



ADVOCACY
IN ACTION

NCJW

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Sign Up for Repro Rights Petition Training



When: Wednesday, February 14 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM or Wednesday, February 21 | 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Where: NCJWSTL Office

[RSVP Here](#)

Do you want to help end Missouri's abortion ban? Can you commit to gathering at least 20 signatures? NCJWSTL is excited to offer two training sessions to help teach volunteers the ins and outs of signature gathering. Because the Secretary of State's office will employ extra scrutiny in validating the signatures, we want to make sure that everyone is on the same page. **You only need to attend one of the two sessions.**

[Click Here to Sign Up for February 14](#)

[Click Here to Sign Up for February 21](#)

In addition, would you like to host a signature gathering house party? We will send trained signature gathering volunteers to your home to speak and gather signatures. You provide the refreshments, we will provide the speaker and petitions!

[Click Here to Host a House Party](#)

For more information, contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Sip and Sign for Repro Rights! Drop by Anytime Between 8:30 - 10:00 AM

When: Wednesday, February 14 | Drop by anytime between 8:30 - 10:00 AM

Where: NCJWSTL Office

[RSVP Here by February 13th](#)

'Our Jewish experience tells us that our reproductive freedoms are integrally bound to our religious liberty; we are committed to advancing the goals of reproductive justice so that every person can make their own moral and faith-informed decisions about their body, health, and family.'

NCJWSTL is excited to kick off our effort to get reproductive freedom on the ballot! Please join us for bagels, coffee and petition signing at our office so we can end Missouri's cruel ban on abortion and its devastating effects. Passing this amendment will ensure Missourians can once again make healthcare decisions that are best for them and their families without government interference.

You will also have the opportunity to learn more about NCJWSTL's effort to gather signatures in Missouri's second congressional district.

The petitions will be available to sign at our office from February 14th - May 4th, but we would love to see you at this event!

[Please RSVP Here](#)

[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. **Help us do our part!**

For more information, contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

"Show Me Shenanigans" Third 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. Be sure and subscribe to Show Me Shenanigans so you never miss an episode!

[Tune in to our third episode!](#) Author and non-profit professional Stephanie Enger Moreland cohosts this episode and government relations expert Sarah Wood Martin is our guest. In this episode, we demystify how, when and where to make the biggest impact for your issues in the

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:



**NCJW
ACTION
ALERT**

Bills we are advocating FOR this week:

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.

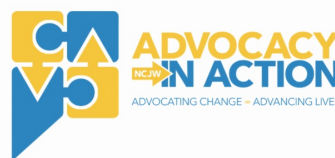
Below are the bills we are advocating AGAINST this week:

HB 2498 - This bill requires public libraries that are authorized to levy or collect taxes to be governed by an elected library board. It would be disastrous for public libraries because it would give the board power to select books, make personnel decisions, etc. NCJWSTL testified against HB 2498 last week and we encourage you to contact members of the [Missouri House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee](#) and urge them to vote NO when this bill comes to a vote.

HB 1708 - This dangerous gun bill has been voted out of committee and will be heading to the House floor soon. HB 1708 would make our communities less safe from the threat of gun violence by expanding concealed carry. Please [click here](#) to urge your legislators to vote NO on HB 1708.

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

THIS WEEK! 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.

Human Trafficking Advocacy Day with NCJWSTL and MCDASV

When: Wednesday, February 28 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Meet at NCJWSTL at 7:00 AM)

Where: Missouri State Capitol Building
[RSVP Here](#)

NCJWSTL and the [Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) (MCDASV) are once again teaming up to meet with legislators about the policy priorities of human trafficking survivors and agencies like ours who advocate on their behalf. We would love for you to join us to help change lives by changing laws!



[Senator Brian Williams](#), who has been leading the legislative effort to end human trafficking for years, will help us navigate our effort to advocate for policies to combat human trafficking and help survivors. It will be an unforgettable day in Missouri's capitol.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Heather Silverman at hsilverman@ncjwstl.org.

Kids Win Missouri Child Advocacy Day



When: Wednesday, March 6 | 9:15 AM - 2:00 PM
Where: Missouri State Capitol Building
[RSVP Here](#)

In its 42nd year, Child Advocacy Day is an annual tradition that brings together advocates, parents, providers, teachers, community members and anyone who wants to be a voice for Missouri's children. Each year, [Kids Win Missouri](#) provides virtual training opportunities to help advocates hone their advocacy skills and deepen their policy knowledge ahead of the in-person event at the Capitol in Jefferson City.

On [March 6, 2024](#), advocates will have the opportunity to come together to rally, network and connect, and meet with our policymakers and legislators to ensure that our children remain a priority in Missouri.

Lunch and networking will be provided at the Millbottom (400 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65101), just steps from the Capitol, from 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

For more information and to RSVP, please [click here](#).

**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



An academic publisher, Sage Publishing, has retracted three studies about the adverse effects of the abortion pill mifepristone, two of which are central to the ongoing lawsuit to ban the medication nationwide. Sage began reviewing the 2021 study last year after a pharmaceutical sciences professor raised concerns about how it was cited in the mifepristone case.

[Click here](#) to read *Tori Otten's* article from *The New Republic*, "Judge in Abortion Pill Case Cited Study So Bogus It Was Just Retracted."

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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