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The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities.
The November *Voter* deadline is October 24

OCTOBER 2026

**Empower Voters and Defend
Democracy This Election**

Election Day is less than six weeks away, with early voting starting on October 14th. This is our chance to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. **Defend Democracy** by actively participating in the democracy process to make our communities better by voting in the election. Can there be a more important responsibility as a citizen? If you have not already done so, make your voting plan now. Have a Plan A and a Plan B, just in case.

If your plan is to vote by mail, please request your absentee ballot now so it can be sent to you on the first day possible (October 14); follow the instructions carefully, fill it out promptly, and return it to the County Auditor's office by mail or at a drop box if you are able. If sending by mail, mail it at least 7 days early, track it ([Track Your Absentee Ballot Search](#)) to make sure it is received ahead of the Election Day 8 p.m. deadline.

If your plan is to vote early in-person, decide then and where you will vote by checking the early voting schedule here – [November 3, 2026 General Election | Johnson County](#). Remember your ID.

If your plan is to vote on Election Day at your polling place, check your polling place ahead of time and remember your ID. You can register at the polls on election day ([Election Day | Iowa Secretary of State – Paul D. Pate](#)).

Whatever your plan, review your ballot ahead of time, and be an informed voter. You can see your sample ballot by entering your address here – [Johnson County, Iowa Polling Places](#). Get information from reliable, trustworthy, and factual sources. Check our website www.lwvj.org for recordings of our candidate forums. Local newspapers and television stations often provide information about the ballot issues and candidates and/or broadcast debates. Candidates may have websites with their positions documented. For the judicial retention votes, the Iowa State Bar Association will publish a Judicial Performance Review for the 2026 ballot before the election – [Judicial Performance Review](#). The Iowa Secretary of State website ([Elections & Voting | Iowa Secretary of State – Paul D. Pate](#)) and the Johnson County Auditor's election website ([Elections – Voter Registration | Johnson County](#)) are excellent, trustworthy resources for factual election information. Be wary of TV ads, mailers and social media as misinformation and disinformation abound. Politifact.org and FactCheck.org are good sites for determining if what you are seeing is true (especially on social media).

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Empower voters by sharing this information with others and encourage them to make their voting plan, be an informed voter, and vote. Democracy is dependent on all of us to actively participate and defend it.

Once you have voted, get out your calendar and save the date for our December Membership Luncheon and Legislative Preview. We will meet on Saturday, December 5, from 11:00 – 1:30 at the Holiday Inn Coralville-Iowa City. We will have more information in the next month's *Voter*.

Vicki Aden
LWVJC President



VOTER REGISTRATION

As predicted, the Voter Registration Committee has been very active this September. We registered voters at the North Liberty Food Pantry (twice), the Coralville Community Meal, StoryPoint Senior living, and IC Farmers Market (twice). On National Voter Registration Day (September 15th), 19 volunteers registered at 7 locations. On October 8 the Education Committee plans to host Iowa's Future is on the Ballot: Amendment 1, a program presented by different locations (Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty Public Libraries, the University Main Library, the University Club, Kirkwood Community College, and Liberty High. At the Coralville Library we offered a kids' voting booth which was caught on camera by Channel 2 News. Later that week we registered again at Kirkwood Community College, West High and at the Naturalization Ceremony. We were all set for the Latino Fest, complete with a Spanish language kids' voting booth, but got rained out.

The VR committee schedule for the remainder September and October is almost complete including 6 additional senior living residences, 7 days at food pantries/food banks, both West and City High, the Colleges of Nursing and Education, the Indigenous Peoples Celebration, and the next NO KINGS. The Iowa City Public Library is hosting a showing of The Big Election, by the Eulenspiegel Puppet

Theater. Voter Registration will host a kids voting booth following the show along with registering voters. If you are interested in volunteering and are not receiving emailed sign-ups, please email Kathy Clark at mkathyclark@gmail.com.



Kathy Clark helps new citizens register to vote after the Naturalization Ceremony



EDUCATION

On October 8, the Education Committee plans to host *Iowa's Future is on the Ballot: Amendment 1*, a program presented by Kylie Spies of Common Good Iowa on the proposed state constitutional amendment which would require a two-thirds majority of the legislature to pass any bill designed to increase corporate or individual state income tax rates or to create a new income tax. This measure will be on the November ballot. The League of Women Voters of Iowa oppose this proposed amendment. This presentation will be at the Iowa City Public Library, October 8, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

The Education Committee welcomes new members! Please contact Rebecca Conard at rebeccaconard@gmail.com or Kathleen Kamerick at kckamerick@gmail.com to get more information or to attend the next meeting.



VOTER SERVICES (VSC)

LWVJC will host forums for 5 Board of Supervisor districts and Iowa House districts contested races on the November 3, 2026 ballot for Johnson County, Iowa. VSC scheduled 8 forums at locations within each candidate's district, with tech capability to livestream and record the forum. Here's an update:

- The participation response from candidates is 100% for the 5 Board of Supervisor races;
- The House District 91 candidate, Mark Divitt, accepted but candidate Judd Lawler stated he will not be participating;
- Iowa House District 89 candidates Elinor Levin and Daniel Arch have accepted;
- The Iowa House District 92 invitation RSVP date is September 23 but neither candidate has responded at the time of this writing.

League members have been recruited to be Moderators and Timers. The Committee aimed at having the forums before the October 14 start of Early Voting. This has created a busy schedule with two weeks in September having two Candidate Forums that week. It will be recommended to limit scheduling to one Forum per week in 2027.

*VSC: Polly Horton, Sally Stutsman,
Joan Cook, Cathy Eisenhofer, and
Maurine Braddock*

ELECTION HERO DAY

Election Hero Day (October 20) is a [nonpartisan, national celebration](#) recognizing the work that election officials, their staff, and poll workers make to ensure a safe, secure voting experience for all eligible Americans. LWVJC will be recognizing the critical work these people do to allow us all to participate in our elections. They play a vital role in preserving our democracy. Please let them know you appreciate them.



DEBORAH TURNER BOOK GROUP

The first meeting of the 2026-2027 LWVJC Book Group met on Monday, September 21 at the Coralville Public Library. The main focus of this initial meeting was to decide on what we will read this year. Our next meeting is Monday October 19. We will discuss **Homelessness is a Housing Problem** by Gregg Colburn and Clayton Page Aldem. This book explores U.S. cities' diverse experiences with housing insecurity offering a way to move forward. It challenges the conventional explanations which generally focus on the individual and shifts to the cost and availability of housing. Please join us on October 19 for an important and lively conversation about a challenge that faces our nation and our local communities.

We had an incredible range of options including political topics, memoirs, social justice topics, protecting democracy topics, environment and biographies. Members brought titles and advocated for them. We selected our books using an adapted form of rank choice voting.

Here are the books for this year:

- November – *Book of Charlie*, by David Drehle
- January – *Paper Girl*, Beth Macy
- February – *Outrageous Acts & Everyday Rebellion*, Gloria Steinem
- March – *One Day Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This*, Omar El Akkad

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- April – *Bad Company: Private Equity and the Death of the American Dream*, Megan Greenwell
- May – *Differ We Must*, Steve Inskeep

Choose one or more that appeal to you and join us. We meet on the third Monday of the month at the Coralville Public Library. If you have questions, contact Deanne Mirr (dmirr@me.com) or Jeanne Bancroft (jnn.bancroft@gmail.com). You are always welcome.

Jeanne Bancroft



ADVOCACY

One Month to Make a Difference

We are entering the final weeks before Iowa's November 3 General Election -- an election in which Iowans will make important choices about the leadership and policies that will shape our community and our state. For the Advocacy Committee, this is the moment when **informing, empowering, and activating** voters becomes especially important.

The Advocacy Committee's Summer Legislative Outreach Program continues to build productive relationships with elected officials. Our legislative outreach will continue following the November election and throughout the important pre-session period.

We are also collaborating Leagues around the state and LWVIA lobbyist Amy Campbell to coordinate statewide advocacy efforts and prepare for LWVIA Lobby Day on February 22, 2027. Our goal is to strengthen the League's advocacy network across Iowa.

How can each of us advocate?

Attend an educational forum. Come to a candidate forum and listen carefully to the candidates. Learn about the issues that will appear on your ballot:

- **Amendment 1:** Iowa voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution to require a two-thirds vote in both

chambers of the Iowa Legislature to increase state income-tax rates or create a new state tax on income.

LWVIA opposes this Amendment and urges a NO vote on this issue. Read the LWV Iowa statement on Amendment 1 in the August issue of The Voter.

- **Johnson County Jail Bond Referendum:** Johnson County voters will decide whether to authorize up to \$94.5 million in general-obligation bonds to construct, equip, and furnish a new Sheriff's Office and jail facility; the measure requires 60% voter approval. LWVJC has written a statement of support urging a YES vote. Read the statement on our webpage using this link: <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/article/lwvjc-support-johnson-county-jail-sheriffs-office-bond>

Bring a friend. Talk with a neighbor. Encourage someone who rarely votes to participate. Share reliable election information with family members and help them make a voting plan. Our advocacy can be as simple -- and as powerful -- as a conversation.

And make your own plan to vote. Iowa's early in-person absentee voting begins **October 14**, giving voters an opportunity to cast their ballots well before Election Day. If you plan to vote by mail, make your request and return your completed ballot promptly. Iowa's deadline to request a mailed absentee ballot is 5:00 PM. **October 19.**

Over the next month, each of us can become an ambassador for civic participation. We don't have to persuade people how to vote. We can encourage all voters to learn, ask questions, participate, and vote.

Democracy is strengthened when citizens show up -- not only on Election Day, but in the conversations, forums and connections that lead us there.

Attend. Learn. Bring a friend. Start a conversation.

Promote the vote. Vote early.

Together, we can help build an informed and engaged electorate -- one voter at a time.

Inform. Empower. Activate.

Kathy Wandro,
Advocacy Chair

**** UPCOMING EVENTS ****



League of Women Voters of Johnson County

Casual Coffee

Wednesday, Oct 14, 10 a.m.

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



2026 CANDIDATE FORUMS



JC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FORUMS

DISTRICT 1: SEPTEMBER 17, NL CITY HALL, 7-8PM

DISTRICT 2: SEPTEMBER 29, SOLON LIBRARY, 6:30-7:30PM

DISTRICT 3: SEPTEMBER 16, CV CITY HALL, 7-8PM

DISTRICT 4: SEPTEMBER 30, IC SENIOR CENTER, 7-7:45PM

DISTRICT 5: SEPTEMBER 30, IC SENIOR CENTER, 8-8:45PM

ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

2026 CANDIDATE FORUM



**2026 CANDIDATE FORUMS
IOWA HOUSE**

**DISTRICT 89: OCTOBER 5, 7-8PM
IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 S LINN ST**

ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
SOLON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

320 W MAIN ST, SOLON

6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT 2
CANDIDATE FORUM**

ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Forums will be in-person and live streamed to the LWVJC Facebook page,
and recorded to the LWVJC website



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
JOHNSON COUNTY PRESENTS

IOWA'S FUTURE IS ON THE BALLOT: AMENDMENT 1



**OCT
8**

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

6:30 – 8:00 PM
123 South Linn St., Iowa City, 52240

FEATURING

KYLIE SPIES

Common Good Iowa



Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Tuesday, September 29	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Solon Public Library, 320 W Main St, Solon	Candidate Forum: District 2 Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, September 30	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Atrium Village, Hills	Voter Registration
Wednesday, September 30	7:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S Linn St, Iowa City	Candidate Forum: District 4 Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, September 30	8:00 -- 8:45 p.m.	Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S Linn St, Iowa City	Candidate Forum: District 5 Board of Supervisors
Monday, October 5	7:00 – 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City	Candidate Forum: Iowa House District 89
Wednesday, October 7	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City	ICFRC Voices Into Votes Program: <i>WHO VOTES. WHO DOES NOT, AND WHY?</i>
Thursday, October 8	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City	Education Program – <i>Iowa's Future on the Ballot Amendment 1</i>
Monday, October 12	7:00 p.m.	Zoom	LWVJC Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 14	10:00 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, 210 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Wednesday, October 14			Early Voting Starts
Monday, October 19	5:30 p.m.	Coralville Public Library, 1401 5 th St, Coralville	Deborah Turner Book Group
Tuesday, October 20			Election Hero Day
Friday, October 23	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	UI Old Capital Senate Chambers, 21 N Clinton St. Iowa City	ICFRC Program: <i>FUTUREPROOFING DEMOCRACY: TOWARDS HOPEFUL & ACHIEVABLE ELECTIONS IN THE US</i>
Tuesday, November 3	7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Your Polling Place	ELECTION DAY