



ADVOCACY
IN ACTION

NCJW

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Upcoming Abortion IP Event - Learn About the Signature Gathering Process



When: Wednesday, January 31 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Join NCJWSTL and our coalition partners for a Zoom update on the [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#) signature collection campaign (paid and volunteer). Tori Schafer, ACLU-MO's Deputy Director of Policy and Campaigns, will explain the process and **how you can help**. Alex Cook, from Abortion Action Missouri, will be on the first half of the call to answer your questions.

[Advanced Registration Required](#)

[Read the Amendment](#)

A recording of the call will be sent to all registered emails.

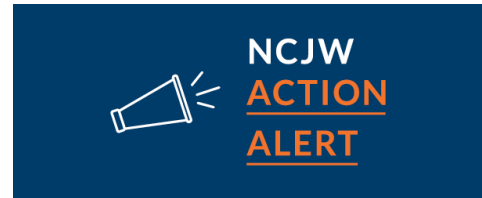
For more information, contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. Sponsoring organizations are listed below.



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](#) - NCJWSTL testified against this bill last week that 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 when it comes up for a committee vote.

[HJR 72](#), [HJR 102](#) and [HB 1749](#) - These bills are aimed at doing one thing, gutting the initiative petition process in order to make democracy more difficult for Missouri voters. It is especially apparent that these bills were filed in anticipation of the abortion rights IP. NCJWSTL testified against them last week and we encourage you to contact the members of the **[House Elections and Elected Officials Committee](#)** and tell them to vote NO when these bills come up for a committee vote.

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

Tell Congress: Pass a Budget Without Harming Vulnerable Communities

Take action:
Ensure federal spending bills support all communities!
 TELL CONGRESS TO PASS
 A BUDGET WITHOUT HARMING
 VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



National Council of Jewish Women

NCJW envisions an America where each of us has what we need to be healthy, live with dignity, and share our growing prosperity. Unfortunately, this is not the vision of many in Congress who continue to use the government funding process to undermine, instead of support, the security and health of our communities.

Some lawmakers have spent months holding up government functioning to further their harmful agenda through the Fiscal Year 2024 spending bills: attacking access to abortion; cutting programs that support women and children; threatening the health and safety of the LGBTQ+ community; undermining efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion; and taking aim at those experiencing poverty.

Moreover, Members of Congress are conditioning critical aid funding for Ukraine with changes to border policy that could dismantle our asylum system entirely, threatening the safety of countless refugees relying on the US for resettlement. Congress has a responsibility to ensure the most vulnerable are receiving the critical care and support they need to live healthy, safe lives.

Please [click here](#) to urge your lawmakers to pass spending bills free from harmful and hateful language and program cuts.

TOMORROW! 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.

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

"Show Me Shenanigans" Second Episode has Dropped!



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.

February Lunch & Learn: Civil Rights with the Great-Great Granddaughter of Dred Scott, Lynne Jackson



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



More than 64,000 women and girls became pregnant because of rape in states that implemented abortion bans after Roe v. Wade was overruled, according to a new research estimate published online Wednesday.

The research letter, published by JAMA Internal Medicine and headed up by the medical director at Planned Parenthood of Montana, estimated that nearly 520,000 rapes were associated with 64,565

pregnancies across 14 states, most of which had no exceptions that allowed for terminations of pregnancies that occurred as a result of rape.

[Click here](#) to read Megan Lebowitz's article from NBC News, "64K Women and Girls Became Pregnant Due to Rape in States With Abortion Bans, Study Estimates."

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**



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