



**ADVOCACY  
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## Join us to Help Those Impacted by the Recent Tornado

The recent devastating tornado impacted families in some of the most vulnerable areas of our community. The St. Louis Public School District was heavily affected; several school buildings have been closed due to damage and many families have been displaced or are living without electricity and other basic needs for the next several weeks.



Many of our members and partners have reached out to ask how they can support the victims of this tragedy. **NCJWSTL is joining with SLPS Foundation** to distribute items directly to those most in need.

Please join us in collecting supplies for students and families. There are three simple ways that you can contribute:

1. **Drop off donations during business hours**, Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. **Office will be closed today for Memorial Day.**
2. **Choose from our [Amazon Wish List](#)** and have them shipped to the NCJWSTL office at **295 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141.**
3. **Contribute a [monetary donation online](#)** or by mailing a check.

**The most needed items include:** batteries (AA and AAA), trash bags, period products, brooms, air mattresses, toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, wet wipes, shampoo/conditioner, phone chargers/charging blocks, laundry detergent, manual can openers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap and towels.

*If you have questions, please reach out to Renée Sigel-Hearst, Director of Community Impact, at [rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org](mailto:rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org). Thank you.*

## Tell Your Senators: Save Medicaid and SNAP

Don't let lawmakers take away health care and food from the people who can afford it least.

Tell Congress: Save Medicaid and SNAP

**ncjw** National Council of Jewish Women

At National Council of Jewish Women, we believe that a budget is not just a spreadsheet — it is a moral document that reflects what and who we value. How we allocate resources — as individuals, as communities, and as a nation — reveals our deepest priorities. Jewish tradition commands us time and again to care for those who are in need. Similarly, our government has a moral obligation to

vulnerable among us.

Yet instead of fulfilling that obligation, the House passed and the Senate is considering a budget that would gut health care and food assistance from those who need it most at a time when families are already struggling to make ends meet. These proposed cuts are not just misguided — they are morally indefensible.

- One in five women depends on Medicaid to access essential health care, including reproductive health care like STI testing, cancer screenings, birth control, and family planning services;
- One in five children depends on SNAP for groceries and access to nutritious food.

Balancing the budget should never come at the cost of people's health and survival. Now is the time to pass a moral budget — one that reflects the best of who we are and the just society we are called to build.

Please [click here](#) to urge your Senators to oppose any budget proposal and that would cut or limit Medicaid and SNAP.

## THIS WEEK! Webinar: All 2025 Politics is Local

**When:** Wednesday, May 28 | 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

While many wrongly call it an "off-year", 2025 is, in fact, a BIG election(s) year - with scores of state, local, and special races happening every single month! To say nothing of the states and municipalities that will head to the polls on Election Day proper in November.



Join Nonprofit Vote for "All 2025 Politics is Local" to learn about the local elections happening from coast to coast this year (because there are PLENTY) and how you can learn community outreach skills for voter engagement. You'll also hear about best practices for connecting the importance of voting to every day topics like parks, schools, public safety, and even those dreaded potholes.

Whether you're happy or not-so-happy about the results of last year's presidential election, in 2025 all politics is local - making it a perfect opportunity to emphasize the important impact local elected leaders have on our everyday lives.

Please [click here](#) to register for what is sure to be an informative webinar.

## 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](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 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

The U.S. Supreme Court is deliberating several



significant cases that could reshape aspects of American law and society. Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9-0 on two cases including *FDA v. Wages and White Lion Investments, LLC* regulating flavored vapes, and *TikTok Inc. v. Garland* on banning TikTok for national security. As the Court session continues, the justices will review a series of cases including Trump's birthright citizenship order and public education cases that test the boundaries of religious liberty, parental

rights, and federal authority.

[Click here](#) to read Giovanna DeStefanis' article from *The Feminist Majority*, "What's at Stake: The Supreme Court's Upcoming Pivotal Cases."


**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**

**NCJWSTL**  
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



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