



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**
ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

The 2026 Missouri Legislature is in session. At NCJWSTL, we are dedicated to tracking these legislative developments closely, focusing on bills that align with our mission of improving the lives of women, children and families.

Please [click here](#) to view the bills NCJWSTL is following and whether we are in support or in opposition. The list will be continuously updated throughout session.

THIS WEEK! Hot Topics Brunch with PROMO: The LGBTQ+ Landscape in Missouri

**Hot Topics
BRUNCH**

Sunday, March 8, 2026
9:30 - 11:00 AM
NCJWSTL Offices

promo
EQUALITY IN MISSOURI

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

Please register.

When: Sunday, March 8 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

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.

In addition to these escalating attacks, those wishing to ban abortion in Missouri are using trans children and their families as pawns in their misinformation campaign.

Join us for an important Hot Topics Brunch with Katy Erker-Lynch, Shira Berkowitz, and Lacie Jett from PROMO, who will discuss issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community, what has been happening so far in the 2026 legislative session, and how we can support the LGBTQ+ community.

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

Meet St. Louis's Judicial Trailblazers



When: Thursday, March 19 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: 10 North Tucker, 13th Floor

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the Law Library Association of St. Louis for a special panel discussion featuring several of the trailblazing women honored in the [Judicial Legacy Project](#) exhibit. This conversation will explore the history, impact, and legacy of women serving on the bench in the St. Louis region, offering insight into their experiences and the path they helped forge for future generations.

Moderated by Judge Nicole Colbert-Botchway and co-sponsored by the Women Lawyers Association of Greater St. Louis, the panel will include Hon. Evelyn Baker, Hon. Anne-Marie Clarke, Hon. Mary Kay Hoff, and Hon. Lisa Van Amburg.

Please [click here](#) to register. Check-in is at 5:30 PM. Program runs from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Followed by a social event from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. Qualifies for 1.2 MO Bar Ethics CLE credits.

Demand Equal Access to Abortion Coverage: Tell Congress to Pass the EACH Act

Every year, our federal spending bills continue to include the deeply harmful [Hyde Amendment](#), which bans federal funding for abortion. This exclusion presents a major barrier to exercising reproductive freedom, particularly for people on Medicaid and those struggling to make ends meet.

[The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance \(EACH\) Act](#) would undo the Hyde Amendment

and reverse its harmful restrictions. It would guarantee that every person receiving care or insurance through the federal government has the necessary coverage for abortion services. The EACH Act would also prohibit political interference in the decisions of private insurers to cover abortion.

This groundbreaking legislation would ensure that every single person — regardless of how much they earn, what insurance they hold, where they live, or any other factor — has the right and ability to make personal decisions about their health, body, family, and future.

[Click here](#) to urge your lawmakers to support the EACH Act to ensure equal access to abortion care for all.



Volunteers Needed to Help Keep Abortion Legal in MO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we persevere in our commitment to protect abortion rights in Missouri, we are looking for volunteers to work the polls, knock doors, educate our communities, and notarize absentee ballots.



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.

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.

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 2026! 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 2026.

- **\$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



Giving birth before a baby reaches full gestational age is not uncommon in Missouri, which ranks 37th worst in the country for preterm birth rate.

In 2024, more than 7,400 babies born in Missouri — or 11% — were preterm, before 37 weeks gestation, according to March of Dimes. This also means many expectant mothers find themselves packing suitcases for hospital stays that last longer than a couple nights.

[Click here](#) to read Anna Sporre's article from the Missouri Independent, "'Shockingly Unique': Why St. Louis Program for Antepartum Moms is Getting National Attention."

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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National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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