

VOTER

Board of Directors - FY2024

Co-President—Miriam Timmer-Hackert

lwvcjpresident@gmail.com

Co-President – Paula Vaughan

vaughanp893@gmail.com

Vice President – Vicki Aden

vickiandleon.aden@gmail.com

Secretary – Sally Stutzman

sstutsma@sharontc.net

Treasurer – Hazel Seaba

hazel-seaba@uiowa.edu

Jeanne Bancroft

jnn.bancroft@gmail.com

Rebecca Conard

rebeccaconard@gmail.com

Diane Duncan-Goldsmith

ddgoldsmith.icia@gmail.com

Bea Hicks

beacruz@aol.com

Kathleen Kamerick

kckamerick@gmail.com

Shannon Patrick

shannonpatrick@gmail.com

Silvia Quezada

smq130@hotmail.com

Voter editor—Vicki Aden

vickiandleon.aden@gmail.com

In This Issue

From the Co-Presidents	1-2
Voter Registration	2
Education Committee	2-3
Documentary: <i>Kiss the Ground</i>	3
Advocacy	4
Photo Gallery	5-6
Calendar of Events	7

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

September 2023

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

Last Chance! Respond by August 27 to attend our Annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive. Bring friends, invite school board and city council candidates, and sign them up so they have nametags ready when they arrive:

<https://forms.gle/CuVCb28F8ihdcC7v7>



We need many volunteers in September for some big voter registration projects. We need volunteers to help new U.S. citizens register to vote at the Herbert Hoover Museum on September 15 after their Naturalization Ceremony. National Voter Registration Day is September 19, and we want to staff several locations around Johnson County. To participate in these events or to get added to the Voter Registration volunteer list, contact Silvia Quezada at smq130@hotmail.com.

This fall a new ad hoc criminal justice committee will review the study on the inequalities of our Criminal Justice system completed by League of Women Voters of Iowa. We will invite Lettie Prell or Karen Person to come present to our community. (I'm looking forward to a longer presentation than the 15 minutes

continued on page 2

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities.
The October Voter deadline is September 25.

continued from page 1

we had at the convention this spring.) We are looking for a temporary small study group to review the materials and make a recommendation to the full League about concurring with the state study. Please email Miriam at jclwvoters@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this learning experience.

Remember that electing great people to the school boards and city councils helps determine which books are available in schools and how much of a bus or recycling system we create. Women tend to underestimate how qualified they are to run for office and need more encouragement than men to put themselves forward. Being in the League makes it easy to find folks with experience serving and running for local office. Iowa City and University Heights filing period is August 14-31, all others are August 28 through September 21. Please do consider running for office or encouraging a diverse group of candidates to run. We will get into candidate forum season later this fall for the November 7 school board and city council elections.

Looking forward to seeing you August 31!

Paula Vaughan and Miriam Timmer-Hackert
LWVJC Co-Presidents



The League's Voter Registration committee has a packed calendar for September. Extra hands on board are welcomed! Also, a call is made for cookies and any small US flags you may have laying around. I found two at my house and donated them to the tabling box.

The CCAN-Con 2023 engagement and volunteer fair on the Ped Mall on Sunday August 27, is the last August event. Two volunteers are still needed for the 2-4 shift. Cookie donations are appreciated for this event.

Future Voters is a collaboration tabling event with LWVJC, Johnson County Auditor's Office, and United Action for Youth on Friday, September 8. Kids will complete a mock voter application and run their mock ballot through a real voting machine! Cookie donations are appreciated for this event.

A Naturalization Event will be held on Friday, September 15 at the Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch. The U.S. District Court Northern District Iowa will be hosting 73 new candidates for US citizenship. The Hoover staff is preparing for a total of 250 guests. We will have three tables set aside for this event. Carpooling and extra tabling volunteers are anticipated.

National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 19 is a multi-front day. LWVJC will be tabling at several locations with overlapping hours: the Iowa City Public Library, North Liberty Rec Center, Coralville Hy-Vee, and the Kirkwood Regional Center. Please get this date on your calendar, as many volunteers will be needed.

Food Pantry tabling events will resume in September. There will be more details as the dates are finalized.

More detailed information and SignUp Genius links for the September events will be emailed separately to the Voter Registration committee, as some are not yet finalized at the time of print.

Silvia Quezada
Voter Registration Coordinator

Education Committee

Three programs are calendared for the 2023-2024 speaker series. All programs will take place at the Iowa City Public Library, which cosponsors the League's education speaker series. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

On Sunday, September 24, from 1-3 p.m., Randy Evans, executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, will lead a workshop, *It's Your Right to Know*, on preparing Freedom of Information requests.

On Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8 p.m., Caroline Tolbert will address *Why People Don't Vote: Disaffected Voters and the Process of Democracy*. Dr. Tolbert is Distinguished University Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa. She has published widely on political participation, voter turnout, campaigns and elections, and public opinion.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

On Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:30-8 p.m., Matt Degner, superintendent of the Iowa City Community School District will offer a mid-year assessment of House File 68 (Students First Act), the new Iowa law that authorizes state education funding for K-12 students who choose to attend private schools.

Programs are offered in-person and streamed live on the library’s channel. ICPL staff also video record programs for rebroadcast.

Rebecca Conard, Susan Enzle, and Patty McCarthy
Education Committee

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK
The Farm by Joanne Ramos

Author Keynote Lecture
Sunday, October 8, 2023
1:30 - 2:30pm
C20 Pomerantz Center

Book sale and signing immediately following the event. This lecture is free and open to the public, details at uicr.uiowa.edu

IOWA
Center for Human Rights

UICHR Fall 2023 Webinar Series
Human Rights & Reproductive Justice

The series will examine the complex factors that impact key human rights related to parenting, accessing care, and health outcomes by examining the relationship between reproductive justice and the promotion and protection of human rights.

September 13: Parenting
October 4: Accessing Care
October 25: Outcome Disparities
November 8: Envisioning the Future

All webinars will occur from noon to 1:00 pm CST on Zoom ID 963 1062 1948 and events will be recorded

IOWA
Center for Human Rights

This event will be closed captioned. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact UICHR in advance at uicr@uiowa.edu

Kiss the Ground Documentary Film to be Shown at ICPL

It has been tough to beat the heat this summer. I wonder if that means the climate crisis has reached Iowa. And, if so, will Iowans recognize that we are nearing a

tipping point? The environment is one of Iowa’s greatest assets and should be protected more than it is.

While coordinating speakers for JCMG and Project GREEN, I learned about a documentary film. I worked with Beth Fisher at the Iowa City Public Library and a group of local nonprofit organizations to bring the film to Iowa City.

A free screening has been made possible by a grant from Roco Films.

The documentary film, *Kiss the Ground*, will be shown on Tuesday, September 19, at 7 p.m., in the Iowa City Public Library. The sponsors of the film are Project GREEN, the Iowa City Public Library, and nonprofit organizations concerned about the environment: 100 Grannies, Backyard Abundance, Bur Oak Land Trust, Johnson County Master Gardeners, and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County.

“*Kiss the Ground* is an inspiring and groundbreaking film narrated by and featuring Woody Harrelson. The film reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis – by regenerating the world’s soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize the earth’s climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, the soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. The movie is positioned to catalyze a movement to accomplish the impossible – to solve humanity’s greatest challenge, to balance the climate and secure our species’ future.” <https://kisstheground.com/>

Linda Schreiber



The public is invited to view the documentary film *Kiss the Ground* on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m., in the Iowa City Public Library. This free screening has been made possible by a grant from Roco Films. Sponsored by Project GREEN and the Iowa City Public Library and nonprofit organizations concerned about the environment including 100 Grannies, Backyard Abundance, Bur Oak Land Trust, Johnson County Master Gardeners, and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County.



Advocacy

Hoping to build our advocacy effectiveness, the LWV of Iowa Advocates look to expand efforts statewide for greater impact with lawmakers. To better understand the 90th General Assembly following adjournment, LWVIA President Terese Grant contacted LWVUS to organize a Legislative debrief for the Iowa League membership. More than 60 Iowa League members attended the Iowa SWOT Analysis and Debrief held on May 10.

As a follow-up to the May SWOT meeting, LWVIA Treasurer/LWVJC Board member and Advocacy Chair Shannon Patrick was called on to present the first of four statewide education programs to assist Iowa League units and develop strength in our advocacy. His presentation, *Navigating the Iowa Legislative Website: Tracking Legislation*, covered: a) what information can be found on the data-rich Iowa Legislative website (<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>), how to search for information and how to track proposed bills; b) who is connected to specific bills and how to find and contact legislators and others; and c) more how to follow the daily activities of the legislature, present information at Zoom hearings, and how to subscribe to specific publications, information and legislative newsletters.

Co-sponsored by LWVJC, LWV of Iowa Advocates and the Iowa City Public Library, the presentation was live streamed via the Library's YouTube channel with

30 people, in person and online, participating in Shannon's presentation. To review and share the session with other League members and partners, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzsG5TxMoQE>. Shannon's step-by-step Powerpoint *Navigating the Iowa Legislative Website: Tracking Legislation* will be shared on the LWVJC and LWVIA websites.

LWV of Iowa Advocates plan to create a proactive plan of action to advocate for or against proposed legislation concerning League priorities. League members are encouraged to use a template to create an Action Alert that League Presidents across Iowa can distribute and encourage their members to contact legislators. League members are urged to summarize information and draft messages, and not simply forward partner information that may leave new League advocates to try figure out what to do and who to contact.

Additional programs scheduled this fall preceding the 2024 Legislative Session include:

September 21 – TBA

October 19 – Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson, LWVIA lobbyists, will present *What to Expect in the 2024 Iowa Legislative Session*

November 16 – Connie Ryan, executive director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa & Action Fund, will offer *Partnering with Others*

The remaining programs will be presented on Zoom and will require RSVP registration.

Linda Schreiber

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

Photo Gallery

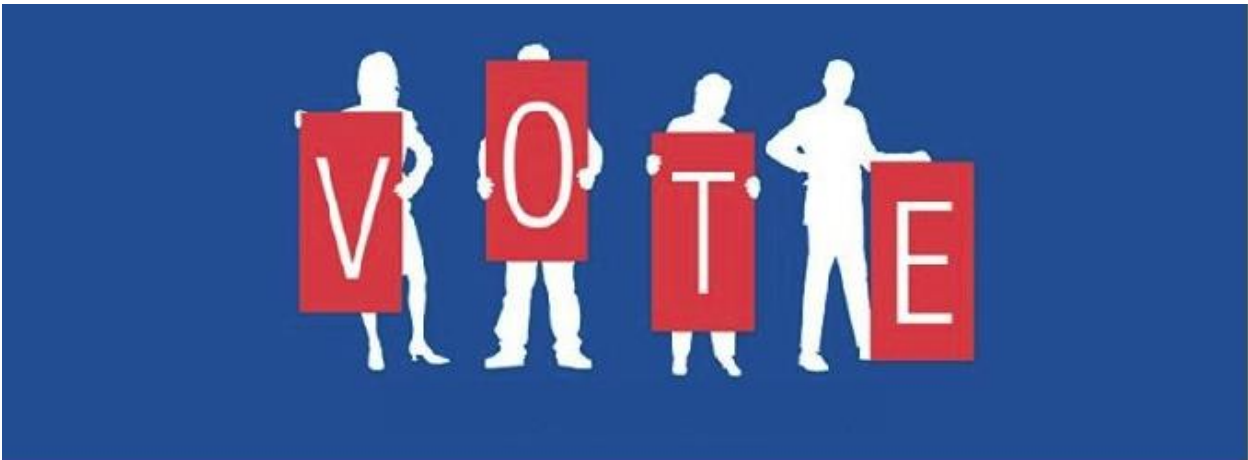


Top Left to right: League members Kathy Ryerson, Denise Chevalier, and Elinor Levin registering voters at National Night Out at Wetherby Park on August 1. Bottom: League member and suffragette Jennifer Patel was a frequent volunteer at the South District Diversity Market voter registration table this summer.





Left to right: LWVIA/LWVJC Board member and advocacy chair Shannon Patrick, LWVIA Co-President/LWV of Muscatine County President Holly Oppelt, LWV of Muscatine County Board member Kris Weis, and LWVJC Board member Vicki Aden are pictured following Shannon’s presentation, “Navigating the Iowa Legislative Website: Tracking Legislation” at the Iowa City Public Library on August 17.



Did You Know? If you would like to Vote Absentee in the November 7 City/School Elections, August 29 is the first day you can request a mailed absentee ballot. Absentee Ballot Request Forms can be accepted from August 29 – October 23.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Sunday, August 27	12-6 p.m.	CCAN-Community Engagement Festival, Ped Mall Iowa City	Voter Registration
Thursday, August 31	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville	Fall Reception and Membership Drive
Friday, September 8	5-7 p.m.	355 Iowa Avenue	Mock Voter experience for Future Voters, United Action for Youth
Wednesday, September 13	10 a.m.	Poindexters Coffee Graduate Hotel IC	coffee and casual conversation
Friday, September 15	1:30 p.m.	Herbert Hoover Museum, West Branch	Naturalization Ceremony
Tuesday, September 19	Time varies by location	ICPL, NL Rec Center, Coralville Hy-Vee, Kirkwood	National Voter Registration Day
Tuesday, September 19	7 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>Kiss the Ground</i> documentary, free screening
Sunday, September 24	1-3 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	Workshop <i>It's Your Right to Know</i> , on Preparing Freedom of Information Requests, led by Randy Evans
Sunday, October 8	1:30-2:30 p.m.	C20 Pomerantz Center at the University of Iowa	One Community One Book 2023; Keynote Lecture by Joanne Ramos, author of <i>The Farm</i>
Tuesday, October 24	6:30-8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>Why People Don't Vote</i> presented by Dr. Caroline Tolbert
Tuesday, November 7			Election Day: city councils, school districts



Like LWVJICA on Facebook!

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.