



**ADVOCACY  
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

**Join us for Sip and Sign for Repro Rights!**



**When:** Wednesday, February 14 | 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!

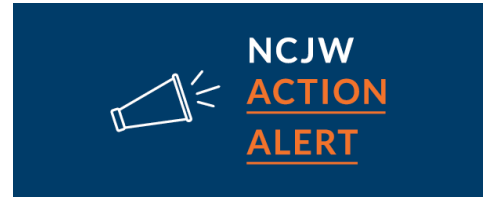
**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** You MUST sign your name on the petition as it appears on your voter registration card. Names will be thrown out if they don't match. For example, if you sign "Jane Smith" on the petition, but your voter registration says "Jane E. Smith," your name will be thrown out. To check your name, please go to [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov) and go to "Elections and Voting" and then "Check Your Voter Registration."

**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).

## 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 1539** - This bill Imposes a judgment of restitution in the amount of five thousand dollars for human trafficking offenses and establishes the "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Fund. Please contact members of the [House Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee](#) and tell them to vote YES on HB 1539.

**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:**

**HJR 67** - Increases the percentage of required signatures to bring an initiative petition to the ballot. The sole purpose of this bill is to make the initiative petition process more difficult and evade the will of the people.

**HJR 93** - Requires all initiative petitions certified by the secretary of state to be heard in committee and debated on the house floor. This aims to usurp the will of the people's ability to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly.

Both of these bills will be heard tomorrow. Please contact the members of the [House Election and Elected Officials Committee](#) and urge them to vote NO on HJRs 67 and 93.

**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](#).

## 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](mailto:hsilverman@ncjwstl.org).

## Tell Congress: Pass a Budget Without Harming Vulnerable Communities



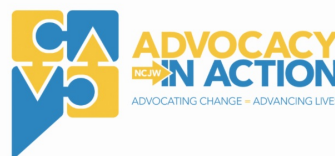
NCJW envisions an America where each of us has what we need to be healthy, live with dignity, and share our growing prosperity. Unfortunately, this is not the vision of many in Congress who continue to use the government funding process to undermine, instead of support, the security and health of our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

## 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](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.



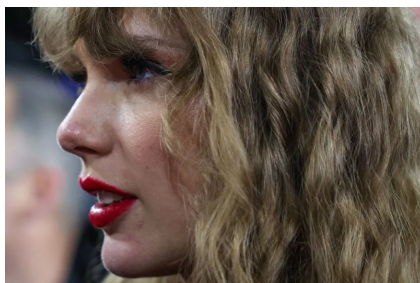
- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

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

## Interesting Reading



A few days ago, *TIME's* Person of the Year was the victim of a deepfake pornographic attack.

For many women, the story was not revelatory; it was a traumatic reminder. Their hearts beat faster, their stomachs churned as they remembered seeing their own faces plastered on deepfake pornography. Some women likely felt a little angry, because when their worlds were upended, no one said a word.

Today, the law remains silent for Swift, even while the world shouts.

[Click here](#) to read Kristin O'Donoghue's article from *Ms. Magazine*, "If It Can Happen to Taylor Swift, It Can Happen to Any of Us."

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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