

## VOTER

### Board of Directors - FY2025

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

*Voter editors –*  
 Bea Hicks [beacruz@aol.com](mailto:beacruz@aol.com)  
 Paula Vaughan [vaughanp893@gmail.com](mailto:vaughanp893@gmail.com)

### In This Issue

From the President	1
Membership	2
Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club	3
OneMississippi.org	3
Fund Raising	3
Upcoming Events	4
LWVIA 2025 Public Policy Priorities	5
Photo Gallery	5
Calendar of Events	6

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

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. **The January Voter deadline is December 21.**

## December 2024

### Our Work Continues

The November election is complete and the voters have spoken. A huge “thank you” to all our League volunteers who registered and educated voters, as well as those who served as election workers. Your commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy is truly inspiring. Johnson County turnout for the election was 75.33%, more than a percentage point higher than the state turnout of 74.18%.

Regardless of the election results, our work as League members continues. We will continue to advocate for restoration and advancement of women’s rights and voting rights in particular, as these seem to be under threat at both the state and national levels. We will advocate for public education and for holding private institutions that receive public funding to the same standards as public schools. We will continue to push for clean water and environmental initiatives in our county and state. We will continue to push for comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation. At the state and local levels, we will continue as watchdogs for government transparency and accountability. We will attend meetings, send letters, offer public comment and hold our government representatives accountable. And we will continue to work towards a democracy where every person has the right, knowledge, and confidence to participate. More than ever, it is important that our representatives know we are watching and holding them to account. We must continue to fight back against injustices as we see them, just as the suffragettes did for us.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and wish you Happy Holidays as we go into December. Our yearly fundraising drive has begun and I would humbly ask each of you to consider a donation to LWVJC so we may continue our important work to empower voters and defend democracy. Your donation will help fund our upcoming Legislative forums, candidate forums for City Council and school elections being held in 2025, voter registration events, voter information flyers, education programs, and advocacy activities.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Membership Meeting and Legislative Luncheon on Saturday, December 7, at the 11 a.m. at the Radisson in Coralville!

*Vicki Aden*  
 LWVJC President



## MEMBERSHIP

Our League currently has 164 active members. I would like to welcome our new League members Julie Damiano, Elizabeth Fosmark, Patricia Papke and Paula Sanan. Please welcome them into our League as you meet them at various League events throughout the coming year.

If you have questions regarding your membership, please email me at [lwjcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:lwjcmembership@gmail.com).

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.

## What is *ChapterSpot*?

Coming in February 2025: **ChapterSpot** is the new membership platform where members across the country will join, pay dues, and update their information. Through **ChapterSpot**, members will be able to renew membership online and update their own information (e.g., phone, email, mailing address) when needed.

**Changes:** All members will need to create a **ChapterSpot** account. The first week in February all members will receive an email from The League of Women Voters US inviting them to log-in and set up an account. A member will create an account using a valid email, i.e., the email our League currently has on file for you. Members will enter their email and receive a code which is then entered in order to create a **ChapterSpot** account. Any information already on file with the League, i.e., name, address and phone number will be pre-populated in the form.

There will also be a short questionnaire to complete.

## Dues Changes

Rather than each League setting its own dues range, under the new system dues will be pay-what-you-can with a recommended member rate of \$75. The minimum dues rate will be \$20. There will no longer be either a student rate or household membership rate. However, a household may choose to continue to pay the previous \$105 household total amount membership between them; or the recommended amount of \$50 each; or pay any amount down to the minimum of \$20 each. As always, there are no dues for Lifetime members.

## Automatic Dues Renewal

There will be an option to renew dues automatically. Members are encouraged to pay dues online using a credit/debit card or by ACH (an electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of a check). As a reminder to renew, members will receive a dues renewal reminder 60 days and 30 days before a person's membership expires. Members will still be able to renew with a check.

A major benefit of the new system is that local leagues will now receive a higher percentage of membership dues. Under the new system, the percentage received will be National, 33%; State, 47%; and Local, 20%.

The national League will provide more information including written guidelines and a video which will be shared with all of you between now and the launch of the new system so stay tuned!

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith  
Membership Chair*



## CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT (CCC) BOOK GROUP

The LWVJC CCC group met on Monday, November 18, 2024 at the Coralville Public Library. ***Attack from Within: How Disinformation Is Sabotaging America*** by Barbara McQuade was discussed. Jeanne Bancroft guided the conversation. Many of us were familiar with the disinformation and misinformation strategies discussed in the book. The historical background on how these strategies were used in the past to lead people in acceptance of authoritarian rule was eye-opening. It was agreed that these strategies were harder to defend against in the days of social media.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 20, 2025. ***Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America and the Making of a Crisis*** by Jonathan Blitzer will be discussed. Karin Franklin will guide the discussion. We are not meeting in December.

Future Reads:

Monday, February 17, 2025, ***Shielded – How the Police Became Untouchable*** by Joanna Schwartz (336 pages).

Monday, March 24, 2025, Banned books. Members will choose a banned book and share why it was banned.

We read books about politics, policy and social issues. Consider joining us in January or any month you can. Everyone is invited!

*Jeanne Bancroft & Deanne Mirr  
Book Group Conveners*

## ONEMISSISSIPPI.ORG

2024 has been a busy year. For some time, our Mississippi River Network/1Mississippi has talked about rebranding so all our messages and work are easier to find and located under one umbrella, one website that connects us.

At our Annual Meeting in St. Paul, November 12-14, we accomplished that mission. I previously served on a steering committee when we met in New Orleans in 2022 to move forward

on rebranding. We now announce our new brand. When the implementation is complete, our website, [ONEMISSISSIPPI.ORG](https://ONEMISSISSIPPI.ORG) will be linked to all our old postings. Meanwhile please go to [1Mississippi.org](https://1Mississippi.org) until our new site is joined. While work continues on the new site, donations and private memberships are always appreciated.

Consider immersing yourself in the programs and activities Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization (UMRR ILO) has been presenting, and sign up for its December 4, 2024 meeting. The November meeting examined the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, H.R. 8467 and how it strengthens big ag, weakens rural communities, and harms you – the consumer. It was a response from the meat industry to add to the Farm Bill, which will be something interesting to watch in the new administration.

June 1 thru 15 will be the “window of time” for the Mississippi River Celebration Days. Remembering its importance and closeness to us is worth celebrating! During that time, we plan to also celebrate National Mississippi Day. If you have ideas for outings during this period, please contact me.

*Nancy Porter  
LWV Representative  
UMRR ILO Vice Chair*

## FUNDRAISING

Johnson County has one of the highest voter participation rates in the state, even higher than the state. We'd like to believe this is due in part to our efforts to keep our community informed through education, forums, programs, and other communications from our League chapter. Your contributions to both our Operating funds and our tax-deductible Education Fund make that possible.

The need may be even greater now as we endeavor to keep our membership and our Johnson County citizens informed of the issues facing us as the new state and National administrations develop their agendas and priorities. Please help us make our \$8000 goal as well as increase our membership participation percentage this year. No amount is too small and all contributions help us develop new and more expansive communications vehicles to keep our public informed. Can we count on you?

*Bea Hicks  
Fundraising Chair*



## \*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*

**LWV**

**League of Women Voters of Johnson County**

*Casual Coffee*

*Wednesday, December 11, 10 a.m.*

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A  
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

★ 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.



**Photo Gallery**



*Pictured at the November, 2024 Mississippi River Network Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN: President Mary Ellen Miller, UMRR ILO, far left, and Christine Curry, far right, artist/recipient of the Mississippi River Network grant with Nancy Porter*

## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Saturday, December 7	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville	Membership Meeting and Legislative Lunch
Monday, December 9	6:30 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 11	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Wednesday, January 8, 2025	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Monday, January 13, 2025	6:30 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Board Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025	5 - 7 p.m.	Jasper Winery, Des Moines	LWVIA Defending Democracy Award Banquet

*Happy Holidays!*

**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.