

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

VOTER

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LWVJC | P. O. Box 5452
 Coralville, IA 52241

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. The **December Voter deadline is November 22.**

NOVEMBER 2025

Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Power

As we approach the November 4 election, I am reminded of the dedication of the League to empowering voters through helping voters register and understand the process, providing timely educational programs and literature on issues, providing candidate forums so voters can question and hear from candidates directly, and through our advocacy. The founders of this country envisioned an educated, informed citizenry that would hold its representatives accountable through their vote. Every election day, we the people hold that power. Our democracy depends on us.

As this election day approaches, I remind you to learn about the candidates and issues so you can make an informed decision. Encourage your friends and family to be informed voters as well. There are candidate forums recorded on our website (www.lwvjc.org), as well as information about the Local Options Sales and Services Tax (LOST) that is on the ballot in a number of cities in the county. The local newspapers also have information on the candidates and issues, as does City Channel 4.

If you have not voted yet, make your plan now to vote early or on election day. Early voting continues through Monday, November 3. Details on early voting locations and finding your polling place are here: [November 4, 2025 City and School Election | Johnson County](#).

You can see your sample ballot before your vote here: [Johnson County, Iowa Polling Places](#)

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). This event will feature a buffet luncheon followed by an informal panel discussion with Johnson County legislators previewing the 2026 Legislative session. It is always a great event to get together with fellow League members and hear from our legislators.

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We hope you can join us for this event. Watch for your email invitation coming your way in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to everyone who takes time to support our efforts to advocate, and to register and educate voters. You are indeed Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!

Vicki Aden
LWVJC President



MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 171 members. I would like to welcome our League's newest members Jessica Andino, Elizabeth Deninger, Lynne Ilach, K. Jesse Singerman, Cathy Willoughby, and Allison Zimmerman. Please reach out and welcome them into our League as you meet them at various League events throughout the coming year.

New Member Spotlight

Margaret Brumm joined our League in September. She enjoys being a grandma, gardening, and playing the fiddle. She has two grandchildren living in the Des Moines area for whom she often helps provide childcare, especially in the summer. She enjoys her vegetable garden from which she fills her freezer/canning shelf each fall from just a simple backyard garden. She has played her fiddle in bands in the area for over 30 years. Now that she is older, she plays less often but still enjoys doing gigs. She also volunteers with the Eastside Dems. After attending our Fall Membership meeting as a guest of Joan Cook, she decided to join our League. She especially enjoyed the speaker, Austin Frerick. Like so many of us, she appreciated gaining a more in depth understanding of what is happening in American with agriculture. She

wants to stay more aware of topics that are important for our future and the League of Women Voters seems to offer education and good works, along with social fun. For these reasons, she stated it felt was the right time to join the LWVJC.

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 enjoy a beverage and get to know other League members. Members meet at 10 a.m. at Poindexter's Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is a reminder to those members whose renewal month was September and October to renew as soon as possible since your membership has lapsed. You should have received renewal reminders from both our League's membership email:

lwvjcmembership@gmail.com and the National League of Women Voters membership team with the heading of Renew Your League of Women Voters Membership.

How to Renew and Pay Dues

☐ Renewing can be online by going to our Leagues' website

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county>.

Under "Get Involved" click the "Join or Renew" link then click the "Fill out online membership form here" link. If renewing with a credit or debit card you will see 3 separate dues charges, one each for national, state, and local dues payments.

☐ Members can also renew online with a check by ACH (an electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of a check). This method lowers fees for the League so more of your dues go directly to funding League work.

☐ If you send your dues renewal check to our League's PO Box, PO Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241, please make the check out to either the LWVUS or LWV. Do not make the check out to LWV Johnson County. Please contact me with any membership questions

lwvjcmembership@gmail.com

Diane Duncan-Goldsmith
Membership Chair



VOTER REGISTRATION

Our fall registration events ended October 20 at Featherstone Senior Living. We registered 10 people and completed 7 Absentee Ballot Request Forms. We also distributed LWVJC flyers describing the Local Option Sales Tax and provided a description of candidates for the Iowa City Council/School board election.

Personally, I find holding registration events at this, and all other senior living venues, very inspiring and energizing. The residents are long time voters and sincerely appreciate our onsite assistance, without which they may not be able to vote.

Overall, this fall we held 8 events, registering 52 new voters, completing 11 Absentee Ballot Request Forms, and providing numerous QR Codes for people to register online.

Help Wanted: I would like to establish a core group of about 5 LWVJC members to help identify and develop opportunities for voter registration events and to share in some registration responsibilities. The core group would meet about once a month, via Zoom, beginning February, 2026. The 2026 midterms are critical elections at the local, state, and national level and having a core group would allow us to maximize our registration efforts. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact Kathy Clark.

Text—319-621 1268 or
mkathyclark@gmail.com

*Kathy Clark
Voter Registration Chair*



VOTER SERVICES

The candidate forum for the Iowa City Council race was held on Monday, October 6. The candidates are: Newman Abuissa, Megan Alter, Clara Reynen and Bruce Teague for the At Large seats with Shawn Harmsen and Amy Hospodarsky for the District B seat. All candidates participated and approximately 75 community members attended in person. Another 25 watched the live stream.

On October 15, the League and the District Parent Organization partnered to host the ICCSD School Board candidate forum. The candidates are: Jayne Finch, Jennifer Horn-Frasier, Ruthina Malone, David Noerper and Dan Stevenson. Four of the 5 candidates participated in person. Ruthina Malone was ill and submitted her responses on her Facebook page. There were about 70 people in attendance and additional people watching the livestream.

The Solon City Council Candidate Forum was held at the Solon Public Library on Monday, October 20. All candidates participated. The candidates are Cole Gabriel, Tim Gordon, Matthew Macke, Greg Morris and Lauren Whitehead. This forum drew a standing room only crowd.

Two additional candidate forums are scheduled but not completed prior to print deadline.

- Coralville City Council – Monday, October 27 at 7 PM at the Coralville City Hall
- Tiffin City Council – Tuesday, October 28 at 7 PM at the Springmier Public Library

There is also a public ballot measure in Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty proposing a 1% local option and services tax. It requires 50% of the vote and if passed would go into effect July 1, 2026.

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Informational flyers were printed and available to help inform voters.

The attendance and online engagement in these forums are welcome and strong indicators of voters' interest in being informed. The League is proud to continue to offer these events. If any of you are interested in getting involved on this committee or would like to serve as moderators and timekeepers, please email jnn.bancroft@gmail.com.

LWVJC 2025-26 voter services committee consists of Polly Horton, Sally Stutsman, Mary Gregg, Joan Cook and Jeanne Bancroft.

*Jeanne Bancroft
Voter Services chair*



EDUCATION

If you missed the October lecture, "Pumping the Brakes on Government Surveillance" consider watching the archived video on the League's website,

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county>,

or the Iowa City Public Library's website,

<https://www.icpl.org/events/62882/right-privacy-and-government-surveillance>.

ACLU of Iowa spokeswomen Becca Eastwood and Erica Dubin-Barz presented an illuminating program on surveillance cameras that local governments in Iowa and elsewhere are adopting in increasing numbers. Automated license plate readers (ALPRs), which we learned are not the same as traffic cameras, are being aggressively promoted by private companies, particularly Flock Safety, whose

website boasts ALPRs in more than 6000 communities across the country.

Marketed to local governments as a law-enforcement aid, ALPRs do have public safety values. However, the technology is largely unregulated, and recent news reports point to the potential for abuse in the hands of bad actors such as the Johnson County, Texas, police officer who, claiming he was searching for a missing person, was able to search data from 83,000 Flock Safety ALPRs across the United States. In actuality, he was tracking a Texas woman who left the state to have an abortion. During the next legislative session, watch for a bill that will propose regulations for ALPRs and other surveillance technologies in order to protect Iowans' right to privacy.

After a break for the holiday season, the League Lecture Series will resume in the new year with programs on the patchwork nature of child care, the health and environmental consequences of Iowa's deteriorating water quality, and the ways in which the State of Iowa is restricting local governance by legislatively dismantling of home rule.

Rebecca Conard and Susan Enzle, co-chairs

Maggie Elliot, Kathleen Kamerick,

Donna Hirst, Audrey Moeller

FUNDRAISING

Coming to a Mailbox Near You . . .

The Fundraising Committee will kick off its 2025-2026 campaign November 1! Our goal this year increased to \$9,000 and we are also hoping to increase the number of members who contribute to either the Operations Fund which supports our administrative costs or our tax deductible Education Fund which supports special programs to help you make informed decisions regarding important issues impacting citizens.

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As a member of the LWVJC, you may have participated or taken advantage of informational sessions addressing our 2026 Legislative priorities: Voting, Transparency, Citizenship, Education, Reproductive Rights, Human Trafficking, Water and Gun Safety. Or you may participate on a committee that supports our organizational efforts, such as: Membership, Voter Registration, Voter Services, Advocacy, or even the Board of Directors, to name a few. Or you may even prefer to participate in other special offerings like the Deborah Turner Book Group, Making Connections, Casual Coffees or attend Voter Forums – this year held for all contested City Council and School Board elections in Iowa City, Coralville, Solon, and Tiffin. Additionally, you receive a copy of our monthly newsletter which highlights our past activities and offers additional opportunities to learn more about issues affecting our area and state.

However you choose to personally support LWVJC with your presence, contributing funds to support and even expand our efforts to meet the challenges in the future is needed as well. We anticipate an increased need for information informing ourselves and the area citizens regarding 2026 elections, continued challenges to our clean water needs, legislative advocacy and other issues that may arise. There's a lot of work to be done! New times, new issues, new responses! In the words of Dr. Deborah Turner, we will "keep on keeping on." Thank you in advance for your support!

*Bea Hicks
Fundraising Chair*



DEBORAH TURNER BOOK GROUP

The group met on Monday, October 20 at the Coralville Public Library at 5:30 PM. The book was *Autocracy Inc.* by Anne Applebaum. Karin Franklin led the discussion on a very timely topic. Several new people joined this time, so welcome to Lynne Ikach, Kate, Durda, and Gaylen Wobeter!

Our next meeting is Monday, November 17 at the Coralville Public Library starting at 5:30 PM. The book is "Necessary Trouble" by Drew Gilpin Faust, a memoir of a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia who was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. For Drew Gilpin, the acceptance of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing. She was urged to become "well adjusted" and to fill the role of a poised young lady that her upbringing imposed. During the 1960s, through her love of learning and her active engagement in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements, Drew forged a path of her own—one that would eventually lead her to become a historian of the very conflicts that were instrumental in shaping the world she grew up in. It culminates during the upheavals of 1968.

"Necessary Trouble" captures a time of rapid change and fierce reaction in one young woman's life, tracing the transformations and aftershocks that we continue to grapple with today. (Summary by Google Books)

All are welcome.

Deanne Mirr dmirr@me.com

Jeanne Bancroft jnn.bancroft@gmail.com

*Jeanne Bancroft & Deanne Mirr
Book Group Co-chairs*

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Our League Making Connections meetings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes with interesting speakers and relevant conversations, are being revitalized. The October 8 meeting with Larry Weber as our speaker was a big success with 26 members present. There will be more Making Connections meetings in the future and a planning committee is being formed with Gaylen Wobeter as chair. We will plan for at least two more Making Connections gatherings in the winter/spring League year. Watch for further Making Connections information in the December Voter.

*Gaylen Wobeter
Chair*



*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

The flyer features a light beige background with a decorative line drawing of a coffee cup and leaves in the top left. The LWV logo is in the top right. The main text is in a mix of bold sans-serif and elegant script fonts. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a hand holding a cup of coffee with a heart-shaped latte art. The text reads: 'League of Women Voters of Johnson County', 'Casual Coffee', 'Wednesday, Nov 12, 10 a.m.', 'Poindexter Coffee', 'The Graduate Hotel', '210 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City', and 'JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION'.

League of Women Voters of Johnson County
Casual Coffee
Wednesday, Nov 12, 10 a.m.
Poindexter Coffee
The Graduate Hotel
210 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Deborah Turner Book Group

Please join us!
November 17, 2025
5:30-6:45 PM
at the
Coralville Public Library



Book
Necessary Trouble
by Drew Gilpin Faust



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA
INVITES YOU TO THE

December Membership Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Holiday Inn Hotel Ballroom, Coralville, Iowa
(formerly the Radisson Hotel)

Invitations will be emailed soon
Guests Welcome
*Program: Thoughts on the 2026 Legislative Session from
Johnson County Legislators*

★ 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



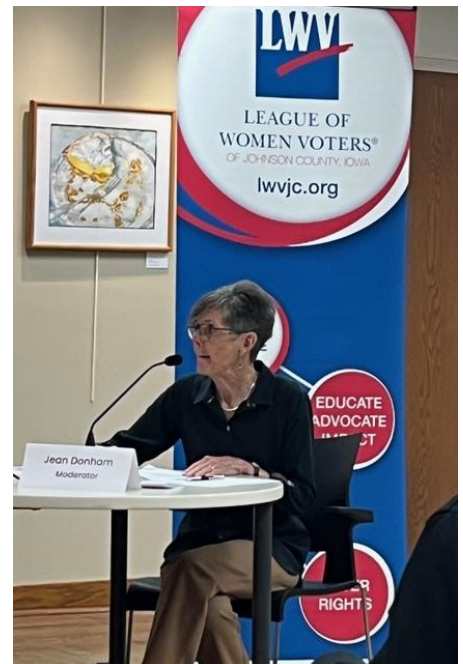
Iowa City Council Candidate Forum



Nancy Dietz moderated the IC Forum



ICCSA Board Candidate Forum



Jean Donham served as moderator



Solon City Council Candidate Forum



Coralville City Council Candidate Forum



Tiffin City Council Candidate Forum

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 4	7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	<u>Johnson County, Iowa Polling Places</u>	Election Day: City/School Elections
Monday, November 10	7 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 12	10:00 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee at the Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City	Monthly Casual Coffee
Monday, November 17	5:30 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Deborah Turner Book Club
Saturday, December 6	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Coralville- Iowa City, 1220 1st Ave., Coralville (formerly the Radisson)	December Membership Meeting and Legislative Luncheon

