



**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.

## Protect Missouri's Future - Tell Your Rep to vote NO on HJR 173/174!

Last week, the Missouri Senate passed Governor Kehoe's proposal to eliminate Missouri's state income tax, replacing it with an expanded sales tax that would raise costs on everyday purchases and services. Despite the sweeping impact, Senate leadership brought the bill forward late at night, limiting transparency and public accountability.



**NCJW  
ACTION  
ALERT**

At a time when working families are already stretched thin, this proposal would shift the tax burden onto those LEAST able to afford it, while putting critical public services at risk. These are the services our communities depend on every day, funded by the very tax dollars this bill threatens to destabilize.

**There is still time to act.** It heads to the Missouri House for a vote this week. Lawmakers need to hear directly from Missourians. We must demand policies that are fair, transparent, and put people, not politics, first.

[Click here](#) to email your representative today and tell them to vote NO on HJR 173/174.

## Urge Your Senator to Restore Funding for Missouri's Libraries!

The budget will be heading to the Senate floor soon! Contact your Senator today to advocate for library funding.

Capitol Switchboard: [573-751-2000](tel:573-751-2000)

Find your Senator's number: [Legislator Lookup - Missouri Senate](#)

Request that full funding of \$4.5 million for Missouri's libraries be included in the Senate version of the 2027 state budget.

- Libraries across Missouri count on state funding to serve their communities.

- A funding cut of 50% will harm libraries' ability to provide up-to-date resources to the public.

- Under state law, funds collected from the Arts & Entertainers Tax are distributed to Missouri's libraries and arts organizations. The A & E tax is collected from nonresident professional athletes and entertainers.



[Click here](#) to take action today!

## Let Us Vote: Rally Outside the MO Supreme Court

# Rally outside the MO Supreme Court



Paid for by People Not Politicians, Mike Pridmore, Treasurer

**When:** Tuesday, May 12 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Where:** Missouri Supreme Court

[Register Here](#)

Missourians did what the law requires. We organized, gathered signatures, and exercised our constitutional right to a referendum by turning in 305,000+ signatures in December 2025. Since then, politicians have continued to push forward this gerrymandered map as if the people have no power.

**On May 12th, as [Maggard v. State of Missouri](#) is heard before the Missouri Supreme Court, we're coming together to show just how much this moment matters.**

We need to show up, stand together, and make it clear that Missourians are paying attention and know our constitutional right to a fair path to the ballot.

Please [click here](#) to register for the rally. If you are interested in carpooling with NCJWSTL, please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

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

## Volunteers Needed to Help Keep Abortion Legal in MO



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](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 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



Over the past month, the Supreme Court of the United States has issued decisions that pose growing threats to the LGBTQ+ community, reflecting a troubling shift in how rights and protections are interpreted. These rulings undermine longstanding principles of equality and create increased uncertainty for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. They also appear influenced by the rise of Christian nationalism, raising serious concerns about the erosion of the separation between church and state.

[Click here](#) to read Meghan Lord's article from the Feminist Majority Foundation, "From Privacy to Conversion Therapy: A Troubling Month for LGBTQ+ Rights at the Supreme Court."


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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