

# JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS



## Courts matter.

**Federal and lower court decisions impact every aspect of our lives. The composition of the courts defines how justice is delivered in our nation.**

## WHAT TO DO

### CALL YOUR SENATORS

Contact your senator and let them know that you are concerned about federal court vacancies. Contact your state legislators and let them know that you support the continuation of the Missouri Plan.

### BECOME A COURT WATCHER

Court watchers are third-party observers who sit in on domestic violence cases to encourage consistency, fairness, and transparency. Volunteer training is provided by SLEVAWN (St. Louis End

## THE MISSOURI PLAN

The nonpartisan court plan, often referred to as the Missouri Plan, allows for the selection of judges based on merit rather than political affiliation. This provides courts with independence, experience, and integrity by neutralizing political involvement in judge selection. The Missouri Plan now serves as a national model for the selection of judges and has been adopted in more than 30 other states.

Judicial applications are reviewed by a commission that interviews the applicants. The commission submits the names of three qualified candidates to the governor, and, after interviewing the candidates and reviewing their backgrounds, the governor selects one to fill the vacancy.

Each judge must stand for a retention election in the general election, giving citizens a say in judicial retention. Judges are placed on the ballot without political party designation, and voters determine whether or not to retain the judge based on judicial record. A majority vote retains the judge in office. If a judge retires or resigns, a vacancy is created and is filled according to the process above.

### Courts Matter Coalition

NCJW STL is forming a Courts Matter Missouri coalition. This coalition brings together organizations committed to justice that would work together to increase public awareness and ensure fairness and transparency in Missouri and Federal courts.

## NCJW STL BELIEVES THAT...

### THE MISSOURI PLAN MUST BE MAINTAINED.

Legislators in Jefferson City are questioning the effectiveness of the Missouri Court Plan, which was originally introduced in Missouri and gained national recognition as the gold standard for impartial judicial appointments. Instead, these legislators would like to combine judiciary appointments with political affiliation, which is a threat to justice. NCJW STL defends the Missouri Court Plan and believes that judges confirmed to lifetime seats on the bench must be committed to protecting all constitutional rights.

### FEDERAL JUDICIAL NOMINEES MUST BE FAIR AND INDEPENDENT.

Federal courts impact every aspect of our lives. Judicial nominees for life-time seats should be fair and independent with a proven record of fidelity to core constitutional values like equal justice for all.