



the VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES & STORY COUNTY IOWA
<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county> Autumn 2021

SCHOOL BOARD FORUM HELD



Moderator Linda Hagedorn and the large panel of candidates for the Ames School Board, Thursday, October 7

POSSIBLE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES MEETING MET LWV'S STANDARDS OF CIVILITY, INFORMATION

The LWV Voter Services Committee joined forces with the Ames Public Library to invite the seven candidates for Ames School Board to introduce themselves and to answer questions from the audience on Thursday, October 7. The Forum was held live at the Library Auditorium and was streamed live on the League's Facebook page.

Attendance 260 Plus 250 On Line

Moderated by former LWV President Dr. Linda Hagedorn, the panel was comprised of candidates Brett Becker, William Scott Dryer, Rolf Duvick, Tom Purl, Amy Erica Smith, Kira Werstein, and Kelly Winfrey. They are competing for three open seats on the School Board.

The large crowd maintained a generally civil attitude with only a few breakout episodes as questions on creationism, mask mandates, local control, police in the schools,

bullying, and curriculum were addressed. Several candidates commented that the allotted time was not adequate to describe the possible solutions they would pursue, although a request for a yes or no answer on a question was generally ignored. A question of what attributes would be looked for in filling superintendent and principal positions had a wide-ranging set of answers.

The League's format was helpful in structuring the Forum, with answers held to a time limit and questions presented in a rotation of the panel. Dr. Hagedorn's moderating was concise and respectful. The League stated that they were registering voters on site, taking applications for absentee voting, and offering assistance on the voting rules this year.

The Forum video is available on the League's Facebook page and website and in KHOI's archives.

HELLO from the President's Corner

This is such an exciting year in Story County for a variety of reasons. Democracy is still at the top of the list for the League. We are working hard at a local level on our school and city elections, making the public aware of election law changes both nationally and in Iowa.

★We marched in support of The For The People Act to urge our lawmakers to stop the voter suppression laws being enacted by state governments.

★We conducted voter registration events on National Voter Registration Day at five locations, registering 45 people.

★We partnered with the NAACP to conduct a conversation with the County Auditor to inform the public of the voting law changes enacted by the Iowa Congress.

★We are moving forward with the production of a video to inform the public about voter registration, absentee ballot request forms, and ballot counting in Iowa.

★We celebrated the Hard Won/Not Done closing event commemorating the struggle for women's right to vote with a lecture by Dr. Marjorie Spruill.

★We held an Ames School Board Candidates' Forum which was attended by over 500 people in person and online.

★We are in the midst of our annual fundraising effort. Please support your League!

★We inaugurated our first scholarship to high school graduates. Applications have been sent to schools.

★We've initiated a Transportation Study to evaluate the quality and availability of public transportation in Story County.

I recently heard a presentation from the Brennan Center for Justice. Here are some shared observations:

- The 117th Congress is the most diverse in history: 23% of color and 26% female. 10% have given birth to a child.*
- In the 116th Congress, 5% have had a blue-collar job.*
- Historically, of the 116 Supreme Court Justices in history all but 7 have been white men.*

This gives new meaning to "Lived experience brought to the table"!



*Carolyn Klaus,
President
League of Women
Voters Ames & Story
County— prez.lwvasc@gmail.com
Phone: 515-231-0857*

THE CALENDAR

Thursday, October 28, 8 PM– Manatt-Phelps Lecture, Memorial Union, Speaker Michael Steele

Saturday, November 6, 9:30 AM – LWVIA Issues Briefing, on Zoom

Tuesday, November 9, 6:30 PM – Lecture “The Freedom to Vote Act”, Virtual

Thursday, November 18, 7 PM – Program – Ames Public Library/Live Streamed on Facebook, “Strategies for Empowerment of Women Worldwide”, Speaker Dr. Cornelia Flora

Thursday, November 18 - Wordly Goods Fundraiser

THE FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT America's Next Great Civil Rights Bill: A Deep Dive with Elizabeth Hira

This upcoming event features nationally recognized expert Elizabeth Hira from the Brennan Center for Justice. The all-virtual event will be held Tuesday, November 9, at 6:30 PM. The event is open to the public and to the media.

Registration is required for the event.

Contact: prez.lwvasc@gmail.com

The Freedom to Vote Act will create a baseline national standard for voting access, preempting many of the most onerous restrictions that have been passed in many states, including Iowa.

WORDLY GOODS FUNDRAISER 2021



The non-profit, fair trade store on Ames' Main Street is again cooperating with LWV-ASC to share a percent of sales during the November 18 shopping day until 5 PM, however you can shop all day on line at:

<https://worldlygoodsfairtrade.square.site>

Use code LWV.

MEMBERSHIP

Be a part of LWV-ASC by renewing your membership if you haven't done so for the current year, or please refer others to join.

Dues are as follows:

\$60 Individual, \$90 Household, \$5 Student, \$0 Life (50+ years of LWV membership)

Checks are payable to *LWV of Ames and Story County*. Send your check to:

LWV of Ames & Story County c/o Treasurer
P.O. Box 2266, Ames, IA 50010

You may also renew at our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county>

Print and fill out the form and mail as directed. Thanks!

ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The decision to hold our annual meeting in the evening rather than on a weekend morning was rewarded by a large attendance of over 90 people at the Gateway Center on Thursday, June 17.



Sebha Faheem with her Making Democracy Work Award.

After a buffet supper, the speakers took the podium. The Carrie Chapman Catt Award for 2021 was awarded to Nancy Halvorson, and the Making Democracy Work Award was given to both ISU student activist Sebha Faheem and to The Bridge Home, a community supported non-profit meeting the needs of the homeless. After outgoing President Dr. Linda Hagedorn's reflections on the past year, she was thanked for her outstanding leadership and efforts through a tumultuous time.



Dr. Michael Bugeja, Keynote Speaker

Dr. Michael Bugeja, Distinguished Professor at the Greenleaf School of Journalism at ISU, delivered a riveting talk about the beginnings of social media years ago and the effect on our moral code and culture today. The business meeting included the election of officers and directors for 2021 and 2022 and the adoption of the LWV-ASC program positions for 2021-2022. Go to the League's website for a list of the positions voted on at the meeting.

VISIT OUR NEW, REVISED WEBSITE:

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county>

(If you are unable to access the Members Only section contact Judy Jones at j8212@gmail.com)

2021-22 LWV-ASC BOARD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



At the Annual Meeting – Rebecca Hoepfner, Louise O'Donnell, Judy Jones, Kay Meyer, Dava James, Tom Meyer, Barb Pedersen, Linda Hagedorn, Barb Wheelock, Carolyn Klaus, Mary Sand, Barb Espeland Front: John Klaus

President	2023	Carolyn Klaus
Adviser to President	2023	Mary Sand
Secretary	2023	Rebecca Hoepfner
Treasurer	2023	Barb Espeland
Fund Raising	2022	Tom & Kay Meyer
Legislative Action	2022	Judy Trumpy
Meeting Planner	2023	John Klaus
Membership	2023	Judy Jones
Observer Corps	2022	Paula Toms
Publicity	2022	Barb Wheelock
Voter Services	2023	Barb Pedersen
Voter Editor	2022	Louise O'Donnell
Past President	2023	Linda Hagedorn
Web Manager		Megan Brown
Nominating Committee		Dava James

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Membership chair Judy Jones reports that most of our members have renewed for this year and we welcome several new members:

- Larry Reinsch
- Doug Biggs
- Tom Kroeschell
- Samantha Herridge (student)
- Faith Toweh (student)

Sonya Paulson (student) *"I joined the League because I wanted to be more involved in the local community. I'm the Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee for Iowa State's Student Government so I think joining the League will be a great way to learn more about voting rights and different outreach activities to apply in that role."*

And we congratulate member Jan Beran on her lifetime membership attainment. Jan has been a member for 50 years!

SUFFRAGIST WAGON JOINS THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



The Suffragist Wagon with marchers Kay Meyer, Linda Hagedorn, Rebecca Hoepfner, Mary Richards, & Frankie Parrott

The League's presence in the Ames Fourth of July Parade was complemented in a big way by the Suffrage Wagon, created for the Hard Won-Not Done celebration of the 19th Amendment in Iowa. The wagon is a replica of the wagon used in the campaign for women's suffrage 100 years ago. We were honored to be able to get the wagon on a day when it was in such demand. Thank you to the marchers and to Linda Hagedorn who facilitated the wagon's appearance with our League.

BOOK CLUB PICKS



The Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. For questions about membership or the monthly meetings contact Jim Noland at jcnoland@mac.com or Cornelia Flora at cflora@iastate.edu.

Selections for upcoming months are: October 28 - *Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson; and November's selection - *Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Discover America* by Scott Borchert. Keep a lookout for LWV-ASC's very own shelf of recommended books at Dog-Eared Books at 203 Main Street!

The National League of Women Voters has created an informative blog. Go to <https://www.lwv.org/blog> for messages and articles about current issues.

PETITION TO REPEAL NEW VOTER LAWS

Iowa is one of 14 states that passed legislation in 2021 making it harder to vote and more difficult to administer. Please click on the link or scan the QR Code to sign the online petition asking Iowa lawmakers to repeal sections of Senate File 413 and Senate File 568 which were signed into law in 2021. <https://www.lwvia.org/petitions>



NEW RESTRICTIONS OF ELECTION LAWS

- Invalidates service members' and other mail-in ballots that, even if mailed promptly, cannot be received before polls close.
- Obstructs returning absentee ballots by limiting the use of ballot drop boxes to one per county regardless of population and by arbitrarily restricting who may return them.
- Impedes voting by medical and other workers with 12-hour shifts by closing polls earlier on voting days.
- Unnecessarily shortens the early voting period from 29 to 20 days and needlessly limits ballot request periods.
- Invites interference in our elections by allowing any outside group to challenge Iowa elections in court.
- Limits county auditors' abilities to adapt to local conditions and criminalizes good faith errors.
- Gives less time for voter registration, moves voters who miss any general election to an "inactive" list.

VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



Cheryl Binzen, Vanessa Baker-Latimer, and Kathy Berrett
September 28 was National Voter Registration Day and LWV-ASC was out registering 45 voters and handing out 11 requests for absentee ballots. Members were out at HyVee Lincoln Center, HyVee West, Wheatsfield Grocery, Ames Public Library, and Parks Library. The League also shared information on the November 2 elections.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY - STORY COUNTY



Chris Mondak and Linda Hagedorn are co-chairs of a new committee which was announced at the Annual Meeting. The committee is studying the availability of transportation options within Story County and will develop recommendations, possible actions, and a LWV-ASC position. Committee members include Anne Kinzel, Nancy Halvorson, Dava James, and Megan Brown. The group has already started work and has conducted several interviews with city officials in all Story County.

The objectives for the study are:

- Identify transportation options within Story County.
- Inform Story County residents of the transportation options available.
- Evaluate available transportation options for all residents of Story County.
- Identify equity issues regarding transportation for BIPOC, seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and others.
- Provide recommendations for improvements and or additional services for Story County residents.

PROGRAMS UPDATE



Dr. Marjorie Spruill speaking at the October 4th celebration of Hard Won-Not Done at the Scheman building.

Program chair John Klaus reports that the Program Committee returned to the tradition of taking a vacation in July and August. In September and October we partnered with the ISU Catt Center to present lectures and information including the lecture on the growth of the conservative movement in tandem with the progressive movement in the 70's by Dr. Marjorie Spruill. The program for November 18 will be: *Strategies for Empowerment of Women Worldwide*, to be presented by Dr. Cornelia Flora, ISU Professor of Sociology. The December program is in development .

LWV-ASC INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING SATELLITE VOTING



Per the new voting regulations, a satellite voting site must be requested by a valid citizen petition. LWV-ASC actively circulated petitions to allow voting for the November 2 election at:

Oct. 14 Scheman Building, Room 004, ISU 10 - 4pm

Oct. 22 Memorial Union, Cardinal Rm, ISU 10 - 4 pm

Oct. 30 Ames Library, Brown Auditorium 10 - 4 pm

Reminder: The voter pre-registration deadline for the November 2 election was Monday, October 18, by 5 p.m. Voter registration forms will be available for new registrants at the sites. Voter registration records can be updated.

MARCH ON FOR VOTING RIGHTS

On Saturday, August 28, the League participated in the **March on for Voting Rights**, which commemorated the 58th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Marches took place across the country marking the event. Here in Ames the walkers began at 8:30 AM at Brookside Park and marched to the front of City Hall. At City Hall, League members took the opportunity to offer voter registration to marchers and bystanders.



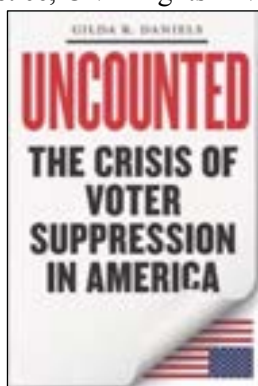
Note the date of the Manatt-Phelps Lecture in Political Science October 28, 8 pm, in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Speaking will be noted political analyst Michael Steele. Mr. Steele served as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland and later as the Chairperson of the Republican National Committee. Currently he is Senior Fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

By now you should have received your annual fundraising letter. This drive is the one source of funds that our League has other than annual dues and an occasional fundraising event such as the Wordly Goods Shopping Day held in the late fall. Due to Covid that fundraiser was not as successful as in the past. Please be generous with your contribution to assist LWV-ASC in defending democracy!



This year the Fundraising Committee offers a couple of gifts to those who donate. The first, a new design pack of 5 notecards and envelopes to all those contributing \$100 or more, and for those contributing \$200 or more the book *Uncounted: The Crisis of Voter Suppression in America* by Gilda R. Daniels, former Deputy Chief in the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.



LWV- ASC INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP

LWV-ASC announces it's currently accepting applications for its first scholarship. It's open to Story County residents who will begin college at any accredited college or university in the state, including community colleges. This scholarship is open to all without regard to gender, political party, or other demographics. The League seeks to identify an appropriate recipient whose life goals and plans match the mission of the League. Applications for the \$500 award are open to graduating seniors, GED holders, or other high school graduates attending college for the first time in the fall of 2022. Applications can be downloaded from the League's website at:

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county> or requested by emailing Prez.LWV@gmail.com. Applications are due by March 15, 2022 and can be sent by email to Prez.LWV@gmail.com or mailed to LWV-ASC, P.O. Box 2266, Ames IA 50010.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO DEVELOPED WITH COUNTY AUDITORS

The Publicity Committee and the Voter Services Committee have been working to develop an educational video about the voting process. Story County Auditor Lucy Martin, her staff, and auditors Rhonda Deters from Grundy County and Grant Veeder from Black Hawk County assisted in the content of this video which can be viewed on the League's Facebook page soon.



A screen capture from the new video.

The video will highlight all the processes that are currently in place in Iowa to make our elections safe and secure. There are 3 components: 1) Addresses voter registration, 2) Describes absentee voting, and 3) Describes day-of-election voting. For each of these components, the video explains the process for the voter and also the process within the auditor's office. Each of these components is roughly 10 minutes long. Keep your eyes peeled for posters and flyers informing the public which will incorporate a QR code taking you to the video site.

Check our website and Facebook page to view the video.



The National League announced a new program focus entitled **Women Power Democracy**. It's a 4-pronged approach to build trust in our elections, grow the electorate, create fair voter access, and ensure districting reflects the population. Its components are:

Democracy Truth Project-Counter disinformation
Expand the Franchise-Increase voter participation.

Democracy Defense Fund-Protect voting rights through advocacy and voter protection efforts.

People Powered Fair Maps-Lead with advocacy, public education, and organizing to create transparent people powered electoral maps.

The work includes workshops, training, and activations to support the public.

LEAGUE LINGO

TERMS THAT HAVE MEANING IN THE LEAGUE

Action: Promoting the League's positions on local, state and national public policy to government officials, the media, and the public.

Action Alert: A request to members from the LWVUS or the state or local League to take action in support for a League position.

Annual Meeting: Year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on by-law changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the coming year.

Consensus: The collective opinion of a substantial number of members, representing the membership as a whole, after the study and discussion of an issue. It does not need to be a unanimously held opinion.

Concurrence: Adoption of a position by one League of the position reached by another League.

Convention: A state or national meeting held in alternate years where delegates elect officers, adopt a program, make by-law changes, and adopt a budget.

Education Fund: The affiliate of the national, state, or local Leagues that receives tax-deductible contributions to use only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

Honorary Life Member: A person who has been a member of the League for 50 years or more who is granted lifetime membership with no dues obligations.

MAL: Member-at-Large, a member who is not enrolled in a local league, but who is a member of the state and national Leagues.

PMP: Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid by the local Leagues to our state and national affiliates on behalf of each member.

Position: A statement of the League's stance on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the Board and used as a basis for action.

Principles: Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. Membership in the League is open to all who endorse the principles, and the principles constitute the authority for adoption of programs at all levels.

Program: Selected governmental issues chosen by members at each level for study and action.

Speaking with One Voice: Only the League president or her designee is authorized to speak for the League. Members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals without reference to their League affiliation.

Voters Guide: Non-partisan publication giving candidate qualifications and positions on selected issues, as well as explanations of ballot questions.

Voter Service: Year-round activity to help people be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process including registering voters and presenting factual information.

Voting Members: All League members who are residents of the U.S. and are at least 16 years old.

LWV-ASC CO-SPONSORS EVENTS

On September 13 the League co-sponsored the 2021 Constitution Day speaker, Dr. Bobbi Gentry, who spoke on the increasing power of the youth vote and the motivations that drive this population. Sponsors were the Carrie Chapman Catt Center on Women in Politics and the ISU Committee on Lectures.



On September 30 the League co-sponsored a conversation "Your Knowledge Is Your Voting Power" with Story County Auditor Lucy Martin. The event was live streamed. Sponsors with the League were the NAACP, The Links, Iowa State University, and the Ames Public Library.

AMES CLIMATE ACTION



There's a lot happening in our community, but the plans and decisions being made about Ames' future need attention and that's where we in the League can make a difference.

It's approximately one year away from the completion of Ames' Climate Action Plan. The Plan will set a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will lay out actions to help achieve the goal. Among the things being considered are land use, engineering, utilities (The League's recent study on resource recovery is an important player.), economic development, equity, and more.

The plans include an active engagement period which will run until next July. An interactive website will be initiated to offer accessible information and the ability to offer feedback. There is a supplemental input committee representing 12 community sectors which will help direct the plan. *Any feedback that can be acted on before the plan's completion can be brought to the City Council.* Two sectors of the input committee, the civil, and the nonprofit and faith-based representatives will be part of the effort to reach out to the underserved.

Let's pay attention and assist Ames' efforts to improve the environment. Go to the City's site:

<https://confluence.mysocialpinpoint.com/ames-climate-action-plan>

ERA UPDATE



43 years ago, in 1978, leading supporters of the ERA marched in Washington urging Congress to extend the time for ratification

From the State League:

“Please join us in calling on U.S. Senators Joni Ernst and Charles Grassley to enthusiastically support S.R. 6. The resolution would effectively eliminate the deadline retroactively and impose no new deadline on ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.”

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting the United States or an state from denying or abridging equal rights under the law on account of sex.

The US. House of Representatives passed the resolution March 17, 2021.



The Voter Service Committee has completed your Vote 411 information for the upcoming elections on November 2. Just type in your address at the 411 site and you'll be able to compare candidates, check your polling place, and review election rules. <https://www.vote411.org/iowa>

The last day to request an absentee ballot for the November 2, 2021, election is October 23, 2021. Absentee voting is available and no excuse is required. **County election officials may only send out absentee ballots if requested.** You can return your absentee ballot request form through the mail or in person. Most mail ballots must be received by the time polls close on Election Day (8:00 pm) in order to be counted.

**We now have our own YouTube Channel!
It's The League of Women Voters of Ames
and Story County**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTERLEAGUE ORGANIZATION



This interleague organization consists of local leagues in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin that are located within the Upper Mississippi River Region. All the leagues have at least part of their membership living in this large watershed.

The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The Upper Mississippi ILO is an active organization advocating for clean water and environmental issues. LWV-ASC's representative to the ILO is Dr. Erwin Klaas, who was recently honored for his contribution to conservation in Iowa.

LEGISLATIVE ROLL UP

After the Legislature finished in the spring our lobbyist, Amy Campbell, gave us an update on what happened with our priority issues during the session. Here are some highlights:

- **Improve the Health and Safety of Iowans:** Unfortunately permit-less carrying of guns and honor system background checks were passed; there were Covid issues; contraceptive coverage was not passed; failure to address high cost of insulin; BUT state funding for performance contracts for MH/DS regional services passed; funds were voted for hotel worker training on human trafficking; funded were mental health telehealth payment parity; funding for home health care, nursing homes, for rural OB/GYNs, and a prescription drug donation program all passed.
- **Protect Natural Resources and Environment:** There were no changes to the Bottle Bill, or for forestry tax credits & land donations. No strategies on climate change.
- **Protect Model Redistricting Process:** Remains to be seen.
- **Protect Voting Rights:** Across the board an erosion of voting rights.
- **Rethink Our Approach to Criminal Justice and Ensure Equality for All:** Not good – increased rioting penalties, qualified immunity for police, no felon voter restoration, housing voucher discrimination all passed, BUT no death penalty, and no anti-LGBTQ legislation.
- **Demand Government Accountability & transparency:** Zoom created a certain amount of opportunities to observe, but there were behind the door meetings and no amendments were permitted until the bill was introduced on the floor and pushed through.