



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## Abortion Rights - What Comes Next?

**When:** Wednesday, May 8 | 5:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

In just 80 days, we – thanks to all of you – gathered enough signatures to qualify to get on the ballot. We cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work and dedication to this effort. Whether you collected one signature or 1,000, helped notarize petitions, held signing parties and/or knocked doors, we could not have reached our goal of gathering over 350,000 signatures statewide without you. It was a remarkable effort and are blown away by our volunteers.

**WE ARE PUTTING  
ABORTION RIGHTS  
ON THE BALLOT**  
**WE DID IT!**

**So what comes next?** Join us on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. for a Zoom call with the leaders of [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#). Learn what's next as we wait for the Secretary of State's office to certify the petitions.

Please [click here](#) to register and learn what our steps will be going forward.

## Tell the MO Senate to Take Action for Healthcare!



An omnibus bill that would improve Missourians' health and wellbeing is advancing in the Senate and needs just two more votes before it heads to the Governor's desk. We need you to urge lawmakers to vote **YES** on [HB 2413](#) (Peters) today and get the bill across the finish line.

Being referred to as the "women's health" bill, HB 2413 would

- treat and prevent disease
- **increase access to contraception**, and
- make sure survivors of sexual assault can be properly cared for at healthcare facilities.

This bill has received bipartisan support throughout the legislative process. Tell your Senator to vote **YES** today!

Please [click here](#) or call [573-751-3222](tel:573-751-3222) to urge Governor Parson to veto HB 2634 and

## Urge Your Senator to Protect the Initiative Petition Process

On April 25, the Missouri House passed [SJR 74](#), a bill that would end majority rule. SJR 74 will now be put to a vote in the senate and if approved, will be put on the ballot for voters to decide on.

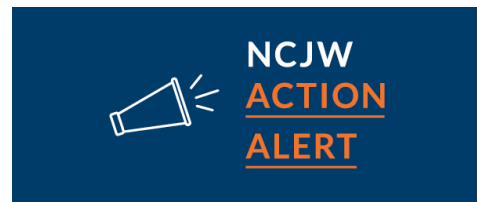
The initiative petition process allows citizens to propose laws or amendments on the ballot by gathering hundreds of thousands of signatures around the state. The law is enacted by a majority of voters in a general election. The process is over 100 years old and is meant to give citizens a voice, even when politicians aren't hearing us.

Citizen-led initiatives (like the abortion IP) 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.

Please [click here](#) to urge your state senator to protect the initiative petition process.

PROTECT THE INITIATIVE  
PETITION PROCESS

## 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:**

[SB 787](#) - This act, commonly referred to as the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA) prohibits discrimination based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This is something that NCJWSTL has been championing for over 20 years and it was heard last week in the Senate General Laws Committee. Please [click here](#) to contact members of that committee and urge them to vote YES when it comes up for a vote.

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

[SB 727](#) - This bill will use public funding to support charter and private schools. NCJWSTL opposes privatization of education through the siphoning-off of taxpayer funding. This bill is headed to Governor Parson's desk soon. Please call [573-751-3222](#) to urge Governor Parson to veto SB 727 and protect Missouri's public schools.

[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](#).

**May Lunch and Learn - Women's Economic Equality with Ana Hernandez Kent**



Thursday, May 16, 2024  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Ana Hernandez Kent

**When:** Thursday, May 16 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

We are all familiar with the gender pay gap. Women overall make 84 cents to a man's dollar. It's a big problem. But actually ... it's only part of the problem. The lesser-known gender gap is the gender wealth gap. Not how much women make compared to men, but how much they own and keep. What can we do about both?

For our May Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Ana Hernandez Kent, who will help us explore wealth inequality and the role of systemic biases and historical factors in facilitating or blocking wealth accumulation.

Ana Hernández Kent is a senior researcher for the Institute for Economic Equity at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She conducts research, performs data analysis and advises on issues of economic equity. She received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with concentrations in social psychology and quantitative methods in behavioral sciences from Saint Louis University. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, The Financial Times, Daily Mail, The New Yorker and CNN, among other outlets.

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

**Anti-LGBTQ+ laws are having a catastrophic effect on queer youth in the United States.**



Between bans on gender-affirming care for minors and laws allowing for queer students to be misgendered, outed, or excluded, 90 percent of LGBTQ+ youth said their well-being has been negatively impacted by recent politics, according to [The Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People](#).

[Click here](#) to read Ryan Adamczeski's' article from *The Advocate*, "Anti-LGBTQ+ Laws Lead to 'Public Health Crisis' with Higher Suicide Rates Among Queer Youth."

**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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