



Tell Congress to Pass Paid Leave for All!

NCJW is committed to striving for a future where all women, children, and families have what they need to thrive. No one should be forced to choose between caring for themselves or their families and receiving their paycheck. Yet millions of workers across the country are forced to make this choice daily without paid family and medical leave.

Guarantee paid leave for everyone!

Pass the **FAMILY Act**

ncjw National Council of Jewish Women

The Family and Medical Insurance Leave

(FAMILY) Act would create the first-ever national paid family and medical leave program for virtually all working people across the country. This essential bill would provide a critical safety net for the millions of workers who do not have access to paid leave through their employer, providing 12 weeks of job-protected paid time off for workers to care for themselves and their families.

Please [click here](#) to tell Congress to pass the FAMILY Act without delay to ensure paid leave for every worker!

Join Us for Cocktails and Causes With PROMO!

Cocktails & CAUSES

Thursday, October 9, 2025
6:30 - 8:00 PM

We will discuss issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community and what to expect during the 2026 legislative session.

Please register.

When: Thursday, October 9 | 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Where: NCJWSTL

[RSVP Here](#)

LGBTQ+ Missourians are facing escalating attacks — from laws banning gender-affirming care for trans youth and restricting school participation, to ongoing

harassment, discrimination, and violence. These harmful policies and rhetoric not only strip away rights but also fuel stigma, putting lives and mental health at risk. Missouri urgently needs protections that affirm dignity, safety, and equality for every LGBTQ+ person.

Join us for an important Cocktails and Causes with Katy Erker-Lynch and Shira Berkowitz from PROMO, who will discuss issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community and what to expect during the 2026 legislative session.

Please [click here](#) to register for this event and stand with us in supporting equality and safety for Missouri's LGBTQ+ community.

Pledge To Collect Signatures to Protect Missouri's Congressional Maps



Governor Kehoe and leaders in the Missouri legislature recently used a special legislative session to draw new congressional maps in an attempt to rig the 2026 election. NCJWSTL testified against this measure and stood alongside thousands of Missourians at the recent rally, raising our voices in united opposition to this dangerous attempt to undermine democracy.

Here's the thing: **People should choose their politicians, not the other way around.** We aren't going to let them get away with this blatant power grab.

[Join the People Not Politicians campaign today!](#)

Show Governor Kehoe and the MO Legislature that we're watching and ready to use any tool at our disposal to ensure Missourians' voices are heard and the law is upheld.

Together, we will fight back against this illegal gerrymander and preserve democracy in Missouri.

Please [click here](#) to join the People Not Politicians campaign today!

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



Anger over the U.S. health system is reaching a boiling point. In 2026, the cost of private health insurance premiums will rise dramatically. With frustration mounting over high prices and uneven access, analysts say the coming months could provide an opening for state lawmakers to tackle what polls show is Americans' top concern: the soaring cost of health care.

[Click here](#) to read Jeanne Lambrew's article from the Century Foundation, "The Chance for States To Tackle

High Health Prices."

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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