



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

NCJWSTL is Putting Abortion Rights on the Ballot!



We're putting abortion rights on the ballot! This past Thursday, NCJWSTL, in partnership with a diverse coalition of partners, helped launch the campaign to restore freedom for ALL Missourians to make their own healthcare decisions. Nearly two years since the Supreme Court took away our rights, we're joining [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#) to end Missouri's extreme abortion ban.

[Sign Up to Help](#)

[Donate to the Effort](#)

[Read the Amendment](#)

Missourians overwhelmingly support the freedom to make our own medical decisions, especially about the most personal matters including abortion. But the government is enforcing one of the most cruel abortion bans in the nation that continues to risk lives and threaten people's health.

We are required to collect 172,000 valid signatures by May 5th, 2024, to ensure Missourians get to vote on ending our cruel abortion ban at the ballot.

Your support is crucial to make this initiative a reality.

[Click here](#) for more information or contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. We will be creating teams of NCJWSTL members and supporters to work in all areas to

get the signatures that we need. Training will be provided and we anticipate having signature documents by Feb. 1, 2024.

"Show Me Shenanigans" Second Episode has Dropped!

NCJWSTL
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



Show me
SHENANIGANS

Our new-ish podcast, **Show Me Shenanigans** launched a few weeks ago and we have received great feedback so far! Listener Katie said *"The podcast was so good! Amy is an excellent host and she provided such an easily understandable introduction to the MO legislative process and the priorities of NCJWSTL. It's so reassuring and hopeful that there are smart, dedicated advocates like them working for change in our state."*

The podcast aims to demystify the legislative process in Missouri and providing action steps for anyone wanting to influence policies impacting women, children and families.

[Tune in to our second episode](#), "Inside Baseball," as Missouri Senate Staff Attorney Mary Grace Pringle explains how a bill is written, what happens from there, and who is the arbiter of the Missouri Senate.

You can also listen to the podcast on Spotify by [clicking here](#). Be sure and subscribe to Show Me Shenanigans so you never miss an episode!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org with your comments.

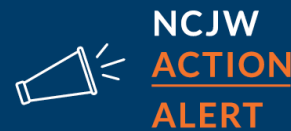
Legislation Watch - Take Action Today!

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

The one bill we are advocating FOR this week is [HB 1557](#). This bill would establish the

"Supplemental Nonprofit Safety and Security Fund."

The Fund shall be used to defray the costs of security enhancements or measures for eligible nonprofits like NCJWSTL. This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) and urge them to support HB 1557 when it's assigned to a committee.



There are several bills we are advocacy AGAINST this week:

[SB 810](#) - This bill is aimed at doing one thing: Preventing Missouri patients from getting birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and other health care at Planned Parenthood. Please contact the members of the [Senate Health and Welfare Committee](#) and tell them to vote NO on SB 810.

[HJR 72](#), [HJR 102](#) and [HB 1749](#) all aim to gut the initiative petition process in Missouri. Please submit testimony online on Tuesday by [clicking here](#) and let the members of the [House Elections and Elected Officials Committee](#) know that these bills are harmful. Please [click here](#) for sample testimony.

Last week, NCJWSTL testified against several bills in the [House Emerging Issues Committee](#) designed to harm transgender Missourians:

[HB 1519](#) - This bill would allow medical institutions to deny gender affirming care.

[HB 1520](#) - This bill would eliminate the "grandfather" clause and sunset provision in place for youth receiving gender-affirming care before last year's ban went into effect.

[HB 1674](#) - This bill would prohibit use of multiple-occupancy locker rooms and restrooms by trans people.

[HB 2355](#), [HB 2308](#) and [HB 2357](#) - These bills would force transgender students to use school restrooms only according to the gender marker on their birth certificates.

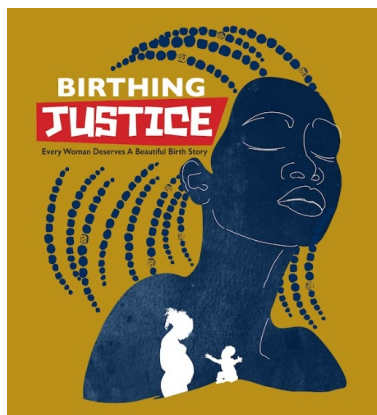
[HB 2309](#) - would revise the Missouri Human Rights Act to narrowly define sex as a binary trait based on male or female reproductive systems.

Please [contact members](#) of the Emerging Issues Committee and urge them to vote NO on these harmful bills.

There was an additional anti-trans bill heard in the [Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee](#). The harmful [SB 728](#) requires schools to inform parents if a student expresses confusion about their documented gender identity. Please contact members of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote NO on SB 728.

To follow all of the bills that NCJWSTL is monitoring during the 2024 Missouri Legislative session, please [click here](#).

THIS WEEK! Birthing Justice Screening and Panel Discussion



When: Thursday, January 25 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: Temple Israel | 1 Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Drive, St. Louis, 63141

[RSVP Here](#)

Global maternal mortality is decreasing, but the US ratio of deaths to live births has doubled since 1987. Missouri's ratio is now double the national average, and getting worse -- higher than 42 other states, and in fact eight times higher than the lowest state. And the rate for Black Missourians is three times higher than for white women.

Policies can change that trajectory. California, for example, has reduced maternal deaths by 65% over the last 15 years. Join us to learn Missouri's scope of the problem, underlying causes and potential solutions at a screening and panel discussion of the award-winning documentary, *Birthing Justice*, which tells the story of the crisis faced by Black mothers and their children and the solutions needed to transform the maternal care system.

Birthing Justice explores the issues fueling the maternal health crisis within the Black community and advocates for the best practices to enhance birthing equity for all women. By revealing the lived experiences of Black women and their advocates working to fix a broken system, *Birthing Justice* flips the victim-blaming narrative of this national epidemic.

Our important panel discussion will be moderated by Darcy Scharff, PhD and include Dr. Melissa Tepe, Melissa Betts-Sanders (a woman with lived experience) and Lora Gulley of Generate Health, who will issue a call to action for attendees.

The Birthing Justice screening and panel discussion is sponsored by NCJWSTL, Generate Health, Temple Israel and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The event is free of charge, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register and for more information, please [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: REPRO SHABBAT



Reproductive freedom is a Jewish value, and we're going to celebrate it!

NCJWSTL is excited to once again partner with local synagogues for our annual Shabbat celebration that honors the Jewish value of reproductive freedom. It takes place annually on *Parshat Mishpatim*, the reading of which contains the verses commonly referenced as the foundation of Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights and justice.

Please [click here](#) for more information. If you would like your congregation to participate, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org and she will be happy to reach out to them.

Join Us for Voting Rights Lobby Day

When: Tuesday, January 30 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Missouri State Capitol Building

[RSVP Here](#)

The deliberate attacks on Missouri voters have once again reared their ugly head in the Missouri legislature. Already this session, bills have been filed attacking the initiative petition process, absentee voting and equitable access to the polls.



Join us for the 2024 Voting Rights Lobby Day at the Missouri State Capitol! Learn about legislation impacting our democracy, meet with lawmakers and attend a committee hearing. We will come together to call on lawmakers to end attacks on Missouri's long-standing citizen initiative process and to protect election workers from harassment. Advocates from across Missouri will hear what's at stake for voting rights in Missouri, get engaged and thank lawmakers who have stood up for our freedom to vote.

Tentative Lobby Day Schedule:

9:00 AM - Registration Opens: Check-in/Group assignments

10:00 AM - Program and Group Photo - Capitol Rotunda

10:45 AM - Lobby Visits - Legislator offices

12:00 PM - Elections Committee Meeting - House Committee Meeting Room

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



Thursday, February 15, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Lynne Jackson

When: Thursday, February 15 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

February is Black History Month, which was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.

To commemorate Black History Month, NCJWSTL is absolutely thrilled and honored to welcome Lynne Jackson, the great-great granddaughter of icon Dred Scott. In the Dred Scott case's 1857 decision that stunned the nation, the United States Supreme Court upheld slavery in United States territories, denied the legality of Black citizenship in America, and declared the Missouri Compromise to be unconstitutional.

Jackson, who first remembers being aware of her great-great-grandfather's legacy as a young child, is the founder and president of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, and she hopes to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of her grandfather in both St. Louis and American history.

Please join us as she discusses not only her family history, but her important effort in creating a more fitting Dred Scott memorial for generations to come.

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

ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

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.



Did you know?

- 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

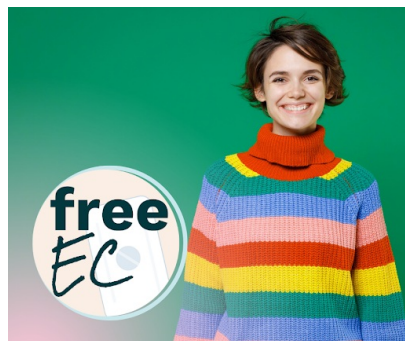
public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.

- 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.

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.

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. 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

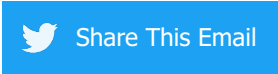


As seen above, after months of court battles and internal squabbles, a coalition of Missouri abortion-rights organizations, including NCJWSTL, officially launched our effort Thursday to put a constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot to legalize abortion up until the point of fetal viability. We are very excited for this effort and have been working hard behind the scenes for months to help get it off the ground.

[Click here](#) to read Anna Spoerre's article from the Missouri Independent, "Abortion-Rights Coalition Launches Campaign to put Amendment on Missouri Ballot."

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!

Donate to Support NCJWSTL & Transform Our Community



NCJWSTL | 295 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141

[Unsubscribe \[ealper@ncjwstl.org\]\(mailto:unsubscribe@ncjwstl.org\)](mailto:unsubscribe@ncjwstl.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [ealper@ncjwstl.org](mailto:byealper@ncjwstl.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!