



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Tell Congress: Enshrine LGBTQ+ Equality and Pass the Equality Act!



June is Pride Month, and while an overwhelming majority of Americans support LGBTQ+ equality, a majority of states do not protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in housing, education, finance, or public spaces.

As extremists continue to escalate their attacks on fundamental rights for the LGBTQ+ community, Congress must pass the Equality Act. This necessary bill would update the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as extend protections for women, people of color, and people of all faiths. The Equality Act would ensure that LGBTQ+ people cannot be evicted from their homes, kicked out of a public business, or denied government services simply because of who they are.

Please [click here](#) to urge Congress to enshrine civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ people into law.

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 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 -



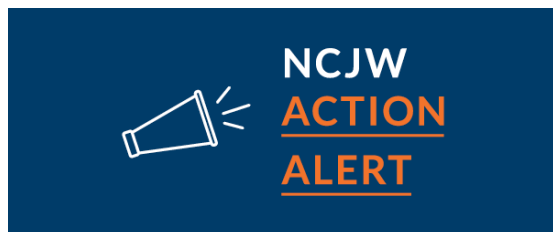
4:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

2. **Choose from our [Amazon Wish List](#)** and have items 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. Thank you!

Pledge To Help Stop The Abortion Ban



Last November, over 1.5 million Missourians voted to end Missouri's abortion ban. Despite the votes of a majority of Missourians, anti-abortion politicians in the state legislature passed HJR 73, designed to gut Amendment 3.

Now is the time to come together to protect the right to abortion and reproductive freedom that we just voted for. Missourians are coming together to defeat the Missouri Legislature's proposed ban on abortion at the ballot box.

Every one of us has a responsibility to show up to defend our win and protect abortion rights and reproductive freedom. What we do in the coming weeks and months will be critical to our future. Join us!

Please [click here](#) to pledge to help stop the abortion ban with our friends at Abortion Action Missouri.

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



It has been three years since Roe v. Wade was overturned, unleashing legal chaos and confusion for patients and providers across the United States. But even though abortion is banned in many U.S. states, the antiabortion movement is only intensifying its campaign to restrict abortion access nationwide. Overturning Roe is just the beginning; since then, the movement has pursued a range of strategies to make abortion completely inaccessible no matter where you live.

[Click here](#) to read Kelly Baden's article from Ms. Magazine, "Three Years Post-Roe: The Escalating Campaign to Make Abortion Inaccessible Nationwide."

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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Celebrating Exceptional
Ethics and Service
BBB Serving Eastern & Southwest Missouri &
Southern Illinois



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