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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 June Voter deadline is May 24.

## May 2025

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

Please Join Us for  
**Our May Membership Meeting**  
 Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
 Unitarian Universalist Society  
 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville, IA 52241  
 5:00-7:00 pm

GUEST SPEAKERS  
 DR. PETER GERLACH & DR. SUNDAY GOSHIT  
**WELCOMING & SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES**  
 Cost \$30; Heavy hors d'oeuvres & beverages/wine  
 Please RSVP by May 16  
 Payment by cash, check, or credit card due before event



I hope you are able to join us at our Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 5:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Society. We will have a short business meeting to elect new board members for the coming year, and vote on our yearly budget, updates to our bylaws, and delegates to the state convention. Our headline event for the evening will be a timely and inspiring presentation from Dr. Peter Gerlach and Dr. Sunday Goshit, both with the University of Iowa International Studies Program, on *Welcoming and Supporting Immigrants and Refugees*. Heavy hors d'oeuvres from Catering by Charlotte will be available to enjoy. Please RSVP and pay by May 16 (payment options will be sent in an email after your RSVP); the link is here: [RSVP May Meeting](#). We hope to see you there!

On April 17, the League of Women Voters of the US declared that the country is in a constitutional crisis (you can read the statement here: [LWVUS Statement](#)). In response to this, starting May 1, LWVUS will launch the **Unite and Rise 8.5** initiative, which aims to mobilize 8.5 million voters using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Unite and Rise 8.5 will showcase the many ways voters can drive change, including through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement. The initiative is part of LWV's Women Defend Democracy campaign.

Please check out the rest of the *Voter* for other activities happening in our League and how you can be involved in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy (including information about this year's State Convention in June). Finally, this is National Volunteer Week, so during this week (and every other week) - I sincerely thank you all for your support! We could not do any of this without you!

Vicki Aden  
 LWVJC President



## MEMBERSHIP

Our League currently has 185 active members. I would like to welcome our League's newest members Rachel Carlson, Jennifer Jonas, Stephanie Lientz and Audrey Moeller. Please welcome them into our League as you meet them at various League events throughout the coming year.

### New Member Spotlight – Audrey Moeller

Audrey moved to Iowa City from Chicago about a year ago. She and her husband, both of whom are lawyers, have a two year old daughter. Audrey is a native of St. Louis Missouri who loves exercise, reading for fun, being with her family, and enjoying a little creative painting. What drew her to the League is the political climate which started to put her at a loss for words. She began feeling so frustrated and worried nothing could improve it. Therefore, before she became too pessimistic, she decided to try being involved in an organization that is trying to help the community. She used to just love politics. Therefore, she hopes she can help make it a more positive environment so that other young women can be interested and optimistic rather than cynical.

**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.

### Spring Membership Meeting – Mark Your Calendars

Our League's Spring Membership Meeting will be held the evening of Tuesday, May 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Society church in Coralville at 5 pm. More details will be posted.

### ChapterSpot News and Updates

To update your membership in ChapterSpot simply go to our League's website,

<http://www.lwvjic.org/>. Click the link on the upper left hand corner, **LWV Member Portal**. This will take you to your profile where you can verify and change any information as needed. Also, if you want, you can also set up payments to automatically renew your membership.

### Please Note – Renewal Date Information

When you see your profile, you will see a button "Renew". However, for those of you who were members of the Johnson County League prior to August 1, 2024 your renewal date is June 30, 2025. No one will need to renew until June 2025. For those who joined the League after August 1, your renewal date is one year from your join date. There are no dues for lifetime members, although please set up your account.

Please contact me with any questions  
[lwvjicmembership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvjicmembership@gmail.com).

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith  
Membership Chair*



## CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT BOOK CLUB

The Carrie Chapman Catt book group met on Monday, April 21 from 5:30-6:45 PM at the Coralville Public Library. Banned books were discussed. The next meeting will be Monday, May 19 at the Coralville Public Library. The book will be *Vanguard* by Martha S Jones. In *Vanguard*, acclaimed historian Martha S. Jones offers a new history of African American women's political lives in America. She recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of Black women—Maria Stewart, Frances Ellen

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Watkins Harper, Fannie Lou Hamer, and more—who were the vanguard of women's rights, calling on America to realize its best ideals. (Amazon)

Please join us!

*Jeanne Bancroft  
Book Club Chair*



## Civics Education

### EDUCATION

The Education Committee will meet on May 20 to begin planning the League Lecture Series for 2025 – 2026. We welcome programming ideas from all League members. Please direct your suggestions for topics and speakers to any of the following committee members: Rebecca Conard, Susan Enzle, and Kathleen Kamerick.

*Rebecca Conard  
Education Committee Chair*



### VOTER REGISTRATION

The voter registration committee will hold registration events this summer at the Iowa Arts Festival June 6-8, and Jazz Fest, July 4-6. Both events are downtown. The exact times and locations TBA. We are also planning to participate in Unity Exchange, the new South District Diversity Market, at the end of June and beginning of July, but have not confirmed the dates yet. SignUpGenius requests for volunteers to work at these events will be sent out mid-May to members of the Voter Registration Committee. If you are not a member but would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Clark at [mkathyclark@gmail.com](mailto:mkathyclark@gmail.com). We are in the process of establishing a subgroup of people who are willing and

physically able to set up and take down the tents and tables at the registration events. Ideally, we need 3 people, for about 30 minutes, at the start or finish of each event. This new group will receive special SignUpGenius invites just for set up and take down. If you are interested in helping in this way and haven't already contacted Kathy Clark, please do so at [mkathyclark@gmail.com](mailto:mkathyclark@gmail.com)

*Kathy Clark  
Voter Registration Chair*

### VOTER SERVICES

On March 29, The LWVJC hosted the third and final legislative forum of the 2025 Legislative session. Legislators who attended are: Senator Zach Wahls, Senator Janice Weiner, Representatives Dave Jacoby, Elinor Levin and Amy Nielsen. Thank you to every legislator who was able to participate. The forum was held at the new North Liberty City Hall. Bonnie Boothroy served as the moderator and Maurine Braddock was the timekeeper. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. The topic was immigration and citizenship. Although most of the legislation on those issues is at the federal level, important ideas and stories were shared. The March forum can be heard on the League of Women Voters Johnson Co website. <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/past-programs/recorded-legislative-forums>

Several attendees mentioned their appreciation for the League hosting these in person legislative forums. It will continue to be a priority for us next year.

*Jeanne Bancroft  
Chairman*



### LWVIA STATE CONVENTION

"There's Still Work To Do" is the theme of this year's LWVIA biennial state convention being held June 20-21 in Mason City. The convention will be held at the iconic Historic Park Inn - the only remaining hotel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It is fitting that this year's convention is in Mason City, hometown of our own Dr. Deborah

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Turner. We will honor the hard work of Dr. Turner and the thousands of other League members who've gone before us as we plan for the work that lies ahead.

The 2025 theme, "There's Still Work to Do," calls us to gather not only in recognition of what has been accomplished - but also in recognition of the continued effort needed to ensure every voice is heard and every vote counts. As we convene in this historic space, we'll ask: What challenges lie ahead? What strengths do we carry forward? And how can we continue to grow as leaders, advocates, and changemakers in our communities? Let's come together to share ideas, renew our commitment, and set bold goals for the years ahead.

**Would you like to be part of this energizing weekend of dialogue, learning, and planning? Please email [iclwvoters@gmail.com](mailto:iclwvoters@gmail.com) by May 1 if you would like to attend as part of our LWVJC delegation.**



## ADVOCACY

This is written on the eve of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. The first battle shots were fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. We have an opportunity to reflect on the valor, conviction and vision of the first leaders of our nation. Today, would they recognize the country they forged?

The wide range of this administration's issues under attack is staggering and alarming. The agenda discontent was so apparent in the speeches and the hundreds of signs that predominated the March 5 Iowa City Hands Off National Day of Action rally as we anticipated another rally just two weeks later.

With such an inundation of everything, it can be hard to know what advocacy and action is most

effective among the many options. Maybe the best answer is all of them as we are able.

- Participation in nationwide Days of Action rallies are a powerful reminder that we do not fight this dangerous deterioration of our democracy alone. Our voices resonate.
- Letters to the Editor can educate and inspire Iowans to explore diverse opinions of the complex challenges ahead. The Advocacy Writing Kit designed by Deb Gallagher of UNI and previously shared by 100 Grannies of Iowa City is an excellent resource. Ask me to share the interactive website with you.
- The LWVJC weekly Advocacy Report emailed to members showcases upcoming forums, conferences and presentations of interest to our membership.
- Contracting our elected officials is an invitation from several of our conscientious legislators who encourage questions and feedback; many have user-friendly links on their newsletter web pages for constituents to provide feedback. They hear us.
- Door-to-door conversations with our neighbors and community promote a clearer understanding of the problems we all face and the best solutions that will improve lives.
- Stay informed of news media reports of local, state and federal executive, legislative and judicial actions affecting us all.

Finally, On Thursday, April 17, the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, denied the Executive Branch's motion requesting a stay pending the appeal of the accidental deportation of Abrego Garcia. The court maintained the government's role in "facilitating" his return to the US and protecting his right to due process. Within the Court's finding, this specific language should resonate with the larger moment in which we live:

*"The Executive may succeed for a time in weakening the courts, but over time history will script the tragic gap between what was and all that might have been, and law in time will sign its epitaph. This case presents their unique chance to vindicate that value (the rule of law) and to summon the best that is within us while there is still time."*

We have an opportunity to do better. Hopefully, we will chart a course for the future of our state that might be more recognizable to the courageous visionaries that mapped our democracy 250 years ago.

Kathy Wandro  
Advocacy Committee



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



**League of Women Voters of Johnson County**

*Casual Coffee*

*Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m.*

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A  
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



*Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club*

Please join us!  
May 19, 2025  
5:30-6:45 PM  
at the  
Coralville Public Library



**Book**  
**Vanguard** by Martha S. Jones



## 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



Pictured here are in the back row, League members (L-R) Karin Franklin, Susie Corbin-Muir, Barb Henke, Nancy Pacha and Cathy Eisenhofer in front.





Above, (L-R) Senators Wahls, Weiner and Representatives Levin, Jacoby, and Nielsen at the Legislative forum in North Liberty March 29



Immigrant Welcome Network speakers at Education Event on Legal and Medical Issues Facing Immigrants: Bram Elias and Jennie Schmidt



## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
<b>Monday, May 12</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>LWVJC Board Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	<b>10 aa.m.</b>	<b>Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City</b>	<b>Casual Coffee</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 20</b>	<b>5 - 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd. Coralville</b>	<b>LWVJC Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, June 9</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>LWVJC Board Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 11</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City</b>	<b>Casual Coffee</b>
<b>June 20 - 21</b>		<b>Mason City</b>	<b>LWVIA State Convention</b>