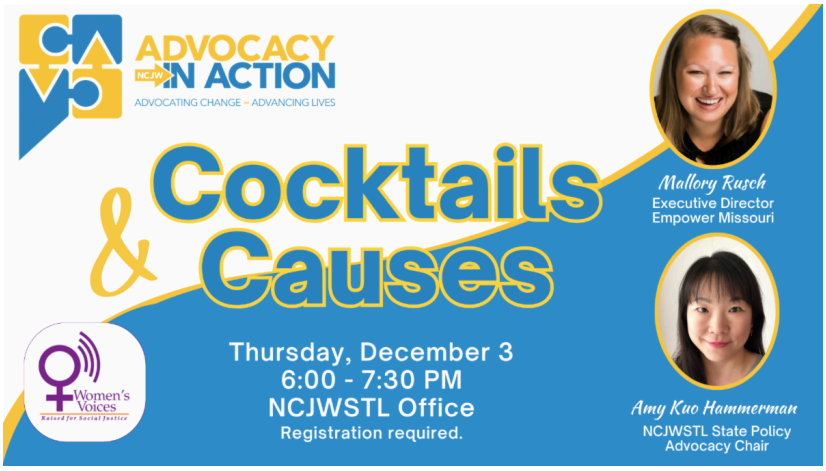
ADVOCACY IN ACTION

NCJW

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

December Cocktails and Causes: Join us for a 2027 Missouri Legislative Session Preview



When: Thursday, December 3 | 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Where: NCJWSTL | 311 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
Register Here

The 2027 Missouri Legislative Session is right around the corner, and there's a lot to talk about. Join NCJWSTL and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice for a preview of what's ahead in Jefferson City.

Mallory Rusch, Executive Director of Empower Missouri and Amy Hammerman, NCJWSTL State Policy Advocate will discuss the bills likely to make headlines, the issues that could affect our communities, and how you can make their voices heard when it matters most.

This is your chance to get a jump on the session before it begins and leave with a better sense of what's at stake and how you can get involved. Whether you're a longtime policy watcher or new to legislative advocacy, you'll come away informed, energized, and ready to take action.

Light refreshments will be served, and plenty of time will be set aside for questions and conversation with Mallory and Amy.

*Please **click here** to RSVP. This event is free of charge, but you must register in advance.*

Tell Congress: Pass the Antisemitism Response and Prevention Act

Antisemitism is rising at an alarming rate in the United States, threatening Jewish communities in our schools, houses of worship, workplaces, and neighborhoods. No one should have to fear for their safety because of who they are.



Congress has the opportunity to take meaningful action by passing the **Antisemitism Response and Prevention Act (H.R. 6806)**, comprehensive legislation that would strengthen the federal government's response to antisemitism while helping protect all communities from hate. Congress must respond to this urgent moment with the comprehensive action Jewish communities deserve.

Click here *to send a message today urging your lawmakers to support and pass the Antisemitism Response and Prevention Act.*

Pledge Your Support for the Freedom to Read

Seventy years ago, literary leaders united to defend free expression through the **Freedom to Read Statement**, authored by the American Library Association and Association of American Publishers. Its message remains as vital today as ever: *The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack.*

A resurgence of attacks on the freedom to read again threatens our democracy. Calls for book bans, the adoption of unconstitutional legislation, and campaigns to criminalize the work of librarians, teachers, booksellers and other individuals for distributing materials protected by the First Amendment threaten our fundamental liberties.

Recognizing that the battle to preserve our freedoms is as old as the freedoms themselves, the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers have reconvened on this **70th Anniversary of the Freedom to Read** statement to reaffirm its timeless message. We invite you to pledge your support!

Please ***click here*** *to pledge your support for the freedom to read.*

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 over 1,200 individuals and 103 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



For more than three decades, the federal government released an annual comprehensive report on the state of hunger in America. But that ended in 2025 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would no longer produce Household Food Security reports.

While the report has disappeared, hunger clearly hasn't. In fact, it appears to be getting dramatically worse as people lose food assistance and face mounting economic strains.

***Click here** to read Kristen Wild's article from the Missouri Independent, "Washington Stopped Measuring Hunger. Missouri is Seeing More of it."*

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

NCJW STL
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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