



Member Orientation Guide

July 2022

The League of Women Voters

A Voice for Citizens

A Force for Change

New Member Orientation

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Our Mission:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Founded in 1920 by the leaders of the woman's suffrage movement, our members promote an informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to all women and men; voting members must be citizens, age 16 or older.

Our GOAL: Empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

Welcome to the League of Women Voters

We welcome you to the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. There are many reasons to join the LWV. Membership can lead to self- education, an understanding of community issues as well as the ability to act effectively on issues of public interest. The League's purpose, open membership, independence from partisan politics and its democratic procedures attract women and men of all ages and backgrounds.

In the course of a year, you will have many opportunities to get involved, engage and attend activities that interest you. Our local League offers voter services, candidate race and legislative forums, voter registration, governmental advocacy and speakers on a number of topics.

As a League member you will receive our monthly Voter newsletter that contains news and information about activities and events. League members are also invited to attend monthly board meetings. The best orientation is to participate fully.

Who we are:

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization.

What that means: Nonpartisan: We do not support or oppose candidates for public office or any political party.

Political: We DO support and advocate for legislation and governmental action, after member study and agreement.

What we do:

Vote and encourage others to do so -- by registering and mobilizing voters, and having a voice in issues affecting voting rights.

Observe local government meetings for compliance with open meetings law.

Track issues and take action. Through our local observers, the LWV of Iowa's lobbyist and LWVUS staff, the League monitors and lobbies for legislation and government action at all levels.

Educate. Hold monthly meetings on topics of interest and conduct in-depth studies of selected issues. Provide regular forums for you to hear from and question candidates for public office and elected officials.

Research issues to develop positions based on fact.

What We Believe

- Respect for individuals.
- Value of diversity.
- Empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.
- Power to collective decision making for the common good.

Our Core Values:

- We are a nonpartisan, political membership organization.
- We believe that grassroots initiatives and consensus building are the strengths of our organization.
- We believe that our organization models the principles of good governance.
- We consider well before taking action and prepare well before beginning to act.
- We believe that citizenship requires knowledge, as well as the ability and will to act.
- We believe that the responsibility of good government rests on the shoulders of its citizens.
- We believe that the rights of citizens at home and abroad are interdependent.

National and Local League History: The Beginning

On February 14, 1920, six months before the final state ratified the 19th Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, founded the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Her purpose was to make sure that, once women gained the right to vote, they would be educated voters. Ms. Catt graduated in 1880 from what is now Iowa State University. In 1920, women who shared her vision established the League of Women Voters of Iowa City.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa (LWVIA) started Oct. 4, 1919, in Boone, Iowa, and the first local Leagues in Iowa were founded in Des Moines and Iowa City in early 1920 and were named for their cities of origin. It followed by one month, the convention in Chicago at which the National Women's Suffrage Association disbanded and the infant National League of Women Voters launched.

Prime mover in organizing the League in Iowa City was Dr. Zella White Stewart, a prominent physician and wife of a distinguished physicist. She was attending hospital clinics in Chicago in February 1920 when she met some friends who were attending the Suffrage League convention. Urged by her friends, Dr. Stewart attended a session and became so absorbed that she stayed on; and she came back to Iowa City with the ambition to organize a League. Dr. Stewart found willing cooperation in a group, which already had organized a citizenship school here, and soon a local League was formed. The women continued the citizenship schools and extended them to various communities in the county for the purpose of showing women how to use their new voting rights and to give them courage to use them.

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County (formerly the League of Women Voters of Iowa City) is one of the oldest local Leagues in the state of Iowa. The name change occurred more than 40 years ago. Men joined LWVJC in the 1970s. LWVJC has contributed to our community by supporting and advocating for many of the services that make it great.

The Present:

The LWVJC currently has more than 150 members, both women and men, and is one of the largest local Leagues in Iowa. We are active in the community and advocate for issues important to our members.

Now, there are state Leagues in all 50 states, hundreds of local Leagues across the country, a number of inter-League organizations in major metropolitan areas, as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund operate at the national level with grassroots support from state and local Leagues.

The LWV neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. At the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy. It is the original grassroots citizen network directed by the consensus of its members nationwide.

The League and Nonpartisanship*

“The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.”

Since its beginning, the League of Women Voters has been a nonpartisan organization. Carrie Chapman Catt, the League’s founder, once women’s suffrage had been attained, said the League will be “an anomaly; we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going to educate for citizenship ... we have got to be nonpartisan...” Soon after the League’s founding, the decision was made to study, then, take positions on governmental/political issues. But the decision was also made not to support or oppose political parties or candidates. It is sometimes difficult for the public, even League members, to understand how the organization can be nonpartisan, but political. While the issues the League addresses are governmental, addressing public policy, they are also political.

The LWVUS notes: “Being nonpartisan toward candidates and political parties is critical to the effectiveness of the League’s unique voters’ service/citizen information work. This does not mean that the League isn’t political. Our nonpartisan stance provides a strong foundation for the work done in support of issues. Action on legislation and ballot proposals is more effective when the public and legislators know for certain that the League’s conclusions are based on merit rather than play politics.”

*Article III, Section 2, League (LWVUS, LWVIA, LWVJC) Bylaws

How the League Advocates

We advocate by “being there”—never underestimate the difference your presence can make in a room – showing up for council meetings, forums. Encourage people to participate in the political process, we participate.

We advocate also by studying: To educate others and advocate well, **we study things carefully first, and we can be quietly intrusive when we do wide-ranging studies.** Local example: Johnson County regional services with many interviews and league members on commissions.

We advocate with “one voice.” We come to **consensus** about solutions — **“positions”** -- before we advocate. Also, the League speaks officially **with one voice or spokesperson per League; and no League would contradict the positions of the national League.** As individuals, of course, League members can speak out on any issues they care about—just not in the League’s name.

We advocate in the usual ways — letters to representatives, news releases, social media and at the state and local levels, lobbyists, and we do demonstrate. On balance, the locals do more education and one-on-one advocacy; the national League is our clearinghouse for resources but it does the heavy work of advocacy in Washington, D.C. and state governments when necessary.

Program Defined

“Program” is the basis for the League’s education and action efforts. It includes:

1. Issues about which we educate the public
2. Adopted positions upon which action is taken
3. Issues for study that will lead to a position

The League has its own vernacular. When we use the words “study” and “action” we mean very specific things. “Study” is the process by which all levels of League create or update their public policy positions. These positions are reviewed regularly and are added, dropped and amended only after members study an issue, go through some type of consensus/concurrence process and adopt the position at the next annual meeting or convention. LWVUS positions are reviewed every two years and published in Impact on Issues, which is available on the LWVUS website. State Leagues also review positions every two years, local Leagues do so annually.

“Action” is when the League acts using one of these positions. Action might include writing to your state legislature or legislator, creating a monitoring project or submitting a letter to the editor. **If a position already exists at the local, state or national level, you do not need to study the issue to take action.**

Perhaps the largest League program relates to educating your members and community about topics of interest. This would include but is not limited to all “voters service” activities. A League may plan a program or meeting around an issue without undertaking a “study.” Some Leagues also educate their communities on issues on which the League does not have a specific position. Those efforts do not have an action component; they are simply to educate members and the public on an issue of interest to the community and would not result in any specific action or advocacy.

The League’s program is varied and wide. It reflects the concerns of citizens – from local candidate forums to discussions about current governmental issues. It involves members of the League as well as members of the community. Local Leagues work simultaneously on local, state, regional and national issues.

To be most effective, local Leagues need to prioritize what issues they will work on in a given year. While it is important to include state and national priorities in the local League agenda, it is vital that local Leagues identify what issues are of concern locally.

Criteria for Adoption of a New Program

- Does it fall within League Principles?
- Does the League already have positions that can be applied to the Proposal?
- Is government action needed? Possible?
- How much member interest has been expressed for the issue?
- Is this the crucial time for the issue?
- Do political realities permit effective action?
- Is this the appropriate level of the League to address the issue?

- Will the League’s involvement make a unique impact? Increase the League’s influence and credibility?
- What are the prospects for funding anticipated educational activities? And/or action strategies?
- Will the League be able to draw on allies?

Additional information for proposing and selecting programs is available in LWWUS Bylaws, In League, Impact on Issues, LWWIA Bylaws and LWWIA Policies and Procedures.

Guidelines for League Work on Issues

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. To stay true to our mission and our nonpartisanship and to acknowledge the challenges of working in a multilevel organization, we have developed a number of policies and procedures that **govern program work, including studies, positions, and advocacy:**

- The program work at each level of the League is directed by the board at that level.
- The League must have a position before it takes action. If it has no position, it must aim to form one by engaging in a study.
- Local studies focus on issues that can be addressed by local government.
- League studies examine all sides of an issue, providing balanced and fair information that members use as the basis for deciding what governmental changes are needed.
- League positions are derived from member study of issues selected by members and from member agreement obtained through consensus or concurrence.
- Local leagues may use locally adopted positions or relevant state or national positions to lobby their local elected officials.
- **The president is the official spokesperson for a local league unless she/he designates another member to speak.** Unless authorized otherwise, members lobby in their own names, not in the name of the League.
- As League members, individuals never lobby in opposition to a League position, but **as individuals** they are free to lobby as they choose.
- Leagues are asked to respond to action alerts from the state league and the LWWUS. To lobby at the state or national level when lobbying has not been requested by the board at that level, Leagues seek permission from the appropriate level before acting.
- The League speaks with one voice, coordinating action with other affected leagues, or other levels of League, when the need arises.

The goals of League program work is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. We recognize that broad-based citizen involvement is key to resolving the complex problems that confront our society today. In carrying out our program activities, therefore, we seek to engage both our members and our fellow citizens in the process of bringing about positive change.

The League is trusted to provide the public leadership needed to help citizens play a meaningful role in the governing process. Balance, fairness, a commitment to including all voices, and a belief in the power of collective decision making for the common good are hallmarks of our approach to issues and our efforts to connect citizens to government.

Principles

The League of Women Voters *believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.* The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

The League of Women Voters *believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government* and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters *believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.*

The League of Women Voters *believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel,* the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters *believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people;* that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters *believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems* and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Where Do the Principles Come From?

The Principles are “concepts of government” to which the League subscribes. They are a descendant of the Platform, which served from 1942 to 1956 as the national repository for “principles supported and positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention.” Since then, the Principles have served two functions, according to the LWVUS Bylaws: 1) authorization for adoption of national, state and local program (Article XII), and 2) a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels (Article XII).

The appropriate board authorizes action to implement the Principles once it determines that member understanding and agreement do exist and that action is appropriate. As with other action, when there are ramifications beyond a League’s own government jurisdiction, that League should consult other Leagues affected.

The National Board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with current League positions to which they apply and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. The Principles are rather broad when standing alone, so it is necessary to exercise caution when considering using them as a basis for action. Furthermore, since 1974 most of the Principles have been an integral part of the national program, most notably in the criteria for evaluating government that appear at the end of the summary of public policy positions.

Observer Corps

Observers attend governmental meetings, note what happens at the meeting, and report back to the League and hopefully the community. Attending public meetings of governmental bodies and agencies give observers opportunities to learn more about what their government is doing, about issues the community faces and if warranted take action. Observers also learn how issues are addressed.

Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice and let them know that someone is watching what and how decisions are made. They ensure issues the community faces are handled “in the sunshine.” Not every item discussed is a League priority. Observers do not act on issues, unless they are serving as a designated spokesperson for the League. Observers do not offer commentary or testimony on issues on behalf of the League. Instead, they attend meetings to gather information and by their participation encourage a more transparent government.

Observer programs benefit the community by:

- Creating engaged, empowered citizens
- Connecting individuals with others who share their opinions with the government
- Promoting an open, transparent and accountable government
- Connecting elected and appointed officials with constituents
- Educating the public about issues impacting the community
- Identifying areas where action or improvement is needed

Observers are good listeners, able to summarize and interpret proceedings in a fair, unbiased way. They are interested in local government, willing to serve as an ambassador for the League, maintain discretion and courtesy, and are not working on a personal or partisan agenda.

LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

IOWA CITY GOVERNMENT

Council-Manager Form of Government: The League of Women Voters of Johnson County supports a council-manager form of government for Iowa City. *Position reached in 1949; updated in 1972 and 1983.*

Home Rule: The League supports the concept of a home rule charter for Iowa City and the specific charter that was adopted in 1973. *Position reached in 1973; updated in 1983.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Planning: The League supports comprehensive planning for all governments in Johnson County and coordination of these plans among jurisdictions and school districts. Comprehensive planning should include:

- Protection and preservation of the natural environment, parks and open spaces
- Efficient use of land and services
- Adequate housing for various needs
- A transportation system that includes safe and orderly traffic patterns, public transit, and pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- Preservation of neighborhoods
- Buffer areas between residential and nonresidential zones
- Adequate infrastructure including quality water supply, waste water treatment and storm water disposal
- Shared use of neighborhood parks, recreation facilities and schools
- Public safety, including police, fire, ambulance and jails
- Excellent well-funded schools

Position reached in 1970; updated in 2001.

Economic Planning/Development: The League of Women Voters of Johnson County believes that economic development in the greater Johnson County area should be a cooperative venture between all governmental entities and the private sector. The League encourages local governments to continue funding for economic development and for organizations such as the Iowa City Area Development Group (ICAD). We also support the ongoing coordinated multi-county planning.

The entire community needs to maintain an infrastructure adequate to attract future economic development in the area. Important to future development are:

- Open and responsive local governments that provide their citizens with excellent public services, schools, transportation, and human services;
- Sensitive integration and preservation of the area’s natural resources;
- Effective zoning, design control, and building codes;
- A wide range of cultural and recreational opportunities;
- Major academic institutions that contribute through education and research to the creation of businesses and jobs.

Study adopted in 1985; position reached in 1986; updated in 2003.

HOUSING: The League believes that within Johnson County, decent, affordable housing should be available for individuals and families without discrimination. To achieve this, the League recommends that all governments within the county, including the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, work with local for-profit and nonprofit organizations to establish agencies, policies, and programs that build and maintain an inventory of affordable housing.

To address the county needs for affordable housing, the League supports a cooperative, regional approach to:

- Maintain programs that provide sufficient funds for affordable housing
- Create policies that provide an adequate supply of affordable housing for both ownership and rental
- Improve and increase housing inventory through new construction, conservation and rehabilitation of affordable units
- Promote energy-efficient housing to reduce energy costs to homeowners or apartment renters
- Provide housing for the homeless

The ultimate aim of such efforts should be the successful inclusion of affordable housing into all neighborhoods, existing or new, with a range of prices and a variety of housing types; i.e. apartments, duplexes, triplexes, multi-family units. At the same time, outreach to citizens should include information about housing availability and cost. Local municipalities should evaluate their housing stock regularly to ensure that their agencies, policies, and programs are effective and attaining the goal of maintaining and, when necessary, expanding affordable housing opportunities in their communities.

The LWVJC initial Housing Position was reached in 1992 after a two-year study; updated in 2003; and revised in 2016. See also the LWVUS Housing Position at LWVUS.org Impact on Issues: Social Policy/Equal Rights; Fair Housing; and Housing Supply.

JOHNSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters believes that good government for Johnson County should be accessible, goal-directive, cost effective and proactive. Elected county officials must exercise strong leadership, communicate openly, and be able to compromise. They must recognize the county’s changing demographics, need for increased services, and have a coordinated vision for the future.

Home Rule: The League of Women Voters supports a Home Rule Charter for Johnson County. The process of developing a home rule charter will provide the opportunity for a systematic examination of the capabilities of county government. Any commission in charge of designing such a charter for Johnson County should strongly consider incorporating provisions in the charter which foster political leadership, professional management, and reorganization based on the functions performed.

Absent a Home Rule charter, the county's leaders should continue to improve county government in the areas of planning and goal setting, management, and citizen participation and communication.

Planning and Goal Setting: The county's planning—the land use plan, the North Corridor plan, the five-year road plan, and strategic planning by the Board of Supervisors—should continue with a focus on setting goals, prioritizing courses of action, and developing implementation and financing strategies. Such planning must include mechanisms for review and official involvement of the county's citizens and local governmental entities.

Management: The League of Women Voters believes that to continue improvement of the management of county government, the following should be done: an annual review and update of basic goals and priorities and of county issues and procedures; the hiring of professional staff; continuation of interdepartmental cooperation; ongoing orientation and continuing education for all employees; and continued emphasis on technology planning, development and training.

Citizen Participation and Communication: The League believes it is incumbent upon Johnson County government to increase citizens' understanding of and participation in county government. We encourage the county to: appoint diverse and representative citizens to boards and commissions; establish uniform county office hours and schedule county meetings that are accessible to the working public; designate a county information officer; and continue to videotape board meetings and distribute tapes to all Johnson County cable companies, public access and government channels.

Study adopted in 1995; position reached in 1996 and updated in 1998 and 2001.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters supports the improvement of regional cooperation in the delivery of local government services within Johnson County. The current mechanisms in place to aid the cooperation and coordination of intergovernmental and regional issues are neither adequate nor adequately utilized. Elected officials and citizens need to 1) make better use of the mechanisms available, and 2) find other avenues to pursue greater and more effective intergovernmental coordination.

The League will support measures that meet this goal including encouraging and participating in the establishment of a Charter Commission for Johnson County which would include representatives of the larger, contiguous cities.

Study adopted in 2001; Position reached in 2002. Position edited, revised and approved by the LWVJC annual meeting, May 2006. Positions retained by the LWVJC Annual Meetings 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

LOCAL PROCUREMENT POLICIES

The League believes that all governments and public entities within Johnson County should adopt and follow sound fiscal policies including procurement functions. Procurement should be transparent and accountable and identify a specific dollar limit that requires consistent bidding practices of purchases for public entities. The practices of four local governments were reviewed and staff interviewed for the communities of Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin and Johnson County. Purchasing practices and procedures for each entity were investigated and reviewed for adherence and compared to best practices and state law. The League recommends that all governments and public entities review procurement practices to determine transparency and accountability to achieve and ensure a sound fiscal policy is followed. To address accountability, the League supports and recommends undertaking a comprehensive review. The aim of such efforts would ensure transparency and provide residents the confidence that fairness is achieved.

Study adopted following a two-year local study in 2022.

Glossary of Terms*

There are certain terms that have unique meaning in the League of Women Voters. Here is some League Lingo explained.

ACTION: Promoting the League's positions on local, state, and national public policy to government officials, the media, and the public.

ACTION ALERT: A request to members, often by email or social media, from LWVUS or the state League to take action in support for a League position.

ANNUAL MEETING: An annual business meeting of the local League will be held to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaws changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the coming year. Our Leagues' fiscal year ends in June.

CONSENSUS: The collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representing the membership as a whole, after study and discussion of an issue. This is not the same as a vote of the majority, nor does it need to be a unanimously held opinion.

CONCURRENCE: Adoption of a position by one League with the position on an issue reached by another League. Concurrence is achieved by the consensus of members in a local, state or national League chapter agreeing to concur with a sister League.

CONVENTION: A state or national League meeting held in alternate years at which delegates elect officers and directors, adopt program, make bylaws changes, and adopt a budget. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention; local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

COUNCIL: An assembly of delegates held in non-Convention years to provide updates on program and budget and make changes, if necessary. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention; local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

EDUCATION FUND: The affiliate of the national, state, or local Leagues that receives tax- deductible contributions to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: A person who has been a member of the League for 50 years or more, who is granted lifetime membership without dues obligation.

MAL: Member-At-Large, a member who is not enrolled in a local League, but who is a member of the state and national Leagues.

MAL Unit: A state-League-recognized group of members-at-large in a community where there is not a recognized local League.

PMP: Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid by local Leagues to our state and national affiliate on behalf of each member.

POSITION: A statement of the League's stance on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the board and used as a basis for action.

PRINCIPLES: Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. Membership in the League is open to all who endorse the principles, and the principles constitute the authority for adoption of program at all levels.

PROGRAM: Selected governmental issues chosen by members at each level (local, state and national) for study and action.

PROGRAMS: Plans for speakers, discussions or other activities at League meetings.

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE: Only the League president or her designee is authorized to speak for the League. Members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals without reference to their League affiliation. Action on federal issues is directed by our national affiliate. Action on state issues is directed by our state League. Action on local issues is directed by local chapters.

VOTERS GUIDE: Nonpartisan publication giving candidate qualifications and positions on selected issues, as well as explanations of ballot questions.

VOTER SERVICE: Year-round activity to help people be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voter service activities.

VOTING MEMBERS: All League members who are residents of the U.S. and at least 16 years old.

**League Lingo courtesy of LWV Maine website 12.13.16*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY BYLAWS*

**Adopted May 2007. Amended 2011; 2017; 2020.*

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Johnson County (LWVJC). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and of the League of Women Voters of Iowa (LWVIA).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of the LWVJC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. POLITICAL POLICY. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP.

a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local League, the state League, and of the LWVUS: (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. SELECTION, MANNER OF SELECTION AND TERM. The board of directors shall consist of four (or five) officers of the LWVJC and six elected directors. The Board of Directors may appoint up to five directors for a one-year term. Half of the elected directors shall be chosen by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Terms begin effective July 1 and end June 30. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVJC.

Section 2. POWERS AND DUTIES. The board shall manage and supervise the business affairs and activities of the LWVJC subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state boards may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the

power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 3. MEETINGS. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board. The president (or co-presidents) may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without an excuse shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. QUORUM. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. VACANCIES. Any vacancy other than in the office of the president or co-presidents may be filled for the remainder of the term of office by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

Section 6. ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION. Board business, to include board-appointed committees, may be conducted by electronic means.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. ELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM. The officers of the LWVJC shall be a president (or co-presidents), a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the League and shall be elected for terms of two years at the annual meeting. The president (or co-presidents) and the treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The vice-president and the secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

Section 2.a. THE PRESIDENT. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors; be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; have such usual powers of supervision, training and management as may pertain to the office of the president; and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. The president may, in the absence of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. In the event of the absence of the president, the vice-president shall assume the office. If the vice-president is unable to serve as president, the board shall fill the vacancy from among its members.

Section 2.b. CO-PRESIDENTS. In the event that no member is able to serve as president, two members may serve as co-presidents and shall share the duties of the president as they and the board shall determine. In the event of the absence of one of the co-presidents, the other co-president shall assume the office of the president. If that co-president is unable to serve, the vice-president shall assume the office. If the vice-president is unable to serve as president, the board shall fill the vacancy from among its members.

Section 3. VICE-PRESIDENT. The vice-president shall perform such duties as the president (or co-presidents) and the board shall direct. If a vice-president moves into the presidency or resigns, the board shall fill the vacancy from among its members. The vice president is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the organization's bylaws.

Section 4. SECRETARY. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the board and of all general membership meetings at which business is conducted; sign, with the president (or co-presidents), all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board; and perform such other duties as the

president (or co-presidents) shall direct. In the absence of the secretary a board member shall be named to take minutes.

Section 5. TREASURER. The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an annual audit or examination of the books; present an annual report to the annual meeting; and, at the direction of the board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions.

Section 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The president (or co-presidents), vice-president, secretary and treasurer shall constitute the executive committee. The executive committee shall have the power to transact business of an emergency nature or business delegated to it by the board and shall report to the board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of the LWVJC shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Section 2. DUES.

a. The amount of annual dues shall be recommended by the board of directors and shall be voted upon by the members at the annual meeting. The dues shall reflect the varying per- member payments to be made to the LWVIA and LWVUS.

b. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues for the first member shall be equal to one full membership and the dues for additional members may be one-half the amount of dues for an individual.

c. Exceptions to the dues schedule based on financial hardship or student status shall be at the discretion of the board.

d. Dues are payable in advance on a calendar basis on June 30.

Section 3. BUDGET COMMITTEE. The budget shall be prepared by a committee of three which shall be appointed for that purpose at least two months before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall serve as chair. A member of the board shall serve as a committee member, and the third member shall be a non-board member. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting.

Section 4. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS ON DISSOLUTION. In the event of LWVJC dissolution for any cause, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVJC shall be paid to the LWVIA after the state and national per- member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under control of the LWVJC shall be disposed of to such persons, organization or corporation, for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then board of directors of the LWVJC.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP MEETING. There shall be at least two meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall adopt a local program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, members of the nominating committee, and delegates to the state convention, and to the national convention in even- numbered years; adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may come before it. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. In the event that either the LWVIA or LWVUS convention shall occur before the LWVJC annual meeting, delegates to that convention shall be appointed by the board of directors.

Section 3. QUORUM. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting and at membership meetings when business is transacted.

Section 4. LWVJC membership and annual meetings may be conducted by electronic means.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The nominating committee shall consist of three members. Two non-board members, one of whom shall serve as chair of the committee, shall be nominated by the current nominating committee and elected at the annual meeting to serve one-year terms. The board of directors shall appoint one of its members to the nominating committee to serve a one-year term. Nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The nominating committee shall nominate candidates for officers, directors, and members of the succeeding nominating committee. The nominating committee report shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the annual meeting. The report shall be presented to the annual meeting; immediately thereafter nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

ARTICLE IX. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. PRINCIPLES. Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2. PROGRAM. The program of the LWVJC shall consist of action to implement the Principles and the programs of the LWVIA and LWVUS and a local program. The local program shall consist of such governmental issues chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and action as follows:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the board of directors at least six weeks before the annual meeting.
- b. The board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.
- c. The annual meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the board by the six-week deadline but not proposed by the board may be considered by the annual meeting provided that the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and shall adopt the item by a majority vote.

Section 3. CHANGES IN LOCAL PROGRAM. When altered considerations call for changes in the local program between annual meetings, these may be made provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4. PROGRAM ACTION. Members may act in the name of the LWVJC only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVJC, the LWVIA and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE X. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. NATIONAL CONVENTION. The membership at the annual meeting in the same year as the convention shall elect delegates and alternates to the convention in the number allotted to the LWVJC under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. STATE CONVENTION. The membership at the annual meeting shall elect delegates and alternates to the state convention in the number allotted by the bylaws of the LWVIA.

ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. AMENDMENTS. These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the League voting members at an annual or membership meeting provided that the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

**Bylaws adopted May 2007. Amended 2011; 2017; 2020.*

League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Iowa

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Co-President July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024 – Miriam Timmer-Hackert – timmer.hackert@gmail.com

Co-President July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024 – Paula Vaughn - vaughanp893@gmail.com

Vice President July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023 – Bea Hicks - beacruz@aol.com

Secretary July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023 - Susan Enzle – senzle@msn.com

Treasurer July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024 – Hazel Seaba - hazel-seaba@uiowa.edu

Directors 2021-2023

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 – **Susie Corbin-Muir** - scorbinmuir@gmail.com

Directors 2022-2024

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 – **Vickie Aden** - vickiandleon.aden@gmail.com

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 – **Jeannie Bancroft** - jnn.bancroft@gmail.com

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 – **Kathleen Kamerick** - kckamerick@gmail.com

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 – **Shannon Patrick** - shannon.patrick@gmail.com

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 – **Sally Stutzman** - sstutsma@sharontc.net

Web updates - Kiran Patel - kiranmariepatel@gmail.com

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