

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

VOTER

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LWVJC | P. O. Box 5452
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The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. The January Voter deadline is December 20.

DECEMBER 2025

Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy

As we approach the holiday season, I look back with pride on all you have accomplished in the past few months to empower voters and defend democracy – registering voters, providing insightful education programs, holding candidate forums, advocating for League priorities, peacefully protesting for democracy, and providing venues for thoughtful and engaging discussion of current issues and challenges. And I look ahead to the coming year knowing there is more to do, but I am confident that you will rise to the challenge.

We have a full slate of activities in the coming few months. With the Iowa legislature session beginning in January, our Advocacy committee will watch closely for legislative actions on League priorities. League Lobby Day is scheduled for February 26 to allow us to travel to Des Moines to meet with our legislators in person. With mid-term elections on the horizon, our Voter Registration and Voter Services committee will be busy with voter education and registration as well as candidate forums for primary elections in June and the general election in November. Our Education committee has scheduled public lectures to expand our knowledge on topics including water quality, childcare, and home rule. Book Club and Making Connections will continue to engage members in thought provoking discussions relating to current issues and topics.

Our democracy depends on us. And we depend on you to volunteer your time and/or your dollars to allow us to continue our work. With our fundraising campaign underway, I sincerely thank those of you who have already contributed to our League. If you have not yet contributed, I ask that you consider a gift to help us continue our mission to Empower Voters and defend Democracy.

Wishing you a safe and hoppy holiday season!

Vicki Aden
 LWVJC President



MEMBERSHIP

Membership and New Members

We currently have 164 members. I would like to welcome our League's newest members Cassandra Philipp and Tita Coffman. Please reach out and welcome them into our League as you meet them at various League events throughout the coming year.

Oops – pardon my misspelling: Lynne's last name is "Ikach", not "Ilach".

Casual Coffee

All members are always invited to attend the League's 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. Members meet at 10 a.m. at Poindexter's Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is a reminder to those members whose renewal month was October and November to renew as soon as possible since your membership has lapsed. You should have received renewal reminders from both our League's membership email: lwvjcmembership@gmail.com and the National League of Women Voters membership team with the heading of *Renew Your League of Women Voters Membership*.

Several of you have membership join dates in December so now would be a great time to renew!

How to Renew and Pay Dues

- Renewing can be online by going to our Leagues' website <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county>. Under "Get Involved" click the "Join or Renew" link then click the "Fill out online membership form here" link. If renewing with a credit or debit 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). This method lowers fees for the League so 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 the LWVUS or LWV. Do not** make the check out to LWV Johnson County.

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

Thanks –

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
Membership Chair*



DEBORAH TURNER BOOK GROUP

The group met on Monday, November 17 at the Coralville Public Library at 5:30 p.m. The book was ***Necessary Trouble*** by Drew Gilpin Faust. Jean Dunham guided our conversation. This is the author's story of growing up in the 50's and 60's, something several of us could relate to.

There will not be a meeting in December. We will meet on Zoom in January and February. If you are not on the mailing list for updates, etc. please contact Jeanne

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Bancroft or Deanne Mirr so we can send you the Zoom link. Listed below are the remaining books and a member who will lead each discussion.

- January 19: ***Murder the Truth*** by David Enrich; Mary McCarthy
- February 16: ***Why Nations Fail*** by Daron Acemoglu; Maurine Braddock
- March 23 (4th Monday due to spring break): ***Jesus and John Wayne*** by Kristen Kobes du Mez; Jeanne Bancroft
- April 20: ***You're the Only One I've Told*** by Meera Shah; Elizabeth Fosmark
- May 18: ***Bad Laws*** by Elie Mystal; Deanne Mirr

All are welcome.

Deanne Mirr (dmirr@me.com)
Jeanne Bancroft (jnn.bancroft@gmail.com)



Civics Education

EDUCATION

After a break for the holiday season, the League Lecture Series will resume in the new year. Please save the dates for these spring, 2026 programs:

- March 10: *Child Care: Iowa's Patchwork Approach*
- April 14: *Who Controls? Home Rule in Iowa: Then and Now*
- April 28: *Iowa's Water: It Doesn't Have to Be This Way*

Rebecca Conard and Susan Enzle, co-chairs

Maggie Elliot, Kathleen Kamerick,
Donna Hirst, Audrey Moeller



The League sponsored candidate forums for all the local Contested races in October's Fall, 225 candidate forums with attendance in parentheses:

- Iowa City City Council (65) at Iowa City Senior Center
- ICCSD School School Board (67) at Iowa City Senior Center
- Solon City Council (~60) at Solon Public Library
- Coralville City Council (70) at Coralville City Hall
- Tiffin City Council (27) at Springmier Public Library

All candidates participated, two remotely and one was ill but answered the questions on her FB page. We partnered with the DPO fo the sschool board forum. Solon

Public Lebarry staff and Springmier Public Lebrary staff in Tiffin were very helpful with technoloby in their resspective spaces. Ty Coleman and Jon Hines wre very helpful with the technology support in Iowa City and Coralville.

Several candidates mentioned how much they appreciated the League coordinating these events. One first time candidate said that the professional way the forum was structured made him feel very comfortable participating.

The following memebbers helped as moderators or timekeepers: Jean Donham, Mary Jo Langhorne, Karin Franklin Deanne Mirr, Cathy Eisenhofer, Nancy Dietz, Maurine Braddock, Barb Helmick, and Roxanne Hughes, Thanks to each of you for helping to make these forums successful.

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If you are interested in participating as a moderator or timekeeper in the future, contact Jeanne Bancroft at jnn.bancroft@gmail.com.

*Jeanne Bancroft
Voter Services Chair*

MAKING CONNECTIONS

League Making Connections gatherings were relaunched this fall with an Octobsser meeting in the home of Bonnie Boothroy and Larry Weber as our presenter on water quality. More Making Connections gatherings are in the planning stage by committee members Joan Cooke, Roxanne Hubhes, Paula Sanan and Gaylen wobeter. If you are interested in hosting an informal gathering in your home, have an idea of a seaker, or would be willing to help funish refreshments, please contact Gylen Wobeter, gaywob@live.com, with your suggestion

*Jeanne Bancroft, Gaylen Wobeter,
Vicki Aden and Joan Cook*

Attention Please . . .

In the October issue of the VOTER, under a photo at the North Liberty Public Library voter registration table, the first name of Diana Henry was misspelled. Sorry for the error Diana!

The Voter Editor



ADVOCACY

See announcement on page 6

FUNDRAISING

Yes, its that time of the year again when you are asked to contribute to the administration and programs of your League. This year there is a difference, however. We have noticed that over the last few years that contribution have continued to be made by only 20 percent of our membership; we'd like to increase that percentage this year in light of the challenges we will face to educate both our members and the public regarding the issues facing us all in the upcoming mid-term elections.

There is much to do now and no matter the size of your donation, it will make a difference, and we will appreciate your generosity and participation. Thank you!

*Bea Hicks
Fundraising Chair*

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

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



League of Women Voters of Johnson County

Casual Coffee

Wednesday, Dec 10, 10 a.m.

Poindexter Coffee

The Graduate Hotel

210 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



***FUNDRAISING
FOR IMPACT***

**EMPOWERING VOTERS
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**DONATE
LOCAL**



ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee informs, empowers
and activates our League members
In support of our LWVIA Priorities

To receive our **Advocacy Action Alerts**
Throughout the Iowa Legislative Session,
Join our Advocacy Team.
Email Kathy Wandro
kwandro@mac.com

To receive National Advocacy Alerts
Sign up at the LWVJC Home Page
“Take Action”
<https://www.lwv.org/take-action>

Keep up with the League. Receive emails to your inbox!

Stay Updated

Sign Up Now!!

★ VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Adopt automatic voter registration. Pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served. Promote open primary elections. Join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.



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 requiring virtual committees and subcommittees.



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. Continue to expand access to affordable childcare. Restore statewide special education and disability services.



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.



WATER

Prioritizing, protecting and improving Iowa water quality and ensuring its sustainable management. Enact policies that safeguard clean water and address challenges of health risks, pollution, overuse and climate change.



GUN SAFETY

Ban assault rifles and military-grade weapons for civilian use. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal Iowa's "stand your ground" law, and oppose laws that allow carrying guns on school grounds.



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.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Saturday, December 6	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Coralville, Iowa City, 1220 1 st Ave., Coralville (formerly the Radisson)	December Membership Meeting and Legislative Luncheon
Monday, December 8	7 p.m.	Zoom	Monthly LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 10	10:00 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City	Casual Coffee