



**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.

Become a Court Watch Volunteer!



We are excited to announce that NCJWSTL is now coordinating the Domestic Violence (DV) Court Watch Program. Court Watch is a volunteer-powered initiative designed to bring transparency, accountability, and humanity to domestic violence and Order of Protection cases in St. Louis. This is an opportunity for individuals seeking to make a measurable difference in the lives of survivors of domestic violence and strengthen accountability in our justice system. No legal background is required. NCJWSTL will provide comprehensive training and ongoing support to all participants.

Are you interested in learning more? Watch for information regarding future trainings and volunteer registrations. For more information about Court Watch, please contact Rachel Bray, NCJWSTL Advocacy Manager, at rbay@ncjwstl.org or call [314-514-4955](tel:314-514-4955).

Save the Date: 2026 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Forum

When: Monday, April 13 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Where: Missouri State Capitol Rotunda

[RSVP Here](#)

Be part of a powerful afternoon of education, advocacy, and action at the Missouri State Capitol. This forum will bring together community leaders, advocates, and policymakers to raise awareness and strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking in our state.

Hear from State Sen. Brian Williams, State Sen. Tracy McCreery, and other leaders as they share insights on current legislation aimed at addressing human trafficking. Following the program, participants will have the opportunity to meet directly with their legislators and advocate for these critical measures.



For more information or if you would like to join us, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Demand Full Funding for MO Libraries



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

Our Missouri public libraries are one of the most valuable resources, and you can support them by contacting your legislators and urging them to restore A&E funding to the full \$4.5 million originally requested. The Governor's proposed budget cuts this funding by 50%, putting essential library materials and resources at risk in communities across the state.

In the 1990s, the Missouri General Assembly established Statute 143.183, which directs a portion of state income tax from nonresident athletes and entertainers (A&E) to key cultural partners. The Missouri State Library relies on these funds to support libraries in every corner of our state.

[Click here](#) to tell urge your legislators to restore A&E funding 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 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

The majority of U.S. teenagers live in states that require parental involvement in abortion healthcare decision-making. If parents are unavailable, or teens under 18 do not want to involve their parents, they must go to court and convince a judge that they are mature enough to decide on their own or that the abortion is in their best interest. To avoid this invasive and burdensome process, resourceful teens are now turning to abortion care from telehealth providers located outside their restrictive



states, as documented by new research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

[Click here](#) to read Carrie N. Baker and Shelby Hastings' article from Ms. Magazine, "Teens Avoid Coercive Parental Involvement Laws by Using Telehealth Abortion Services."

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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