



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**
ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Did you know? Pre-filing for the 2025 Missouri Legislative Session began on December 2nd. At NCJWSTL, we are dedicated to tracking these legislative developments closely, focusing on bills that align with our mission of improving the lives of women, children and families.

Please [click here](#) to view the bills NCJWSTL is following and whether we are in support or in opposition. The list will be continuously updated throughout session.

Urge President Biden to Put the ERA into the Constitution

As you may know, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the US Constitution that guarantees equal rights to all people regardless of sex. The ERA has progressed through the ratification process for decades and the Commonwealth of Virginia ratified the ERA in 2020, meeting the required number of 38 states for ratification. Now all that is left is for the ERA to be put into the US Constitution at the direction of President Biden. It is within President Biden's authority and responsibility to instruct the National Archivist to publish the ERA in the Constitution.



Putting the ERA into the Constitution is one of the most critical actions President Biden can take in his remaining days in public office, codifying an essential protection for women, girls, and the LGBTQ+ community. The ERA, which provides an explicit prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex, would help ensure no one faces discrimination just because of their gender and help protect against injustices such as gender-based violence, the banning of birth control, and unequal pay for women. As Jews, we believe we should always be striving for our vision of a more whole world, and publishing the ERA is a critical step in that direction.

Please [click here](#) to learn how you can tell President Biden to put the ERA into the Constitution as the 28th Amendment!

Sign the ILGA Petition Now

The leading international LGBTQ association, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), has unilaterally suspended Aguda, the central LGBTQ civil rights group in Israel. ILGA's Board refused even to allow a vote on the Aguda's



proposal to host an upcoming conference in Israel. **Making such proposals is a right granted to all ILGA members...except for Aguda.**

A Wider Bridge, an organization that mobilized the LGBTQ community to fight antisemitism, is petitioning ILGA member agencies to demand that ILGA reverse its ill-considered and hypocritical decision.

Together, we can take a stand against bigotry and show ILGA that diversity and solidarity are stronger than exclusion and division.

Please [click here](#) to sign the ILGA petition.

ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

Protect Missouri's Libraries! Join the Right to Read Coalition by [clicking here](#).

For those who have already joined, thank you! Check our member list to see who supports us...and if you've already joined by [clicking here](#).



Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,000 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. The coalition opposes legislative, state policy or other efforts to restrict access to materials at public and school libraries.

Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community:

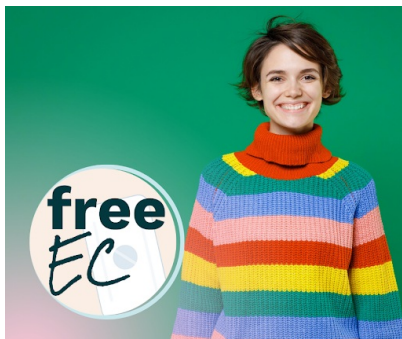
- Missouri ranked third nationally in 2023 for the number of books banned at school libraries.
- 60% of banned books in the U.S. include characters of color and discussed issues of race and racism or presented LGBTQ+ characters or themes.

Laws and policies enacted recently have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries. **We expect more censorship efforts in Missouri in 2025.**

Add your voice to thousands of Missourians to fight censorship and book bans!

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 ensure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2024! 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 2024.



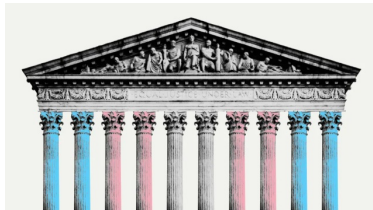
- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color.

[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 case of US v. Skrmetti holds significant implications for the future of transgender rights and protections, as its outcome may either serve as a pivotal barrier against the rising tide of anti-trans legislation or signal to policymakers that such discriminatory measures can be pursued without consequence. This legal battle is not merely a matter of legal precedent; it directly impacts the lives and rights of

transgender individuals.

[Click here](#) to read Madison Pauly's article from Mother Jones, "This Supreme Court Case Could Change Everything for Trans Rights."

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and passionate 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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