



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Know Your Missouri Voting Information



Missouri's primary election is coming up on August 6th* and will determine which candidates appear on November's general election ballot. No matter what zip code we live in or the color of our skin, our voices are equal at the ballot box, and we could all must make sure our voices are heard!

Essential Information:

- **Absentee voting** - Absentee voting for August 6th will begin on **Tuesday, June 25th!** You can vote absentee by mail or in person. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is **Wednesday, July 17th**. You can cast an absentee ballot in-person up until **Monday, August 5th**.
- **In-person on Election Day** - Polls are open from 6:00 AM - 7:00 PM. To find your polling place, please [click here](#).
- In order to avoid long waits on Election Day, the Board of Elections encourages you to vote absentee. If you vote absentee by mail, your ballot must be notarized. This can be done either at the NCJWSTL office (contact [Jen Bernstein](#) for more information) or at any St. Louis County Library.

It is vitally important that you check to make sure your voter registration information is up to date. You can do so by [clicking here](#). For more information about absentee voting, please [click here](#).

*Though we don't have confirmation just yet, the abortion rights amendment will likely appear on the November ballot.

Period Poverty and Menstrual Equity Webinar with Missouri Family Health Council

When: Wednesday, June 12 | 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Join our coalition partner and funder, the [Missouri Family](#)

[Health Council \(MFHC\)](#), for an overview on period poverty and menstrual equity.

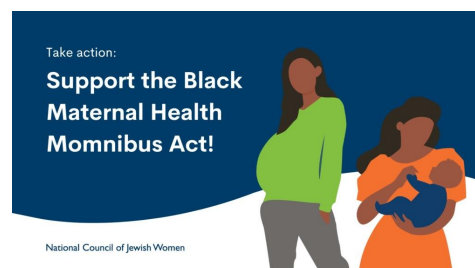
This training will discuss the prevalence of period poverty in the U.S. and in Missouri and offer resources and recommendations to help those experiencing period poverty that Title X health centers can provide to their patients.

This training is open to all who want to learn more about period poverty and menstrual equity, as well as identify tools to support patients in need, even if they do not work in a Title X health center.

Please [click here](#) to register for what will be a very informative program.



Support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act



Our country is experiencing a maternal and reproductive health care crisis. The United States, the richest nation in the world, holds the grim distinction of the highest maternal death rate amongst developed nations, with **Black moms dying of pregnancy complications at three to four times the rate of their white counterparts.** These disparities have only worsened with abortion bans and restrictions enacted around the country

since 2022. Congressional leaders in the Black Maternal Health Caucus are working to combat this devastating public health disparity through the [Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2023 \(HR 3305\)](#), the necessary next step to protect all women and birthing people in this country.

Led by Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Alma Adams (D-NC) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), this package is composed of thirteen individual bills that address every aspect of the maternal health crisis by making critical investments in social determinants of health and digital tools like telehealth, providing funding to community-based organizations, growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce, and so much more.

Please [click here](#) to urge your lawmakers to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus today!

Jewish Community Conversation with Sheryl Sandberg: Screams Before Silence

When: Tuesday, May 28 | 7:15 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Join Sheryl Sandberg and National Council of Jewish Women CEO, Sheila Katz, for the Jewish Community Conversation about the importance of bearing witness, lifting up the silenced voices of the October 7th attack, and demanding justice.



[Screams Before Silence](#), led by Sheryl Sandberg, is a powerful documentary that captures first-person testimony from survivors, first responders, forensic experts, eyewitnesses, and released hostages from the attack by Hamas in Israel on October 7th. Their harrowing accounts reveal the uncompromising truth: Hamas used sexual assault as a weapon of war.

We encourage you to watch the film before joining the zoom. You can do so by watching from home [here](#).

Please [click here](#) to register for what will undoubtedly be an extremely powerful conversation. This event will be recorded, we will send the recording to all those who register.

June Lunch and Learn - Current Issues in Early Childhood Education with Karen Lucy



Thursday, June 20, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Karen Lucy

When: Thursday, June 20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Early childhood education is critical in shaping children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. However, it faces various challenges, including inadequate funding, teacher shortages, and training limitations. These challenges can significantly affect children's overall well-being and future success. Those on the front lines - early childhood teachers and faculty - can make the biggest difference in ensuring access to quality education for all children, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

For our June Lunch and Learn, we are absolutely thrilled to welcome Karen Lucy, Executive Director of Cornerstone Center for Early Learning. Many of you may know Karen from her days at Temple Israel and Shaare Emeth. Karen's 20+ years in education range from classroom educator, center director to executive director. She has mentored children and adults alike throughout the years as a way to support and guide individuals to personal and professional success. As a strong advocate for early childhood education, Karen was a speaker at the 2017 New Zealand World Forum on Early Care and Education. In addition, in February of 2018, Karen travelled throughout Israel observing and learning about the early education methods. Later she developed a one-day professional learning opportunity for educators; *Natural Explorations*. Karen holds a membership with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Karen believes children are the ambassadors of our planet and we can't wait to hear from her!

Please [click here](#) to register for the June 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



The Louisiana state House voted Tuesday to add two common medications used for abortions to the state's list of controlled, dangerous substances despite widespread evidence they're perfectly safe and effective.

The medications in question are already illegal to use for abortions in Louisiana. But the legislation the House passed Tuesday would make possession of the medications without a valid prescription punishable by up to five years in prison — even though they have uses beyond inducing abortion.

[Click here](#) to read Lydia O'Connor's article from Huffpost, "Louisiana House Votes To Jail People For Possessing Abortion Pills."

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!

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 Transform Our Community



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