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

August 2025

From the President . . .

It is hard to believe it is nearly August. The November 4 city council and school board elections will be here before we know it. This is the time of year when our calendar really begins to fill. Late August, September, and October will be filled with voter registration events, interesting educational presentations, book club, and candidate forums. And of course, our Advocacy team remains engaged championing action on policy priorities. Please follow our web page (www.lwvjc.org) and/or our Facebook page (LWVJCIA) to keep up to date on events as they are scheduled. Thank you to everyone who takes time to support our efforts to advocate and to register and educate voters ahead of the November election. You are indeed Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.

I encourage you all to attend our annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive on Wednesday, September 3, 5 – 7 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, and please consider bringing a guest or two. This is a great opportunity to share what we are doing in the League and encourage others to join us. The event includes some social time, a light supper, special mocktails, and a great speaker, and is complimentary to all members and their guests. Our guest speaker this year is Austin Frerick, author of *Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America's Food Industry*. This was one of the books selected by our Book Club last year, and we are thrilled to be joined by the author to hear his insights on the corporate consolidation and lay out a path forward to a fair, prosperous, and healthy food industry in America. Please RSVP to the event by August 29 here: <https://forms.gle/dW2TVFe3f3jL3dU8A>. Your RSVP will ensure we have an accurate headcount for the event. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Members who joined the League prior to August of last year should have received a reminder that their annual membership dues need to be renewed. If you need to renew and have not yet done so, please go to our website, www.lwvjc.org and click on the Join or Renew link for instructions on how to renew. Thank you to those members who have already renewed.

Vicki Aden
 LWVJC President



MEMBERSHIP

Our League currently has 189 active members. However, there are 67 members whose membership renewal date was June 30, 2025 who have not yet renewed. Anyone with a June 2025 renewal date should have received a membership renewal reminder in June. The email reminder would have been from "Membership", which is the League of Women Voters Membership team. The heading of the email was:

Membership Renewal

During the month of your renewal anniversary you will receive an email from "**Membership**", which is the League of Women Voters membership team. The heading of the email is:

"Renew Your League of Women Voters Membership"

The League of Women Voters logo will be at the top of the email. The email then states:

"Hello (Member Name),

Thank you for being a member of the League of Women Voters! Your membership will expire on June 30, 2025. Continue your commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy by renewing your membership with the League.

To do so, please click here:

JOIN/RENEW

If you have any questions, please email membership@lwv.org or contact your local or state League directly."

Dues Payment

- Members can renew dues online by going to our Leagues' website <https://mylwv.org/iowa/johnson-county>. Under "get Involved" click the "Join or Renew" link then click the "Fill out online membership form here" link. You can renew using credit/debit card. If renewing with a credit card you will see 3 separate dues charges, one each for national, state and local dues payments.

- Members can also renew online with a check by ACH (an electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of a check). Using this method lowers fees for the League and more of your dues go directly to funding League work.
- If you send your dues renewal check to our League's PO Box, PO Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241, **please make the check out to either LWVUS or LWV. Do not** make the check out to LWV Johnson County.

Casual Coffee: All members are always invited to attend our Casual Coffees on the second Wednesday of each month. It's a good way to get to enjoy a beverage and get to know other League members. We meet at 10 a.m. at Poindexter's Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

Save the Date – Fall Reception and Membership Drive

Our fall reception will be September 3, 2025 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City. The annual reception is our social event to recruit new members into our League. Bring friends and family members who might be interested in joining. Highlights include a complimentary light meal, meaningful conversation and speaker Austin Frerick, author of **Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America's Food Industry**.

Please contact me with any questions at lwvjcmembership@gmail.com.

Thanks!

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
Membership Chair*



LWVJC registered 4 people at Jazz Fest, July 5. The weather was not our friend. A severe thunderstorm forced us (and most of the other vendors) to shut down early. I am grateful for Patty McCarthy, Kathy Ryerson, Susan Enzle and Jeanne Bancroft who got wet pulling down the tent and closing-up shop. The League also participated in the John Lewis Good trouble event at City Park, July 17. The organizers, *Indivisible*, gave us a shout out and we received cheers so

Continued from page 2

visibility was good. August 16 is the Latino Fest on the Ped Mall. Volunteer signup requests will be sent to members of the voter registration committee at the end of July. Other LWV members interested in working the event can email Kathy Clark at mkathyclark@gmail.com.

Kathy Clark
Voter Registration Chair



ADVOCACY

Unite and Rise 8.5

On May 1, 2025, LWVUS launched Unite and Rise 8.5, a nonpartisan, nonviolent initiative aimed to mobilize voters using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Running until the 2026 midterm elections, Unite and Rise will use a multi-pronged approach including civic education and engagement, public mobilization, partnership-building and legal advocacy to help educate voters and drive change.

Our Johnson County League is fortunate to have an engaged, vibrant membership that provides many opportunities throughout the year to promote community awareness and participation. The Advocacy Committee will collaborate with our LWVJC education, voter registration, and voter services committees to achieve the Unite and Rise 8.5 goals. Being a part of this national initiative is an energizing opportunity in the defense of our democracy. Please consider joining us!

Damaging legislation doesn't take a summer vacation. There are two current issues that require our advocacy:

Federal House bill HR3898 proposes more challenges to Iowa's already polluted water. From *Freshwater Future*: "Congress is hoping to pass a dangerous bill threatening clean water protection this week." H.R. 3898, better known as the "PERMIT Act", is a package of anti-clean water legislation that would gut core provisions of the Clean Water Act, hand over passes to

corporate polluters, and put our drinking water, streams, rivers, and Great Lakes at serious risk. What is at stake? H.R. 3898 is a polluter's wish list. Listed below are key implications of the bill:

- The bill redefines "safe" water at the expense of science. The EPA would be required to set water standards not based on science, but on how costly the cleanup would be for potential polluters, meaning that unsafe pollution levels could be legally declared as "acceptable".
 - It gives polluters the potential to challenge new scientific findings on emerging contaminants such as PFAS, leading to delays in protections for both our environment and our communities.
 - The bill wipes out Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, stripping Tribes and states of their right to block or condition federal projects, including oil and gas pipelines that threaten their waters.
 - The bill would also extend pollution permits for corporations from 5 to 10 years, undermining new standards that might emerge.
- These changes will reverse decades of progress in clean water protections, jeopardize safe drinking water, and harm important ecosystems.

This legislation does nothing to improve Iowa's polluted waters. It exasperates the existing problem and further reduces any accountability for the damage. [Use 5Call.org to urge Representative Miller-Meeks to VOTE NO on HR3898.](#)

The Dept of Administrative Services moves to close the Iowa City Research Center of the State Historical Society



This *Gazette* article, featuring LWVJC member Rebeca Conard, exposes the state cost-cutting efforts to close the IC Research Center that has served as a valuable resource for the University of Iowa history department and our community. <https://www.thegazette.com/article/historian-argue-againstj-closure-of-iowa-city-centennial-building-archives/#>.

To oppose this plan, and to stop or slow this effort, sign the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/save-iowa-history-2025-redux>.

Thank you for your continuing advocacy! And always seek the balance to enjoy these summer days as well.

Kathy Wandro
Advocacy Committee Chair

**** UPCOMING EVENTS ****




League of Women Voters of Johnson County

Casual Coffee

Wednesday, Aug 13, 10 a.m.

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



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

INVITES YOU TO THE

*Fall Reception &
Membership Drive*

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025
5:00-7:00 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church
2701 Rochester Ave., Iowa City**

**Speaker: Austin Frerick, author of *Barons: Money, Power,
and the Corruption of America's Food Industry***

Please invite some friends who might be interested in joining us

2025 Public Policy Priorities

★ 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. End electoral college.

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. Reinstate gender balance requirements for appointed boards and commissions.

EDUCATION

Provide 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 and reinstate all AEA functions. Continue to expand access to affordable childcare and free four-year-old preschool.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. Repeal the six-week abortion ban. Make contraception available without prescription and promote programs that help prevent unplanned pregnancies. Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible. Set policies that attract maternal health professionals and address the state's OB/GYN deserts.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Increase state funding for victim services; develop strategies to prevent human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect victims from criminal prosecution.

ENVIRONMENT

Recognize the need for and fund water quality initiatives. Fully fund REAP. Develop state climate change strategies.

GUN SAFETY

Enact comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation. Ban assault rifles and military-grade weapons. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal "stand your ground" law, and oppose legislation that allows the carrying of guns in schools.



League of Women Voters of Johnson County

OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

OUR VISION: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

OUR VALUE: We believe in the power of women and men to create a more perfect democracy.

Photo Gallery



Lining up for the Coralville 4th of July parade: Pictured left to right, Renee Sueppel, Roxanne Hughes, Vicki Aden, Elizabeth Fosmark, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Shirley Barker, Mary Timmer, and Rosemary Timmer-Hackert. Pat Higby and Joan Cook also marched with us in the parade.



Three generations of Suffragettes joined us in the parade: left to right, Mary Timmer with our League members Rosemary Timmer-Hackert and Miriam Timmer-Hackert

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Monday, August 11	7:00 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 13	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St., Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Saturday, August 16	Starts at Noon	Ped Mall, Downtown Iowa City	Voter Registration at Latino Fest
Wednesday, September 3	5 – 7 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City	Fall Reception and Membership Drive