

VOTER

Board of Directors - FY2025

- President – Vicki Aden
vicki.a.aden@gmail.com
- Vice President – Jean Donham
jodliby@gmail.com
- Secretary – Sally Stutsman
[sstuttsma@sharontc.net](mailto:ssuttsma@sharontc.net)
- Treasurer – Helen Dailey
bjdhmd@mchsi.com
Jeanne Bancroft
jnn.bancroft@gmail.com
Kathy Clark
mkathyclark@gmail.com
Rebecca Conard
rebeccaconard@gmail.com
Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
dgoldsmith.icia@gmail.com
Bea Hicks
beahicks2501@gmail.com
Jennifer Patel
jenniferplwv@gmail.com
Kathy Wandro
kwandro@mac.com
Sami DeRagon
sami.deragon@gmail.com
- Voter editors –*
Bea Hicks beahicks2501@gmail.com
Paula Vaughan vaughanp893@gmail.com

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LWVJC | P. O. Box 5452 |
Coralville, IA 52241

August 2024

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Happy August! As we get closer to the November election, our calendar is beginning to fill up with many voter registration events, interesting educational presentations, book club, and soon-to-be scheduled candidate forums. I thank everyone who takes time to support our efforts to register and educate voters ahead of the critical November election.

I encourage you all to attend our annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive on Thursday, September 5, 5:30 – 7:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville and bring a friend or two. This is a free event. This is a great opportunity to share what we are doing in the League. You might even discover a new interest. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Caroline Tolbert with a timely talk on the Electoral College. The League supports the principle of one person, one vote and the election of the President by direct popular vote. The grass-roots effort to drive this change begins with educating ourselves about it. Watch for more details on this event via email. I hope to see many of you there!

I know you hear every year how this is the most important election in our lifetimes. Perhaps every election is – in every election we have to reaffirm our commitment to this representative, democratic form of government that was founded nearly 250 years ago. I ask you all to help us defend democracy through participating in our activities leading up to the election whether registering voters, distributing election information, attending a candidate forum, updating the Vote411 candidate information, participating in the book club, attending educational lectures, participating in committees, sharing the Vote411 site with others, or just encouraging your neighbors and friends to vote. You can make a difference through Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.

*Vicki Aden
President*

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. **The September Voter deadline is August 23.**



MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership is 168 active members.

Renewal Reminder: Our annual membership renewal date was June 30. It is more important than ever to support the League of Women Voters US, Iowa and Johnson County. Please renew your membership **Today!** Members can renew online at <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/join> or send a check to League of Women Voters Johnson Co, PO Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241. Individual memberships are \$70, \$105 for a household or \$20 for students. If you want to change your preferred email or update your address, this is the time to do that as well. Your membership supports the work of the league at all levels. A current initiative being championed by the National League of Women Voters is election of the president by popular vote. A direct, popular vote ensures the candidate with the most votes of the people becomes President. According to the Pew Research Center, the majority of Americans favor moving away from the Electoral College.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please plan to attend the September 5 Fall Reception and Membership Drive to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Caroline Tolbert, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa and League member. A 2021 Andrew Carnegie Scholar/Fellow for her research on voting and state election laws, her presentation will focus on the Electoral College. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the league, meet members and enjoy a light meal. Bring a friend. We hope to see you there!

Join League members for Casual Coffee on the second Wednesday of each month. We meet at 10 a.m. at Poindexter’s Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
Membership Chair*



VOTER REGISTRATION

We participated in 3 events in June and July: The Summer of the Arts, June 7-8, 31 voter registrations; Pride Festival, June 15, 18 voter registrations; and Jazzfest, July 5-7, 19 voter registrations.

Additional opportunities to register voters include National Night Out, August 6., 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Wetherby Park and End-of-Summer Jam on August 17, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Willow Creek Park.

Sign up to help register voters at [SignUp National Night Out](#) [SignUp End of Summer Jam](#)

September 17 is National Voter Registration Day. We will register voters 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kirkwood Community College and other locations to be announced. Voter registration at this year’s Naturalization ceremony, Herbert Hoover Library in West Branch starts September 20, 1:30 p.m. We will be registering voters at Benton Hill Park on September 21 as part of the Prairie Hill Cohousing Get Out the Vote Jamboree. As part of Climate Fest, Chauncey FilmScene will show *Scale of Hope*, September 25, 7-8 p.m. We will be doing voter registration before and after the movie.

We expect some additional events for late September and early October. If you are interested in helping with any of the voter registration events, contact Kathy Clark at mkathyclark@gmail.com. Kathy is transitioning to Voter Registration coordinator.

*Kathy Clark and Jennifer Patel
Voter Registration Coordinators*





DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Save the Date!

The LWVJC is pleased to announce an exciting event on September 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Dave Markward, former Cedar Rapids Community School District Superintendent, will talk about his stirring and enlightening memoir *From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America*. Described by Amazon as ‘a call to action, urging readers to step beyond their comfort zones, to educate themselves, and foster compassion. It emphasizes the crucial role of education in combating racism, promoting inclusivity, and shaping a more equitable world’.

The Diversity Equity Inclusion committee of the League is cosponsoring this opportunity with Tools and Resources for Active Independent Living.

Put this on your calendar and watch for more information.

*Anne Spencer
DEI Committee Chair*



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for two upcoming programs in the fall!

The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What’s It All About?

Wednesday, September 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m.,
Iowa City Public Library

Website: www.lwvjc.org

On November 5, Johnson County voters will be asked to approve a \$30 million conservation bond initiative that will appear on the general election ballot. Join us on September 25, when Pat Heiden and Josh Schamberger, co-chairs of the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future Committee, and Brad Friedhof, Johnson County Conservation Program Manager, will highlight 15 different projects funded by the 2008 conservation bond, passed by a super majority of voters. Looking to the future, they also will discuss the anticipated benefits of the proposed \$30 Million Conservation Bond.

The Hero You Don’t Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights Thursday, October 24, 2024, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Iowa City Public Library.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, award-winning author Samuel G. Freedman, professor of journalism at Columbia University, and Norman Sherman, Hubert Humphrey’s long-time speechwriter and one of his closest aides, will delve into a bit of history that bears remembrance this presidential election year. Together, Freedman and Sherman will examine Humphrey’s efforts—in tandem with African American leader A. Philip Randolph—to advance civil rights in the 1940s, which set the stage for what President Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Humphrey accomplished in the 1960s. Readers of the *Gazette* may recognize Sherman’s byline because, at age 96, he is still writing op-ed pieces.

*Rebecca Conard
Education Committee Chair*

LWVUS CONVENTION RECAP

LWVJC delegates Vicki Aden, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, and Jennifer Patel attended the LWVUS National Convention June 27-30. The convention was held in Washington, D.C. but we were all able to attend virtually. Delegates were energetic and passionate about the business being conducted. The convention featured a touching remembrance of Dr. Deborah Turner, with Dr. Turner’s niece Danielle Hill speaking to the convention delegates.

Some of the highlights of the meeting portion included the announcement of Celina Stewart as the new LWVUS CEO, the election of the

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Board including new LWVUS President Dianna Wynn, votes to retain the current LWVUS positions, and readopt the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. There was also concurrence with the LWV Washington position on the Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy, as well as approval for a LWVUS one-year study on the federal judiciary. Resolutions adopted included Support of DC Statehood, Importance of Ethics in Government, Support for the UN Committee Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of All Women (CEDAW), Support for Fair and Humane Immigration Reform, Support of Public Libraries, and Support of Reproductive Rights. The League also announced a national partnership with Girl Scouts USA.

In addition to the business meeting portion of the convention, there were numerous workshops offered. Many of the workshops centered on the League's moonshot goal of elimination of the electoral college: the One Person, One Vote campaign. This will be a grassroots campaign with emphasis on educating our members and creating partnerships to move toward this goal. We also attended workshops on focusing on civility/how to disagree better, insights into having effective lobby days, how to improve voter registration and get out the vote campaigns, incorporating DEI into our work and partnerships, and techniques to combat mis/dis/mal-information. We hope to incorporate some of what we learned into our work with LWVJC. Thank you all for allowing us to attend the convention!

*Vicki Aden, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, and
Jennifer Patel
Your Convention Delegates*

THE LWV UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

UMRR-ILO

On the weekend of July 12, the Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization (UMRRIO) held its two day annual Retreat in Davenport, Iowa. We began with an interesting field trip through the Moline Water Works which has earned recognition because of its system of cleansing, including cleansing of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are known as forever chemicals that are not water or oil soluble.

The Board added three people from each of our five state memberships in the ILO. We stayed at the Historic Adler House which is a lovely Airbnb with "F Scott Fitzgerald"-style decor in Davenport.

Those who could not attend in person joined us virtually. We were fortunate to have Christina Curry as our guest who displayed and presented her art work. Another guest was Gretchen Sable's grandson who helped with the tech part of our meetings.

UMRRIO is a wonderful group to be part of and if you ever want to join us, let me know. Special thanks to Cathy Eisenhofer and Susan Enzle for their interest and activity with our group.

*Nancy Porter
Vice Chair UMRRIO*



***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****



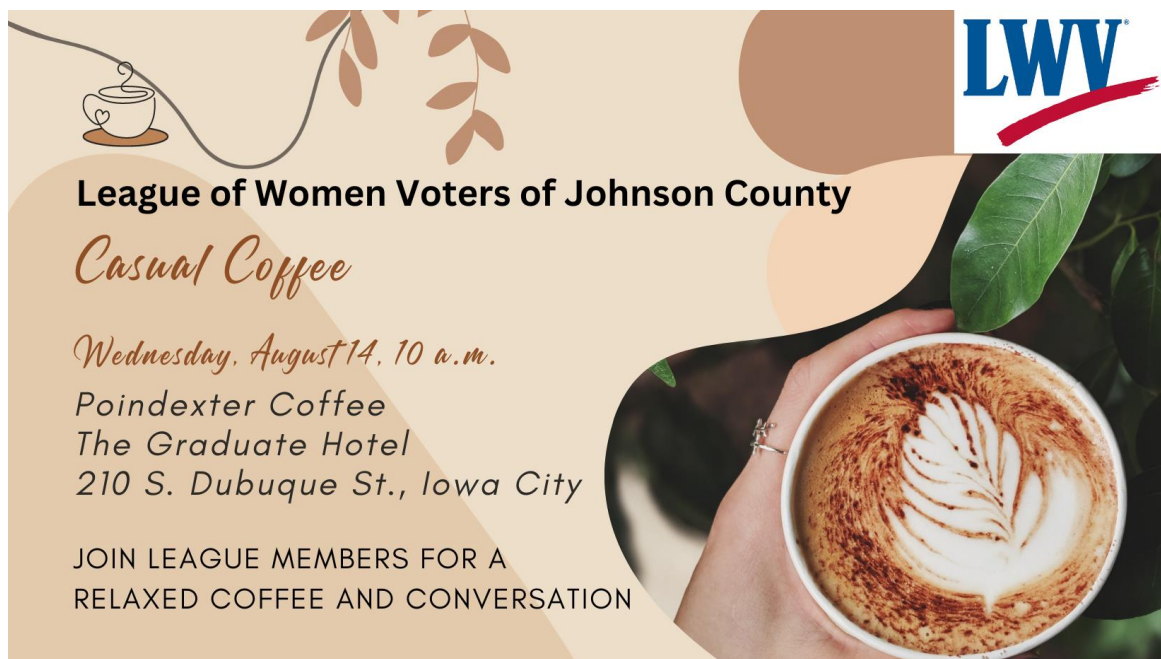
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

SAVE THE DATE

*Fall Reception &
Membership Drive*

Thursday, September 5, 2024
5:30-7:30 pm
Unitarian Universalist Society
2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville

The graphic features a white background with a decorative border of red, white, and blue gears and confetti. The LWV logo is at the top left, and the event details are centered.



LWV

League of Women Voters of Johnson County

Casual Coffee

Wednesday, August 14, 10 a.m.

*Poindexter Coffee
The Graduate Hotel
210 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City*

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The graphic has a beige background with a coffee cup icon and a photo of a hand holding a latte. The LWV logo is in the top right corner.

★ VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Adopt automatic voter registration. Enact ranked choice voting. Pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served.

🏛️ TRANSPARENCY & CITIZENSHIP

Demand government accountability and transparency by requiring all amendments and bills discussed in committee to be available to the public prior to a vote. Demand timely processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Encourage direct citizen participation by continuing virtual committee and subcommittee meetings. Preserve gender balance requirements for state boards and commissions.

🎓 EDUCATION

Increase oversight and track public funds being used for non-public schools. Require any non-public school receiving public funds to meet the same standards as public schools. Fully fund public schools. Continue to expand access to affordable childcare and four-year-old preschool.

👩‍⚕️ REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. Make contraception available without prescription. Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible. Support new moms with 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage. Set policies that attract maternal health professionals and address the state's OB/GYN deserts.

👤 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, support its victims, and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect human trafficking survivors from criminal prosecution.

💧 ENVIRONMENT

Increase funding for environment and water quality initiatives, including REAP, and develop state climate change strategies.

🔫 GUN SAFETY

Enact comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation to address increasing gun violence in the state. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal "stand your ground" law, and resist efforts that expand carrying in public spaces and schools.



Photo Gallery



Above: Pictured, left to right, League members, Jennifer Patel and Barb Henke at our voter registration booth at Iowa City Jazz Festival.

Below: Former Representative Jim Leach stopped by our booth to chat with Barb Henke.



Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
Date	Time	Location	Program
Tuesday, August 6	5:30 - 8 p.m.	Wetherby Park, Iowa City	Voter Registration at National Night Out
Wednesday, August 14	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Saturday, August 17	2 - 5 p.m.	Willow Creek Park, Iowa City	Voter Registration at End of Summer Jam
Thursday, September 5	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville	Annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive
Wednesday, September 11	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Monday, September 16	5:30 - 7 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club discusses the book <i>Minority Rule: The Right-Wing Attack on the Will of the People—and the Fight to Resist It</i> by Ari Berman
Tuesday, September 17	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Kirkwood College and other locations to be determined	Voter Registration for National Voter Registration Day
Friday, September 20	1:30 p.m.	Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch	Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremony
Saturday, September 21	TBD	Benton Hill Park, Iowa City	Voter Registration at Prairie Hill Cohousing Get Out the Vote Jamboree
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's it All About?</i> , Pat Heiden, Josh Schamberger, Brad Friedhof
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 - 8 p.m.	FilmScene, Iowa City	Voter Registration at Climate Fest screening of <i>The Scale of Hope</i> . Pay-what-you-can proceeds go to LWV
Wednesday, October 9	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Thursday, October 24	6:30 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The Hero You Don't Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights</i> , Samuel G. Freedman, Norman Sherman