer to gather signatures for any or all of the dates above.

## September Lunch & Learn: Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention



Thursday, September 21, 2023  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Pat Harkins

**When:** Thursday, September 21 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Suicide by guns claims the lives of nearly 25,000 people in America every year. We must address this public health crisis to reduce gun violence in this country. Though gun violence conversations tend to focus on homicides, **nearly six out of every 10 gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides.**

For September's Lunch and Learn, which coincides with Suicide Prevention Month, NCJWSTL is fortunate to welcome Pat Harkins. In 2009, she lost her 21 year old son to suicide. She became involved with a support group and after a few years was facilitating that group. She joined the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and served as the board's recording secretary for 12 years. She now serves on several committees and is the Healing Conversations Coordinator for the state of Missouri.

We know that this is a difficult topic, but we hope you will join us to learn from Pat how we can do our part in helping to stop this horrific epidemic.

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

## Partner Abortion Clinic Needs Donations

For the past year, NCJWSTL has partnered with local abortion clinics across the river in Illinois to provide direct support services to patients.

One of our partner clinics is in need of a few specific items:

- Gas cards
- Snack bags (pretzels, cookies, granola bars, etc.)
- Diapers (sizes 1-5)
- Travel shampoo
- Baby formula



*This is an opportunity to make a "hands-on" difference in someone's life. Please drop off or mail any donations to the NCJWSTL office at 295 N. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO, 63141. For more information, please contact Renee Sigel-Hearst at [rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org](mailto:rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org).*

## Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!

NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits!** This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's

Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.



While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your kit - for you or a loved one.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org). You can also order an emergency contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

## 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.

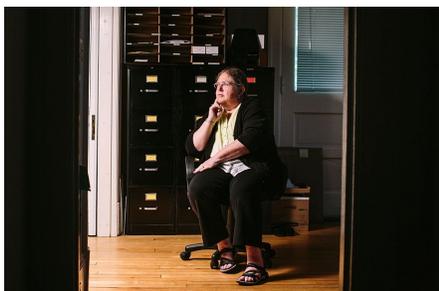
- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color

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

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

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

## Interesting Reading



Maine Gov. Janet Mills (D) signed two laws last month empathetic toward people who engage in sex work, while expanding criminalization for sex buyers and those who sexually exploit vulnerable populations, including children and people with mental disabilities.

These laws make Maine the first U.S. state to adopt a survivor-centered model regarding the sex trade—also known as the Nordic or equality model, which represents a paradigm shift in efforts to reduce

commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, provide greater support for prostituted individuals and hold exploiters and sex buyers more accountable.

[Click here](#) to read Michelle Onello's article from Ms. Magazine, "Maine Is the First U.S. State to Center Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Legal Reforms."

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