



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Help Defend Democracy in Missouri - Join us for a Rally in Jeff City and Other Actions

You've likely already heard the alarming news: Governor Kehoe has called the Missouri Legislature back for a special session — not just to gerrymander our Congressional districts, but also to attack majority rule by dismantling the initiative petition process.

This is nothing less than an attempt to silence the voices of Missourians. We cannot afford to sit back while our democracy is chipped away.

Now is the time to stand up, speak out, and make your voice heard. Join us in defending fair representation and protecting the will of the people.



Below are actions you can take:

- **Rally in Jefferson City on September 10th from 12:00 - 2:00 PM** - Join NCJWSTL along with thousands of Missourians around the state to remind our elected officials: Voters pick their politicians, not the other way around. If you would like to carpool with NCJWSTL, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.
- **Join a phonebank** - Missourians across the state need to know what's at stake and get the chance to have their voices heard. No experience needed. Our partners at Missouri Jobs With Justice will train and support you every step of the way. Join on **Tuesday** at noon or **Wednesday** evening.
- **Call House Speaker Jon Patterson** at [573-751-0907](tel:573-751-0907) and **Senate President Cindy O'Laughlin** at [573-751-7985](tel:573-751-7985) and urge them to reject legislative proposals to gerrymander Missouri's congressional lines further.

For any questions on redistricting and more ways fight back, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

NCJWSTL's Hot Topics Brunch - Protecting the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan with Amy Collignon Gunn



When: Sunday, September 14 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Where: NCJWSTL

[RSVP Here](#)

For more than 80 years, Missouri's Nonpartisan Court Plan has kept politics out of our courtrooms, ensuring fair and impartial justice for all. But this vital system is constantly under threat from the Missouri Legislature. **Join us for coffee, bagels and an important conversation about what's at stake**, why this plan matters to every Missourian, and how you can help protect it for future generations.

We are honored to feature Amy Collignon Gunn, a longtime St. Louis attorney and one of the region's foremost experts on the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. Amy brings her deep knowledge and passion for protecting judicial independence to this important conversation.

We hope you can join us for what will be an enlightening conversation!

Hot Topics Brunch is free, but you must register to attend. Please [click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Volunteers Needed to Help Keep Abortion Legal in MO



We're beginning to organize around a critical issue: **protecting abortion rights in Missouri**. You may have heard that the Missouri Legislature is bringing abortion rights back to the ballot under the same name, **Amendment 3**. We anticipate a strong misinformation campaign from the opposition and we need to be strategic in order to fight it. Although the new measure likely won't appear on the ballot until August or November 2026, **now is the time to act**.

We are looking for volunteers to work the polls, knock doors, educate our communities, and notarize absentee ballots. If you're interested in getting involved, please [click here](#) to sign up. **It's going to take all of us.**

For any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

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:

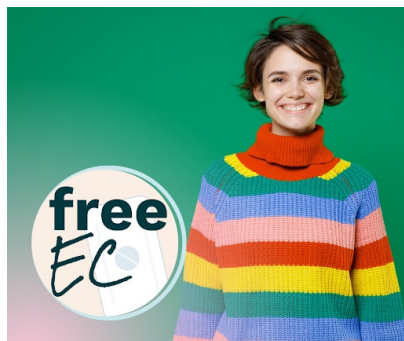
- Missouri ranked third nationally in 2023 for the number of books banned at school libraries.
- 60% of banned books in the U.S. include characters of color and discussed issues of race and racism or presented LGBTQ+ characters or themes.

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.

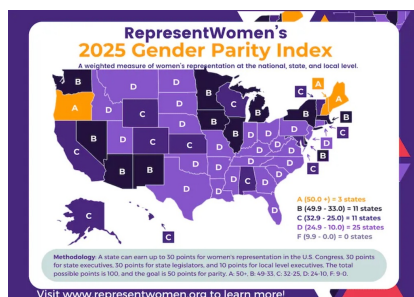
[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

Join the A-list [here](#).



Interesting Reading



August 26, Women's Equality Day, marked the anniversary of the 19th Amendment's certification — a milestone that granted American women the right to vote and expanded democracy in unprecedented ways. While it's a victory worth celebrating, full enfranchisement happened later with the adoption of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, but it was never intended to be the end of the struggle.

One hundred and five years later, RepresentWomen's new 2025 Gender Parity Index shows just how unfinished that work remains: **Despite some gains for women in state legislatures, half of U.S. states still earn a "D" grade for women's representation.**

[Click here](#) to read Cynthia Richie Terrell's article from Ms. Magazine, "Real Change for Women in Politics Requires Fixing Broken Systems."

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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