



**ADVOCACY  
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## THIS WEEK! 2026 Missouri Legislative Session Preview



### LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

Thursday

December 11, 2025

6:30 - 8:00 PM



*Madison Eacret*

Director of State Legislative  
Affairs, Penman Group

**When:** Thursday, December 11 | 6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Where:** NCJWSTL | 311 N. Lindbergh Blvd.

[Register Here](#)

The 2026 Missouri Legislative Session is right around the corner, and there's a lot to talk about. Join NCJWSTL and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice for a preview of what's ahead in Jefferson City.

Madison Eacret, the Director of State Legislative Affairs at the Penman Group will discuss the bills likely to make headlines, the issues that could affect our communities, and how advocates can make their voices heard when it matters most.

This is your chance to get a jump on the session before it begins and leave with a better sense of what's at stake and how you can get involved. Whether you're a longtime policy watcher or new to legislative advocacy, you'll come away informed, energized, and ready to take action.

Light refreshments will be served, and plenty of time will be set aside for questions and conversation with Madison.

Please [click here](#) to RSVP. This event is free of charge, but you must register in advance.

## Join Us for the 2026 Jewish Advocacy Day



Join Jewish community members from across Missouri for **[Jewish Advocacy Day on Wednesday, January 21, 2026](#)**, in Jefferson City. This is an opportunity to advocate for our shared priorities, meet with lawmakers, and ensure our voices are heard on the issues that impact our families and community.

Throughout the day, participants will:

- Meet directly with state legislators;
- Learn about key policy priorities affecting Jewish Missourians;
- Build relationships that strengthen our collective advocacy efforts.

Whether you're a seasoned advocate or joining us for the first time, your presence matters. Together we can make a difference!

**Bus transportation will be available from St. Louis to Jefferson City, leaving at 8:00 AM and returning at approximately 5:00 PM.** The departure location will be communicated closer to the event day. If you are participating from another city, a representative from your areas will be in contact about transportation.

Please **[click here](#)** to register. Participants are being asked pay an \$18 registration fee to offset expenses. If the registration fee is a barrier to your participation or if you have any other questions, please email **[jrcrstl@jrcrstl.org](mailto:jrcrstl@jrcrstl.org)**.

## Tell Congress to Fund Libraries in Fiscal Year 2026!

Now that the 43-day federal government shutdown – the longest in our nation's history – has finally ended, Congress must turn its attention to completing a full Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget. As lawmakers begin making critical funding decisions, we need to ensure that libraries are not left behind.

Libraries are cornerstones of strong, informed, and connected communities. They provide early literacy programs, after-school support, digital access, small-business resources, job-seeker assistance, citizenship preparation, community safety information, and so much more. These services rely on consistent and robust federal funding through programs like the **[Library Services and Technology Act \(LSTA\)](#)** and **[Innovative Approaches to Literacy \(IAL\)](#)**.

**[Click here](#)** to urge Congress to fully fund libraries in the FY 2026 budget. Communities across the country depend on federal support to keep library programs strong, equitable, and accessible to all.



## 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 on 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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

## ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

### Protect the First Amendment! Join the Right to Read Coalition

Support Missouri's Libraries! Join the Right to Read Coalition by [clicking here](#).

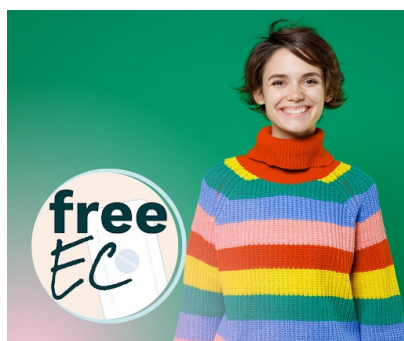
Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,200 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. NCJWSTL is a founding coalition member.

- Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community.
- Missouri laws and policies have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries.
- President Trump's Executive Order threatens to eliminate \$3 million of Federal funds for Missouri's libraries.



Get the latest information at [MO Right to Read – Supporting Missouri's Libraries](#).

## Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!



NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with Beacon Reproductive Health Network 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, Beacon Reproductive Health Network, 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).

## 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.



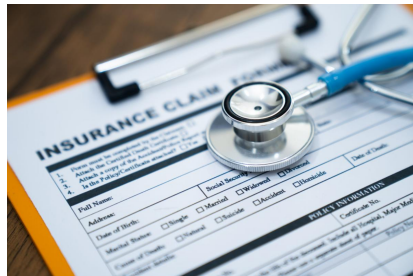
- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color.

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

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

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

## Interesting Reading



Across much of rural Missouri, pregnancy begins with distance. In many counties, the nearest hospital that still delivers babies can be close to an hour away.

According to the 2024 March of Dimes report, 51% of Missouri counties are now classified as maternity care deserts, offering no obstetric clinicians or birthing hospitals. A 2025 analysis by the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform found that less than half

(41%) of U.S. rural hospitals still offer labor and delivery services.

[Click here](#) to read Abby Ehrhardt's article from the Missouri Independent, "The Distance Between Pregnancy and Care in Missouri."

**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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