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The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. The **November Voter deadline is October 25.**

October 2025

The November 4 elections are approaching fast. LWVJC will host 5 candidate forums in October for Iowa City, Tiffin, Coralville, and North Liberty city council/mayoral elections, as well as a forum for the ICCSD school board election. See more details in the Vote Services article and the calendar in this month's **Voter**. City/school elections are extremely important yet typically have a very low turnout of voters – county-wide, 2023 city/school elections turnout was just over 25%. Think about what is on the ballot in your local elections – street repairs and maintenance, housing, emergency services, libraries, public transit, community medical services, local schools and more, are all on the ballot. City Councils and school boards determine how your tax dollars will be spent to provide the services you want and need. Do you really want just 25% of the voters to decide this for you? There are many options for you to vote, including by mail, early in-person, and at your polling place on election day (details here: <https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/november-4-2025-city-and-school-election>). So please make your voting plan, attend/watch the forums to learn about the candidates, and then **vote** (and encourage your friends and family to vote as well).

The League of Women Voters of Iowa has published our 2026 Legislative priorities focused on advocating for voting rights, education, government transparency and accountability, reproductive rights, human trafficking, the environment – especially water quality, and gun safety. The detailed flyer is included within this month's **Voter**. With the increased emphasis on water quality in the 2026 priorities, it is serendipitous that our Making Connections event on October 8 is about *All Things Water*. Bonnie Boothroy has graciously agreed to host us in her home for a casual social get-together combined with an opportunity to learn more from Dr. Larry Weber, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa, who will share his expertise on water quality and answer our questions.

We had a great turnout of over 90 people at our Fall Reception and Membership Drive September 3 at the First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. Thank you again to everyone who helped organize this successful event, and to all that attended. Our next membership meeting will be our December Luncheon and Legislative Preview on Saturday, December 6, 11 – 1:30 at the Holiday Inn Coralville-Iowa City (formerly the Radisson). Mark your calendars! More information in next month's **Voter**. You are indeed Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!

Vicki Aden
 LWVJC President



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewal Update

We currently have 1611 members. I hope anyone who had a renewal date in June 2025 will consider renewing. In addition to these members, those who had renewal dates of either August or September 2025 have also received reminders from the league's membership email: lvvjcmembership@gmail.com. Everyone should also have received reminders from the League of Women Voters membership team with the heading of *Renew Your League of Women Voters Membership*.

How to Renew and Pay Dues

- Renewing can be online by going to <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county>, our League's website. 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 (electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of personal checks). 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 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: lvvjcmembership@gmail.com.

New Members

I would like to welcome new members Margaret Brumm. Please welcome her into our League as you meet her at various League events throughout the year.

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.

Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
Membership Chair



LWVJC Deborah Turner Book Group

The first meeting of the LWVJC Deborah Turner Book group for the 2025-26 year was held on Monday September 15, at 5:30 pm at the Coralville Public Library. We discussed Jesse Wegman's book, *Let the People Pick the President*. Although we had all learned about the electoral college in school, we all expanded our knowledge through reading Wegman's book. At this time, it is a great relief to have intelligent conversation with well informed people.

We meet on the third Mondays of the months September, October and November, 2025 and March, April and May, 2026 at the Coralville Public Library beginning at 5:30 pm. During January and February, we will meet on Zoom.

We selected the following books for the year:

- October 20 – *Autocracy Inc.* by Anne Applebaum
- November 17 – *Necessary Trouble* by Drew Gilpin Faust
- No meeting in December
- January 19 – *Murder the Truth* by David Enrich
- February 16 – *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu
- March 23 (4th Monday due to spring break) – *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristen Kobes du Mez

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- April 20 – *You're the only One I've Told* by Meera Shah
- May 18 – *Bad Laws* by Elie Mystal

You are welcome to attend any or all of the meetings. A member will guide the discussion each month. The book group is open to all so bring a friend if you'd like. Who knows? They may want to join!

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



Civics Education

EDUCATION

Join us on October 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Iowa City Public Library for “Pumping the Brakes on Government Surveillance”, the second program in the 2025-26 League Lecture Series.

ACLU of Iowa spokeswomen Becca Eastwood and Erica Dubin-Barz will delve into how state and local governments are surveilling their own residents, often without their consent. They will talk about privacy rights, surveillance technology Iowa governments have adopted in recent years, legitimate concerns about this technology, and what we can do to push for change. Eastwood serves as Deputy Policy Director and Erica Dubin-Barz as Community Engagement Manager for ACLU of Iowa.

Future education programs will tackle the patchwork nature of childcare for working parents in Johnson County, the health and environmental consequences of Iowa's deteriorating water quality, and how the Iowa Legislature's dismantling of home rule is affecting governance at the local level.

Rebecca Conard
Education Committee Chair
Maggie Elliot
Susan Enzel, Co-Chair
Donna Hirst
Kathleen Kamerick
Audrey Moeller



VOTER REGISTRATION

League of Women Voters Johnson County held 6 registration events in September. On September 7, we tabled at FilmScene (Chauncey) in conjunction with the “Join and Thrive Club Fair”. September 16, National Voter Registration Day, we tabled at the Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty Public Libraries and on September 17 and 18, we tabled Kirkwood Community College. In total, we registered 42 new voters, completed 4 Absentee Ballot Request Forms and provided 11 QR Codes for people to register online. In addition, we fielded many questions mainly regarding an individual's registration status and voter ID requirements.

Kathy Clark
Voter Registration Chair



This is a busy time for the Voter Services team. It is our goal to host a candidate forum for contested races in Johnson County. We feel strongly that this gives voters the opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and make informed choices at the ballot box. On November 4, the focus is on school and city elections. Early voting begins on October 15.

The deadline for filing was September 19 for all but IC Council which was August 26. Here are the contested races for which we will host candidate forums in October: Iowa City Council, Coralville City Council, North Liberty City Council and Tiffin City Council. The ICCSD school board is also a contested race. The forums will be live streamed on the League's Facebook page and recorded and made available on our website following the events. All forums will begin at 7:00 pm/

The dates for the forums are:

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- Monday, October 6 – Iowa City Council at Iowa City Senior Center
- Wednesday, October 15 – ICCSD School Board at Iowa City Senior Center
- Monday, October 27 – Coralville City Council at the Coralville Council Chambers
- Tuesday, October 28 – Tiffin City Council at Springmier Community Library, 311 W Marengo Rd, (at Clear Creek Middle School)
- Wednesday, October 29 – North Liberty City Council at the NL Council Chambers

There is an important ballot measure to be decided during the November 4 election. It is to authorize imposition of a local option sales and services tax in the cities of Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty at the rate of one percent (1%) to be effective on July 1, 2026. Each city has determined which projects they will direct the revenue toward. Fifty percent (50%) of the revenue must go to property tax relief. The local option sales tax does not affect expenditures on everyday items, such as groceries, utilities, gasoline, rent, prescription drugs, etc.

We hope to see many of you present in person at these forums. Your attendance helps the candidates be aware of the issues that are important to their constituents. Democracy is not a spectator sport!

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*Jeanne Bancroft
Chair*

MAKING CONNECTIONS

We will start this year's *Making Connections* series on Wednesday, October 8, with a focus on water quality issues. Larry Weber, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa has agreed to share his expertise and answer our questions. Weber leads the Iowa Watershed Approach, a five-year, statewide research project to enhance Iowa's flood resilience and water quality. He is also the co-founder of the Iowa Food Center. He was one of the 16 water quality scientists who contributed to the Polk County Central Iowa Water Resources Assessment and will share how this informs water quality in Johnson

County. Copies of the Executive Summary of the report will be available to those who attend.

If you are interested in learning more about the reduction of water sensors on Iowa waterways, we recommend a September 18 ***Gazette*** article "*Iowa is at Risk of Losing Most of Its Water Quality Sensors: Here's Why it Matters*". Here is the link: "[Water Sensors](#)". Bring your concerns and questions. This is a member only event.

League member Bonnie Boothroy will host. We will start at 5:30 pm at the Boothroy home, 2817 Buckle Down Circle, Iowa City, with social time prior to Dr. Weber's talk. Parking is available on both sides of the street but not on the circle. Carpooling is recommended. Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

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



ADVOCACY

The mission of Advocacy is to inform, empower and activate voters. Through that process, the goal is to sustain a representative and responsive local and state government. Last year's Iowa legislature championed a platform that did not always seem reflective of most voters in Iowa.

So, what do Iowans think?

Progress Iowa released an exit poll during the 2024 election showing where Iowans' top priorities were at the ballot box. The poll was conducted by Public Policy Polling (PPP) and the results show that Iowa voters heavily favor progressive policies and solutions, including repealing Iowa's 6-week abortion ban, raising the minimum wage and supporting public education.

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Iowans may have voted for Trump again, but you can still see shades of purple through the policies they support,” Policy Analyst for PPP Jim Williams said. “The data from our poll shows that Iowa voters support funds for public schools over private, access to health care and their abortion rights, and economic policies that favor working families over wealthy corporations.”

While President Trump received 56% of the vote in Iowa, many progressive policies in the poll received even more support from Iowa voters:

- 59% think public tax dollars should be spent to fund public schools only.
- 66% support stricter firearms carry regulations, i.e. limiting concealed carry, requiring permits or background checks, and safety training.
- 87% say it is very important to maintain Social Security and Medicare.
- 57% think the Governor and Iowa legislature should increase funding for public schools.

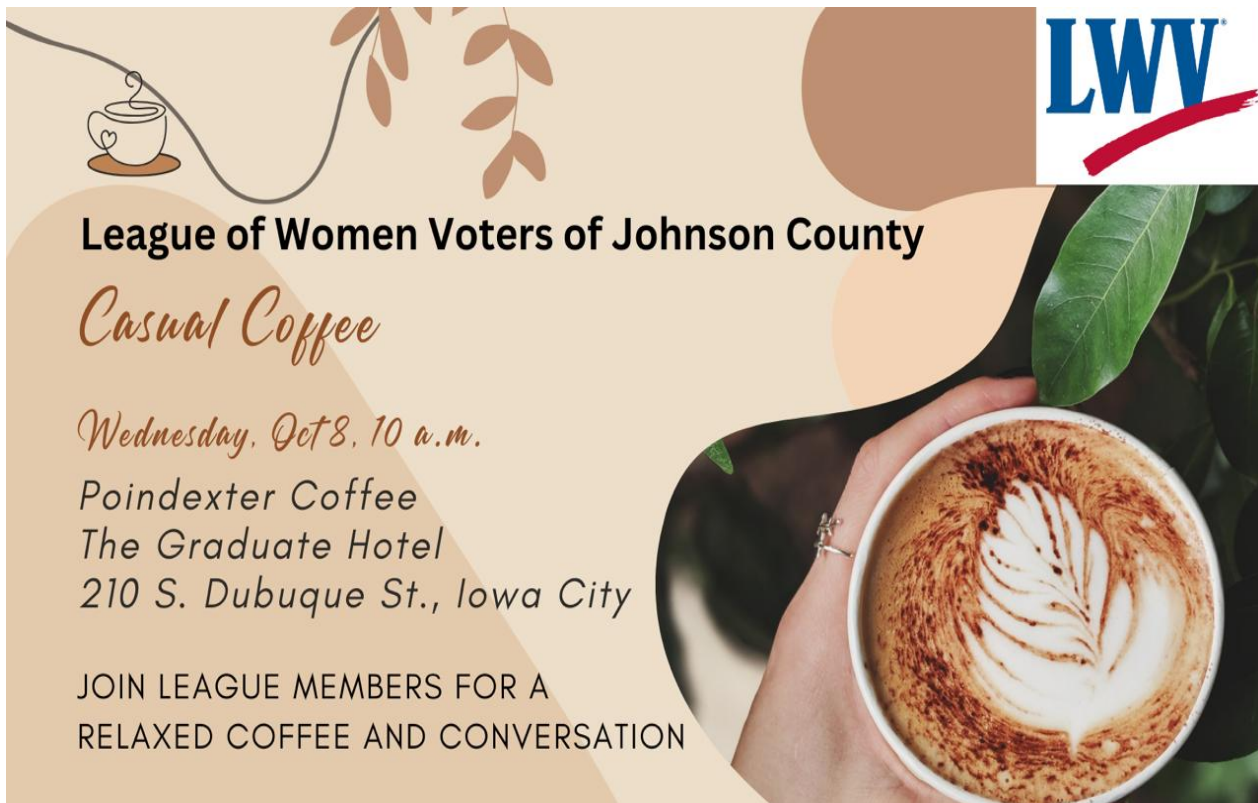

- 57% prefer their tax dollars be used to adequately fund public services like education, infrastructure, and clean water over saving a few hundred tax dollars on their taxes.
- 81% believe the minimum wage should be increased.
- 79% of Iowa voters agree that politicians have been too focused on private personal issues.

Voters are clearly frustrated with politicians and eager for solutions to the wide array of social, environmental, educational, and medical challenges in Iowa.

The LWVJC Advocacy Committee will continue to encourage voters to stay aware of legislative actions, discuss the potential solutions, and make voices heard in their communities and at the ballot box. In this moment, our democracy is demanding that from each of us.

Kathy Wandro
Advocacy Chair

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***



League of Women Voters of Johnson County

Casual Coffee

Wednesday, Oct 8, 10 a.m.

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



Making Connections

**All Things Water
with Dr. Larry Weber**

OCTOBER 8, 2025, 5:30-7PM
2817 BUCKLE DOWN CIRCLE
IOWA CITY
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS



MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

IOWA CITY SENIOR CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM

28 S. LINN STREET, IOWA CITY

7:00-8:00 PM

IOWA CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

AND DISTRICT B

CANDIDATE FORUM

ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Forums will be in-person and live streamed to the LWVJC Facebook page,
and recorded to the LWVJC and City Channel 4 websites



★ 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.

Photo Gallery



At North Liberty Public Library on 9/16: Susan Enzle and Deiana Henry



Coralville Public Library on 9/16: Mariam Timmer-Hackert and Kathy Hotsenpiller

At Iowa City Public Library on 9/16: Susan Craig and Karin Franklin



At Kirkwood Community College on 9/18: Ann Satterly



Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Monday, October 8	7 p.m.	Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S Linn St, Iowa City	Iowa City Council At-Large and District B Candidate Forum
Wednesday, October 8	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Wednesday, October 8	5:30 p.m.	Bonnie Boothroy's Home, 2817 Buckle Down Circle, Iowa City	Making Connections: <i>All Things Water</i> with Dr. Larry Weber, IIHR Director
Saturday, October 11	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Ped Mall in Downtown Iowa City	Voter Registration at Corridor Community Action Network Festival
Monday, October 13	7 p.m.	Via Zoom	LWVJC Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 15	7 p.m.	Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S Linn St, Iowa City	ICCSJ School Board Candidate Forum
Thursday, October 16	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Rooms A, B & C; Also Live Streamed on ICPL YouTube Channel	Education Committee Program, <i>Right to Privacy and Government Surveillance</i>
Monday, October 20	5:30 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Deborah Turner Book Club
Monday, October 27	7 p.m.	Coralville Council Chambers, 1512 7 th St, Coralville	Coralville Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum
Tuesday, October 28	7 p.m.	Springmier Community Library, 311 W Marengo Rd, Tiffin (at Clear Creek Amana Middle School	Tiffin City Council Candidate Forum
Wednesday, October 29	7 p.m.	North Liberty Council Chambers, 360 N Main St, North Liberty	North Liberty City Council Candidate Forum