



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

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.

Tell MOLEG to Expand Access to Free School Meals

Extensive research has linked participation in school meals to improved outcomes such as increased cognitive function, academic achievement, standardized test scores, and attendance rates. When our children have full plates, they can reach their full potential thus facilitating the growth and prosperity of Missouri as a whole.



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

[Senate Bill 131](#) would allow schools to provide a free school lunch to all students who currently qualify for reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program. [Senate Bill 172](#) and [House Bills 112, 873, & 998](#) would provide universal free school meals to all students. These bills ensure that more students are hunger-free and ready to learn, and eases administrative burden for schools.

Please [click here](#) to urge your Missouri state Senator and state Representative to vote yes on free school meal expansion and stop child hunger in Missouri!

What's Happened Since Amendment 3 Passed? A Legal and Legislative Update

When: Thursday, February 20, 5:30 - 6:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Please join us on February 20th for an update on the reproductive healthcare legal and legislative landscape in Missouri. We are excited to have two dynamic speakers, Missouri State Senator Tracy McCreery and ACLU-MO's Director of Policy & Campaigns, Tori Schaffer, as they brief us on everything happening regarding Amendment 3's implementation and other repro rights happenings in the

Please [click here](#) to register. There is no cost, but you must be signed up to attend. The Zoom link will be sent out on the day of the event. This event is being hosted by ACCESSMO, NCJWSTL and Missouri Healthcare Professionals for Reproductive Rights.

WHAT'S HAPPENING SINCE AMENDMENT 3 PASSED?
February 20, 2025 | 5:30 to 6 pm | on Zoom
Join us for an update on the reproductive healthcare legal and legislative landscape in Missouri.
Tracy McCreery, Missouri State Senator
Tori Schaffer, ACLU-MO's Director of Policy & Campaigns
There is no cost to attend this virtual webinar, but registration is required.
tinyurl.com/access-feb20
HOSTED BY ACCESSMO, NCJWSTL, Missouri Healthcare Professionals for Reproductive Rights
Logos for ACCESSMO, NCJWSTL, Missouri Healthcare Professionals for Reproductive Rights, and other partners.

Defending Reproductive Freedom: Where we Are and Preparing for What's Ahead



When: Friday, February 21, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

NCJW Ohio is facilitating a crucial discussion regarding the current landscape of abortion rights, both within Ohio and nationwide, particularly for those unable to participate in local Repro Shabbat events.

Given Ohio's recent passage of an amendment that mirrors Missouri's efforts to enshrine abortion rights, this dialogue promises to be particularly relevant and insightful for members of NCJWSTL. Participants can expect a thoughtful exchange of ideas that underscores the importance of staying informed and engaged in these pivotal discussions.

[Kellie Copeland, Executive Director of Abortion Forward](#) (formerly Pro-Choice Ohio) will discuss the battles being fought right now – both in our state and at the national level – and what's at stake for reproductive freedom in the months and years ahead.

This event is free, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register.

Join us for NCJWSTL Advocacy Day in Jefferson City!



ADVOCACY DAY

February 25, 2025
Missouri State Capitol

When: Tuesday, February 25, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Where: Missouri State Capitol (we will leave from STL)

[RSVP Here](#)

We are excited to announce that NCJWSTL will be heading to Jeff City! One of the most effective ways of letting elected officials know about NCJWSTL's priority issues is by communicating through face-to-face meetings. This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with our legislators on critical issues affecting women, children and families. Your voice matters!

The cost to join is \$36. We will provide lunch, snacks, and transportation to Jefferson City and back.

[Click here](#) to register for what will be an inspiring day! For questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Save the Date: Alpha Kappa Alpha Day at the Missouri Capitol



When: Wednesday, March 5
Where: Missouri State Capitol

NCJWSTL will be joining forces with our friends at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their day at the Missouri Capitol. More information to come, but be sure and mark your calendars!

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 2025! 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 2025.



- **\$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



Did you know Black History Month coincides with some very notable birthdays? The United States has been officially celebrating Black History Month for nearly fifty years. But how did the celebration come to be? And (to answer the real question on everyone's minds), why is it the shortest month of the year?

[Click here](#) to read Jessica Washington's article from *The Root*, "The Story Behind Black History Month, And Why It's The Shortest Month Of The Year."

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



National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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