



# 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!**

## Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

Are you concerned about efforts to restrict access to materials at Missouri's public libraries? You may be aware that:

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**




More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

**To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read.** The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at [righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com).

**Tell Congress: Protect the Right to Vote**

Take action:  
**Make the promise of the  
March on Washington a reality!**  
TELL CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION  
SECURING VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL  
#MOW60



National Council of Jewish Women

Sixty years after the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, we are still in the fight for a truly representative democracy — marching on the National Mall with partners in support of a country that lives up to its promise of equality and justice and calling for legislative action to restore and advance our rights and liberties. This includes protecting the right to vote, which has been under attack in state houses and in the courts.

The August 2023 March on Washington reminds our lawmakers of the need to secure our rights through legislative action. This includes passage of a suite of voting rights bills introduced in Congress to safeguard our most fundamental freedom. It's time for our lawmakers to join us in this holy work as we march together and fulfill the dream of freedom and justice for all.

Please [click here](#) to urge your members of Congress to pass legislation securing voting rights for all.

## Court Watch Project Training - Help Survivors of Domestic Violence

**When:** Friday, September 15 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

**Where:** Cardinal Rigali Center | 20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis, 63119

[RSVP Here](#)

The Court Watch Project is currently recruiting volunteer monitors to observe order of protection hearings to enhance the response to domestic violence cases. **This is a great opportunity for students, victim advocates and community members who care about this issue.**



The mission of the Court Watch Project is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of domestic violence perpetrated against women and children and to create a more informed and involved public.

The [Court Watch Project](#) is supported by Saint Martha's and the members agencies of the [St. Louis Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence Network](#) (of which NCJWSTL is a member).

Courtroom monitors are needed for St. Louis City courthouse on Thursday mornings from 10:00 AM to approximately 12:30 PM.

Space is limited! Please email Carla Maley at [carlam@saintmarthas.org](mailto:carlam@saintmarthas.org) to register.

## 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



rights are going next.

Last week, the Washington Post reported on a major new anti-abortion strategy: local "trafficking" laws that make it a crime to transport anyone to get an abortion on roads within city or county limits. Specifically, in certain counties in Texas, anyone can sue an organization or individual they suspect of violating the ordinance. And tactically, it is certainly a bit bizarre. Enforcing the law will raise all kinds of challenges. Ultimately, though, it could still offer a meaningful road map of where opponents of reproductive

[Click here](#) to read Mary Ziegler's article from Slate Magazine, "The Texas Bans on Abortion "Trafficking" Are Even Scariest Than They Sound ."

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Transform Our Community



National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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