



**ADVOCACY**  
**IN ACTION**

NCJW →  
ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## Repro Rights Petition Training and Signing Information



**When:** Sunday, March 3 | 9:00 - 10:00 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 a training session 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.

[Click Here to Sign Up for Training](#)

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](#)

- **We also have petitions available to sign at the NCJWSTL office!** Stop by anytime between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Fridays to sign.
- If you are collecting signatures and need your sheets notarized, a notary is available at the NCJWSTL office on Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 AM -

**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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

## "Show Me Shenanigans" Fourth 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 provides 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!

**Right now we all want to know more about the initiative petition process in Missouri. Experts Alix Hallen and Greta Bax will join host Amy Kuo Hammerman to demystify the IP process. Listen on Spotify or [our website](#).**

We would love to hear your feedback. Please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto: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:

### **Bills we are advocating FOR this week:**

**HB 1999** - This bill allows school districts to include instruction on LGBTQ contributions to society. Although it has been introduced, it has not yet been assigned to a committee, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 1999 when it's assigned to a committee.

**HB 2478** - This bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Otherwise known as the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA), NCJWSTL and our coalition partners have been trying to pass this legislation for over 20 years. MONA has not been assigned to a committee yet, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 2478 if and when it is.

### **Below are the bills we are advocating AGAINST this week:**

**HJR 86** - Currently, initiative petitions proposing amendments to the Constitution require signatures from 8% of the legal voters in 2/3 of the state's congressional districts in order to be placed on the ballot. This resolution would require signatures from 8% of the legal voters in all of the state's congressional districts in order to place a Constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition on the ballot. **This bill is being voted on TOMORROW.** Please contact members of the [House Rules - Administrative Oversight Committee](#)\* and urge them to vote NO on HJR 86.

**HB 2498** - This bill requires public libraries that are authorized to levy or collect taxes



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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. This bill has been voted out of committee. Please contact your Missouri representative by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote NO on HB 2498 if and when it comes to the House floor.

\*When you click on this link, it will take you to a list of all House committees. Please scroll down to find the specific committee you are looking for.

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

## Protect Our Initiative Petition Process

### PROTECT THE INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS

The initiative petition process is a constitutional right that Missourians have used for over 100 years. It allows Missourians from across the state the opportunity to supersede partisan politics and propose issues that matter most to our communities.

Citizen-led initiatives improve the quality of life for many people in our state and allow us to make laws that reflect the will of Missouri voters. The legislature should follow the will of the people and protect majority rule instead of attempting to grab power by limiting our ability to make decisions for ourselves.

[Click here](#) to email your legislators now and tell them to oppose any effort to dismantle the initiative petition and majority rule.

## 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](#).

## March Lunch and Learn - Picture This St. Louis Women Photographers with Elizabeth Eikmann



Thursday, March 21, 2024  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Dr. Elizabeth Eikmann

**When:** Thursday, March 21 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Did you know that not only was nineteenth-century St. Louis a bustling photography destination, but it was also home to hundreds of female photographers!? For Women's History Month, we are excited to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Eikmann, whose presentation explores the early history of women's photography and highlights the lives and professional careers of several St. Louis women whose impressive work started right here in Missouri.

Dr. Eikmann is an expert in St. Louis history, women's history and the history of photography. She is a teacher, scholar, and public historian with experience working with museums, public libraries, universities, and the local tourism industry. She currently serves as a Program Coordinator at Washington University in St. Louis and is working on her book project, *In Her Image: Women's Photography in Turn-of-the-Century St. Louis*, which explores the role of white practitioners of photography in the linking of racial identification and vision. She has extensive experience as a local tour guide, university instructor, and public educational speaker.

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

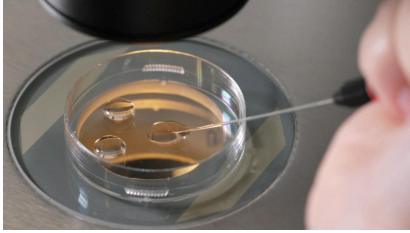
Join the A-list [here](#).



## Interesting Reading

The recent Alabama Supreme Court's ruling will transform infertility care across the state, potentially setting the stage for a ruling that a fetus or even an





embryo outside the womb holds constitutional rights. The irony in the Alabama court's decision is that more Americans who want to be parents will be unable to achieve that dream.

[Click here](#) to read Mary Ziegler's article from CNN, "The Twisted Irony in Alabama's Court Decision on Embryos."

**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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