

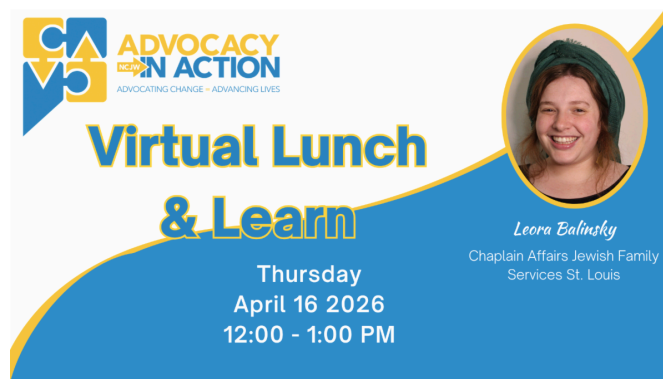


**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**
ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

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! April Lunch and Learn: Navigating Stress and Advocacy With JFS Chaplain Leora Balinsky



When: Thursday, April 16 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Did you know that April is Stress Awareness Month? It's a meaningful time to pause, reflect, and consider how we care for ourselves in the midst of busy, demanding lives. Join us on Zoom with JFS Chaplain Leora Balinsky for a thoughtful and engaging conversation exploring Jewish teachings on stress, the pressure to do it all, and the often unrealistic pursuit of perfection.

Leora will also reflect on her unique role within the Jewish community and how we can come together to be stronger, more effective advocates. **While grounded in Jewish teachings, these insights are universal and all are welcome!**

Please [click here](#) to register for the Advocacy Series April Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call [314.514.4974](tel:314.514.4974).

**Protect Direct Democracy in MO - Urge Your Legislator to Vote No on HB
3146**

Once again, out-of-touch legislators in Jefferson City are trying to trick Missouri voters into giving up our rights. [HB 3146](#), the Let Politicians Lie Act, would let politicians lie and run out the clock on the initiative petition process — the 100+ year tradition that gives us the freedom to make decisions about policies that directly impact us and our families.



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

Politicians tried this before in 2025 and the Missouri Supreme Court unanimously struck it down earlier this year as unconstitutional.

With this year's bill, they're trying to grant the Secretary of State three chances to rewrite ballot summaries before a court can step in. These summaries are essential to Missouri's 100+ year tradition of direct democracy, and voters deserve clear, unbiased information. The bill could reach the House floor at any time.

[Click here](#) to take action now to defend direct democracy!

Urge Your Elected Officials to Stand Up for LGBTQ+ Rights With Keshet



In the face of harmful policies and rhetoric targeting trans and nonbinary youth, their families, immigrants, and other marginalized communities, we remain steadfast in our commitment to justice, dignity, and safety for all. The attacks from local, state, and federal governments are unacceptable, and we will continue to fight back with resilience, community, and love.

As Jews, we know what it is like to be targeted by those in power because of our identities. We are called to speak up when members of our community are under attack, especially to protect those most vulnerable. We urge those who hold elected office and represent us: uphold your duty to all constituents, reject all discriminatory policies, and do not stand idly by while transgender people are attacked simply for who they are.

[Click here](#) to reach out to your elected officials and demand they stand up and speak out for the entire LGBTQ+ community!

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 rbray@ncjwstl.org or call [314-514-4955](tel:314-514-4955).

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



Since the fall of Roe, attacks on reproductive freedom haven't stopped at abortion—they have expanded deliberately and strategically to target young people.

Under the banner of “parental rights,” conservative lawmakers are dismantling protections that allow minors to access confidential contraception and reproductive healthcare. These policies do not strengthen families; they endanger young people, especially those navigating poverty, immigration instability or

unsafe home environments—cutting off care and undermining privacy when they need support the most.

[Click here](#) to read Laura Hernandez's article from Ms. Magazine, "The Guise of 'Parental Rights' Is Denying Young People Critical Care."


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**



National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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