



THIS WEEK! Join Us for Cocktails and Causes With PROMO!



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.

Webinar: Mastering the Op-Ed and the Letter to the Editor

When: Wednesday, October 8 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Want to make your voice heard in the media? Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor (LTEs) are powerful tools for

influencing public conversations, shaping policy debates, and showing community leaders what matters most to community.

In this interactive virtual workshop, you'll learn:

- How to write compelling LTEs that get published and spark dialogue in local and national news outlets;
- The art of the Op-Ed: crafting publishable, persuasive, story-driven pieces that highlight your perspective and push for meaningful change;
- Hands-on practice to draft and workshop your own Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed so you leave with a workable piece to send to news outlets.

Please [click here](#) to register for this informative webinar.



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.

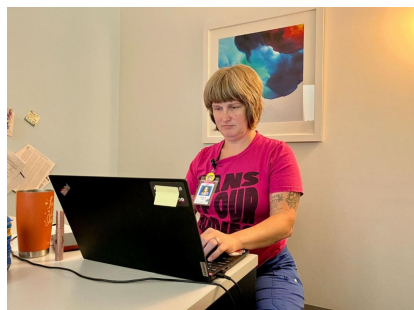
[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

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

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



Interesting Reading



Cervical cancer is one of few cancers that has a known path of prevention after the approval of the first HPV vaccine in 2006. But that also means it falls at the intersection of three cultural issues that are facing strong political opposition — broad access to low-cost or free reproductive health care, access to vaccines for children, and sex education.

[Click here](#) to read Kelcie Moseley-Morris's article from the Missouri Independent, "Cervical Cancer Could be

Eradicated, Experts say. But not With Medicaid Cuts and Antivax Politics."

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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