

## 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 December Voter deadline is November 23.**

## November 2024

### Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

A huge thank-you to all our members who have volunteered to register voters, organized voter registration events, organized and held candidate forums, held forums on ballot measures, gathered and input information for Vote411, volunteered to work at the polls, distributed information to voters, and shared information with their friends and family - all to continue to empower voters and promote and defend democracy. You are truly an integral part of our organization and your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Voting is currently underway in Iowa. If you requested an absentee ballot to vote by mail, you should have received your ballot. You should fill it out and get it mailed back as soon as possible to ensure it reaches the auditor's office before 8 p.m. on Election Day, or drop it at the drop box at the Auditor's office. You can track your absentee ballot here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search>, to ensure it is received by the auditor's office.

You can vote early in-person at the Auditor's office, at the drive-through site at the Health and Human Services building parking ramp, or at numerous satellite voting sites through November 4. A complete list of early voting locations is here: <https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/november-5-2024-general-election>.

If you are voting on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, the polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. You can find your polling location and view your sample ballot here: <https://gis.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/pollingplaces/>.

Looking beyond the election, join other members of LWVJC for our annual Membership Meeting and Legislative Luncheon on Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Radisson in Coralville. Watch for details in your email.

Vicki Aden  
 LWVJC President



## MEMBERSHIP

Our League currently has 156 active members. I would like to welcome our new League member Jone Johnson. Please welcome her into our League as you meet her at various League events throughout the coming year.

Membership Update: Our final membership renewal date was October 31. Unfortunately, the membership of those who had not renewed by this date was changed to inactive status until dues are paid. We certainly hope those whose status has changed will renew your membership in the League of Women Voters Johnson County.

Your membership supports all the initiatives of our League which are so critical in order to empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation at all levels.

We work throughout the year to help register eligible voters and provide voter information. Another priority is facilitating candidate forums for state and local contests. These priorities cannot be accomplished without your support.

Therefore, please take a minute to renew your membership today. Renewing is very easy on-line at <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/join> or download the membership form and mail it along with your check to League of Women Voters Johnson Co, PO Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241.

Dues are \$70 or \$105 for a household. There is a \$20 membership fee for students. If you want to change your contact information you can do this as well. If you have questions regarding your membership please email me at [lwvjcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvjcmembership@gmail.com).

Casual Coffee: All members are always invited to attend our Casual Coffees on the second Wednesday of each month. It's a good way to get to enjoy a beverage and get to know other League members. We meet at 10 a.m. at Poindexter's Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith  
Membership Chair*



## VOTER REGISTRATION

Early voter registration ended October 19. The LWVJC began registering voters June 7 and 8 at Summer of the Arts, on the Ped Mall and ended October 19 at the Corridor Community Action Network (CCAN) Engagement Fall Festival, also on the Ped Mall.

Overall, we held 34 registration events including 3 public Libraries (part of National Voter Registration Day), the Naturalization Ceremony, 5 high schools /colleges, 3 community pantries, 6 senior living residences, and 16 different community events. In addition, 4 individual members registered voters at other venues. The work was done by 49 different volunteers, who gave up hours of their time to make voter registration and obtaining absentee ballots easy for Johnson County residents.

Our efforts paid off as we registered 441 people and completed 95 Requests for Absentee Ballots. Of the 441 registrations, 215 were from the high schools and colleges, with 94 registrations coming from Liberty, City and West High Schools, 58 from U of I, College of Nursing and 59 from Kirkwood Community College.

Other registration counts include: 28 from the libraries and the naturalization ceremony; 43 from Senior Living; 39 from the Food Pantries;

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94 from the community events; and 22 from individual members. Not included in the count, Liberty High students independently registered at least 60 additional students, over half of whom will be 18 on election day. Most (73) of the Requests for Absentee Ballots were from Senior Living.

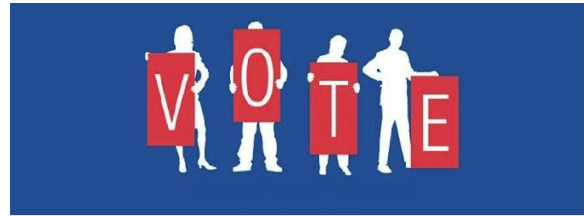
The statistics tell only part of the story. We answered questions, including who was running for president, checked registration status, obtained Personal Identification Numbers (PIN), from the auditor's office for people who didn't have a valid driver's license or non-operator ID, gave out QR codes for online voter registration, and provided a variety of educational material about early voting and voter identification requirements.

On a personal note, the experience of setting up and working the events cannot be quantified. We were welcomed and appreciated by all organizations and people they serve. The value residents of senior living placed on voting was heartwarming. One 96 year old woman thanked us for helping her get an absentee ballot and PIN because her driver's license expired 3 months previously and she didn't know if she could get to the polls. Another person had voted in every election since Dewey -Truman and had to re-register because he just moved.

Faculty and staff at the colleges and High Schools were supportive, reminding students to register during their breaks. We were invited into one classroom to talk about the importance of the youth vote. It was fun seeing the college students excited about voting and wanting to switch their registration from their hometown to Iowa City.

Finally, I was truly surprised by how many of the people we approached were already registered. Can't wait to see how the voter turnout goes in Johnson County.

*Kathy Clark  
Voter Registration*



## VOTER SERVICES

There are four contested state races in the 2024 November election involving Johnson County residents. They are State Senate District 46, State Representative District 86, State Representative District 91, and State Representative District 92.

A candidate forum combining the State Senate District 46 contest and the Representative Districts 91 and 92 was held on Monday, October 7 at the Kalona Historical Village in Kalona, Iowa. All candidates were invited to participate. Ed Chabal, candidate for Senate District 46, Anna Banowsky, candidate for House District 91 and Jay Gorsch, candidate for House District 92 attended. The three other candidates did not accept or decline the invitation. Approximately 25 people attended the in-person event. A recording of the event is available on the League website and the league's Facebook page.

The first day of early voting was October 16 and the General Election is on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Please make your plan to vote.

*Jeanne Bancroft  
Voter Services Chair*





## CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT BOOK CLUB

The LWVJC CCC group met on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Coralville Public Library. They discussed 'Barons: Money, Power and the Corruption of America's Food Industry' by Austin Frerick. Mary McCarthy guided the lively conversation. We learned a lot about the food

industry in the United States, all of which is not encouraging. There are many Iowa references in the book so consider adding it to your list.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 18 at 5:30 in Meeting Room A in the CPL. We will discuss 'Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America' by Barbara McQuade. Jean Donham will guide our conversation.

### Future reads:

Monday, January 20, 2025 – 'Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America and the Making of a Crisis' by Jonathan Blitzer (544 pages)

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

Monday, March 17, 2025 (tentative date due to spring break) - Banned books. Members will choose a banned book and share about why it was banned.

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

*Jeanne Bancroft  
Book Club Chair*



## EDUCATION

### *Thoughts on the Importance of Voter Education*

As I sit down to write what is supposed to be a committee report, my thoughts are stuck on Sam Freedman's recent book, 'Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights', which I've been reading preparatory to his speaking at the LWVJC-sponsored public lecture on October 24 (now past). Today, the term "civil rights" tends to be associated with past-tense politics, eclipsed many times over as the post-World War II movement for Black civil rights spawned a succession of movements for the rights of other Americans, beginning with those of women on up to the most recent for trans-gender youth. As a case in point, the 60th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act—one of the most significant federal laws enacted in the 20th century, signed by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964—came and went with little fanfare.

Yet, as I read Freedman's compelling account of politics in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Hubert Humphrey got his start by winning the mayoral race in 1945, what strikes me is how little-changed are the beliefs, rhetoric, and tactics of aggrieved nationalists and white supremacists who perceive that "their" rights are somehow being infringed as America struggles to fulfill the promise of being a society that upholds the principle of equality. To win the mayor's office, Humphrey had to surmount the Silver Legion, an anti-Semitic, pro-fascist organization much like the better-known German American Bund which found a toehold among white protestants in Minneapolis. He also had to confront entrenched northern bigotry at a time when the pervasive injustices of racism at home were being blatantly exposed by a double standard in the American military during World War II: more than one million African American servicemen and servicewomen helped win the war against Hitler's brutal Nazi regime as they endured the same old patterns of segregation and racial

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discrimination in all branches of the armed forces. As a testament to his own political savvy, not only to win the 1945 election but set Minnesota on a new political course, Humphrey helped effect the 1944 merger of the state's Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties to create a left-leaning alliance, the DFL or Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, which endures to this day.

All this reminds me, once again, of how vital education is in cultivating informed voters to hold at bay those forces that would undermine hard-won civil rights and circumscribe representational democracy. But this is preaching to the LWVJC choir. The Education Committee report next month will have information about two programs on immigration issues in Johnson County which are in the planning stage.

*Rebecca Conard  
Education Chair*

## FUNDRAISING

With the national elections almost over, hopefully, it's time to get back to the normal things in life – regular meals, gift giving, and life as we knew it. Keep your eyes out for the LWVJC fundraising letter coming to a mailbox where you live in the near future!

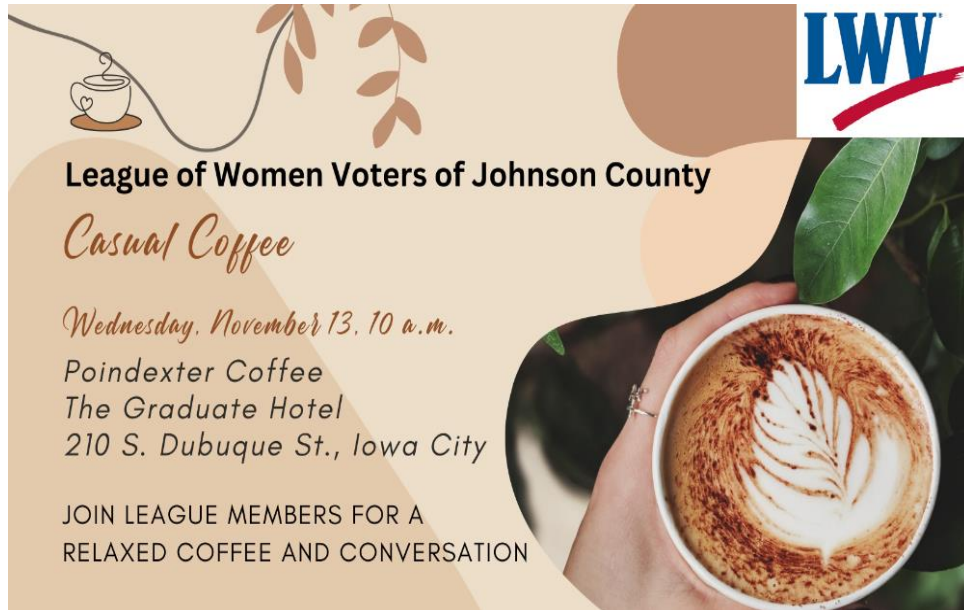
Our goal is again \$8,000 this year. However, let's add another – more contributors than last year. Please consider putting the League on your gift list this year so we can continue to develop and present the excellent programs for both members and the public to assure a vital, motivated and thoughtful electorate in Johnson County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

*Bea Hicks  
Fundraising Chair*



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

A promotional poster for a 'Casual Coffee' event. The background is a light beige color with a decorative illustration of a coffee cup and leaves on the left. On the right, there is a photograph of a hand holding a white coffee cup with a latte art design. The LWV logo is in the top right corner.

**League of Women Voters of Johnson County**

*Casual Coffee*

*Wednesday, November 13, 10 a.m.*

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A  
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

A 'Save the Date' poster for a December Membership Luncheon. The poster features a festive border with red, white, and blue bunting and snowflakes. The LWV logo and full name are at the top. The event title is in a large, elegant script font, followed by the date, time, and location in bold sans-serif font. The program topic is listed at the bottom in a smaller sans-serif font.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

**SAVE THE DATE**

*December Membership Luncheon*

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
**11:00 am - 1:30 pm**  
Raddisson Hotel Ballroom, Coralville, Iowa

*Program: Thoughts on the 2025 Legislative  
Session from Johnson County Legislators*

★ VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Adopt automatic voter registration. Enact ranked choice voting. Pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served. End electoral college.

🏛️ TRANSPARENCY & CITIZENSHIP

Demand government accountability and transparency by requiring all amendments and bills discussed in committee to be available to the public prior to a vote. Demand timely processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Encourage direct citizen participation by continuing virtual committee and subcommittee meetings. Reinstate gender balance requirements for appointed boards and commissions.

🎓 EDUCATION

Provide oversight and track public funds being used for non-public schools. Require any non-public school receiving public funds to meet the same standards as public schools. Fully fund public schools and reinstate all AEA functions. Continue to expand access to affordable childcare and free four-year-old preschool.

👩‍⚕️ REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. Repeal the six-week abortion ban. Make contraception available without prescription and promote programs that help prevent unplanned pregnancies. Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible. Set policies that attract maternal health professionals and address the state's OB/GYN deserts.

👤 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Increase state funding for victim services; develop strategies to prevent human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect victims from criminal prosecution.

💧 ENVIRONMENT

Recognize the need for and fund water quality initiatives. Fully fund REAP. Develop state climate change strategies.

🔫 GUN SAFETY

Enact comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation. Ban assault rifles and military-grade weapons. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal "stand your ground" law, and oppose legislation that allows the carrying of guns in schools.



# Photo Gallery



**Voter Registration: Barb Henke at the Indigenous Peoples Day event at Terry Trueblood Park on October 14.**

**Below: Ty Rushing (left) interviewed Ari Berman at the Iowa City Book Festival October 19. Berman is the author of 'Minority Rule'. Rushing is an Assistant Professor of Practice in the School of Journalism at the University of Iowa.**







League members Barb Henke and Jennifer Patel register voters at the Ped Mall in Iowa City.

Below: Samuel Freedman (L) and Norman Sherman (R) presenting 'The Hero You Don't Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights' to a captivated audience at Iowa City Public Library, Oct 24, 2024.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Tuesday, November 5	7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Your Polling Place	Election Day
Monday, November 11	6:30 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 13	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Monday, November 18	5:30 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club
Saturday, December 7	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville	Membership Meeting and Legislative Lunch
Monday, December 9	6:30 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 11	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee



### 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.