



**ADVOCACY**  
**IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## TOMORROW! Election Day Signature Gathering in St. Louis



**When:** Tuesday, April 2 | 7:00 AM, 11:00 AM and/or 3:00 PM

**Where:** 1210 S Vandeventer Ave., St. Louis

[Register Here](#)

Join Missouriians for Constitutional Freedom and collect signatures for the abortion rights initiative petition on Election Day!

NOTE you must complete the Missouriians for Constitutional Freedom Campaign Signature Collection Training before you can collect signatures at this event.

We will be gathering signatures at polling locations. Shifts are 4 hours long: 3 hours canvassing and one hour for notarization and turn-in. Training, materials, and polling location assignments will be provided during an in-person orientation **today from 6:00PM - 7:30PM.**

Register to take action and gather signatures from Missouriians to take back our freedom and put families in charge of personal medical decisions - not politicians.

Please [click here](#) to sign up and feel free to share with your friends, family and organizations!

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Would you like to help gather signatures at other events? Our friends at AccessMO have created an extensive [sign-up](#) with some public events in the STL region through the end of April. We have collected a TON of signatures by arriving an hour before event start times, it's an easy opportunity to gather a lot of signatures in a short period of time.

You can also volunteer to gather signatures with Missourians for Constitutional (MCF) Freedom by [clicking here](#).

[Click Here to Gather Signatures with AccessMO](#)

[Click Here to Gather Signatures with MCF](#)

- **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 - 4:00 PM and Wednesdays between 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

**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 2413** - would improve Missourians' health and wellbeing and could be debated on the House floor at any time. Being referred to as a "women's health" bill, HB 2413 would treat and prevent disease, reduce unintended pregnancies and make sure survivors of sexual assault can be properly cared for at healthcare facilities. Please [click here](#) to urge your representative to vote YES on HB 2413.

**SB 763** - This bill would make a criminal record no longer publicly available should reduce housing and employment discrimination. The policy aims to give people a second chance, and is the best way to address the errors of a legal system rooted in racial hierarchies and discrimination. NCJWSTL testified in support last week. Please [click here](#) to urge the members of the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee to vote SB 763 out of committee.

**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 HB 2478 if and when it is.

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

**HJR 131** - This resolution, if passed by the Missouri Legislature and approved by voters, would amend the Missouri Constitution to prohibit abortion except in case of



**NCJW**  
**ACTION**  
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medical emergency and would criminalize any person who violates the amendment. A constitutional amendment to enshrine the current abortion ban in our constitution is not only unnecessary, it is cruel and the process to try to pass it would be an extraordinary waste of our state's resources. NCJWSTL testified against the resolution last week. Please contact members of the House General Laws Committee by [clicking here](#)\* and urge them to vote NO on HJR 131.

**SJR 74** - This bill would require proposed constitutional amendments to receive not just a majority of votes cast statewide (the rule now) but also prevail in a majority of Congressional districts. For more than a century, Missouri citizens across the political spectrum have been able to have their voices heard through the initiative petition process. . This measure implies that some votes don't count as much as others. Adding this barrier does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. SJR 74 is coming up for an executive vote this week in the House Elected and Elected Officials Committee. Please [click here](#)\* and tell them to vote NO on SJR 74.

**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. 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](#).

## End The Silence: Hold Hamas Accountable



There is a long history – millennia long – of gender-based violence in war. Most recently in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and now in Israel. Holding Hamas terrorists accountable for their crimes is essential. Together, we must send a clear message that weaponizing sexual violence is never acceptable. We will not allow it. Not in Ukraine. Not in Rwanda. Not in Israel. Not anywhere.

On October 7th, Hamas terrorists filmed and shared videos of the countless women and girls they raped and mutilated. Their heinous acts are war crimes. We must hold Hamas accountable and show the world that we will not allow rape to be used as a weapon of war.

Please [click here](#) to add your name to a petition that will be sent to UN Security General António Guterres. Demand justice and accountability!

## Show Me Reproductive Freedom: 2024 MO Lobby Day With Planned Parenthood

**When:** Tuesday, April 9 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Where:** Missouri State Capitol Building

[RSVP Here](#)

From banning abortion to attacking majority rule to “defunding” Planned Parenthood, the far-right politicians who dominate our gerrymandered state legislature are actively harming us and our futures. **But we aren't giving up.** We are fighting back and building power to create a Missouri where everyone can thrive. Join us and advocate for the rights of every Missourian to control their

bodies, lives, and futures!

Whether this will be your first time in the Capitol or you're a seasoned pro, this lobby day is for you! Our team will support you every step of the way, starting with a virtual training in the days before the event to prepare you with the information you'll need to effectively make your voice heard in Jeff City. We'll also provide transportation, lunch, and lobby teams. There is no need to be a legislative or policy expert — you're already an expert in your own life! Sharing your personal experience is more powerful than any facts and figures.

## REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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

### 2024 Promote the Vote/Protect the Vote Kick-Off



**When:** Wednesday, April 10 | 3:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Join NCJW as we kick off our 2024 campaign to Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote!

Throughout our history, NCJW has worked to safeguard everyone's rights and freedoms, including through promoting and protecting the right to vote. Between anti-voter laws undermining access to the ballot and broader efforts to threaten other rights like access to abortion — our voice, our vote, is critical.

On April 10, you will hear from NCJW leaders and partners about what you can do over the next eight months to ensure the vote is accessible, equitable and secure and that every citizen can safely and freely cast a ballot.

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

### April Lunch and Learn - Issues Impacting Seniors in our Community



Martha Brown



Thursday, April 18, 2024  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT



Nikki Mitchell

**When:** Thursday, April 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Those entering their golden years have a lot to look forward to, and seniors today are grasping more opportunities than ever before. However, it is important that we look at the multitude of challenges that come with aging to ensure they are appropriately

addressed, and the golden years remain golden. These issues become more difficult to deal with as people age, but there are ways we can help seniors through these concerns.

For our April Lunch and Learn, NCJWSTL is thrilled to welcome Martha Brown and Nikki Mitchell of Mitchell, Brown & Associates. Ms. Brown began her career working in Probate matters, including Guardianship cases. As she built her practice, she began working with Medicare and Medicaid matters. By 1994, she had an Elder Law practice, although at the time, she didn't realize what it was! Ms. Mitchell works in all areas of elder law for the firm. She is committed to helping clients in need and guiding them through difficult legal processes with compassion.

While the list of potential concerns facing seniors is endless and can often be daunting in nature, ensuring that this population is well-supported can significantly ease these apprehensions. Ms. Brown and Ms. Mitchell are the perfect speakers to help us tackle these issues.

**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



Missourians overwhelmingly support access to contraceptives, but some fear their lawmakers could pass laws limiting that availability, a new poll shows.

The survey, released Thursday by The Right Time (**of which NCJWSTL is a partner organization**), a family planning initiative through the Missouri Family Health Council Inc., polled 1,000 Missourians between the ages of 18 and 35, split almost evenly between Democrats,

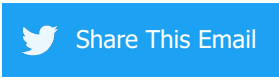
Republicans and Independents.

[Click here](#) to read Anna Spoerre's article from the Missouri Independent, "Poll Finds Missourians Want Better Access to Birth Control. Bipartisan Bill Could Grant It."

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**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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