



# 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.

## NEXT WEEK! 2026 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Forum

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

**Where:** Missouri State Capitol Rotunda

[RSVP Here](#)

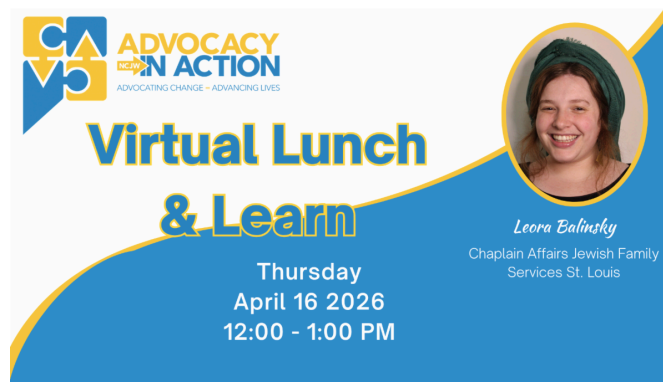
Be part of a powerful afternoon of education, advocacy, and action at the Missouri State Capitol. This forum will bring together community leaders, advocates, and policymakers to raise awareness and strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking in our state.

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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).



## 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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) or call [314.514.4974](tel:314.514.4974).

## Take Action: Demand Equal Pay!

Despite passage of the landmark [1963 Equal Pay Act](#), women today earn only 81 cents for every dollar earned by men — and the gap is much wider for women of color, earning only 65 cents.

[The Paycheck Fairness Act](#) would deter wage discrimination by updating and strengthening the Equal Pay Act. This critical legislation would provide tools and protections for women to dispute pay discrimination in the workplace, strengthen anti-retaliation protections, require better data reporting, and help facilitate legal recourse for victims of discrimination. With rising inflation and intense economic strain on families, passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act is critical to closing the wage gap and advancing economic justice.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would allow families to better afford rent, childcare, and food, securing a better economic future. Women, families, and our nation cannot afford to wait any longer for equal pay.

[Click here](#) to urge your members of Congress to cosponsor and support the Paycheck Fairness Act today.



## 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



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



When Elly Cohen chose to terminate her pregnancy in 2022, it aligned with her understanding of Jewish law that life begins at birth, not conception.

Cohen and her husband were eager to give their then 4-year-old daughter a sibling. But her fetus had been diagnosed with Trisomy 18, a severe chromosomal disorder that, in most cases, leads to death before birth or within the first year of life. She decided to end the pregnancy.

Had she gotten pregnant just a few months later, she might not have had that choice. She lives in Indiana, one of 13 states that enacted near-total bans on abortion following the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

[Click here](#) to read Hannah Feuer's article from *The Forward*, "Jews Paused Indiana's Abortion Ban — by Turning a Religious Freedom Law Against the Evangelical Right."


---

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**



 Share This Email

 Share This Email

 Share This Email



NCJWSTL | 311 N. Lindbergh Blvd. | St. Louis, MO 63141 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!