

# VOTER

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## September 2024

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

Hello Leaguers! There are certainly signs of autumn in the air – kids are back in school, college students have returned, and we have a full schedule of events coming up over the next month (or two).

We hope you can join us at our Fall Reception and Membership Drive on Thursday, September 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. Our speaker will be Caroline Tolbert, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa and League member. A 2021 Andrew Carnegie Scholar/Fellow for her research on voting and state election laws, her presentation will focus on the Electoral College, *Electoral Innovations and Modernizing Presidential Elections*. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the League, meet members and enjoy a complimentary light meal. Invite your friends! RSVP by September 1 at this link: <https://forms.gle/bLvVKJxwbvx6o9Vn6>.

Check out the other events we have scheduled this month on the calendar on the last page of the *Voter*. Want to volunteer at a voter registration event? We have ample opportunities this month, including National Voter Registration Day on September 17, a Naturalization Ceremony at the Hoover Presidential Library on September 20 and more. Want to attend an engaging discussion of race in America with Dave Markward, author of *From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond, My Journey to Understand Racism in America*? Want to be an informed voter and better understand the conservation bond on the November ballot? Our Education Committee brings you *The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's it All About?*, the evening of September 25 at the Iowa City Public Library. Do you like to read and discuss books? Our Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club meets September 16 at the Coralville Public Library to discuss the book *Minority Rule: The Right-Wing Attack on the Will of the People – and the Fight to Resist It* by Aro Berman. Or join us for our monthly Casual Coffee on September 11. And coming soon, candidate forums to hear from the candidates in local contested races. Review the rest of the *Voter* to get further details on these events and more.

My sincere thanks to all of you for your support of the League! It is because of you that we are able to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy!

*Vicki Aden*  
LWVJC President

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities.  
The October *Voter* deadline is September 21.



## MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership is 172 active members. I would like to welcome four new League members: Valerie Soemadi and her daughter Arielle; Lori Smith; and Ally “Tippe, daughter of member Carol Tippe. Please welcome them into our League as you meet them at various League events throughout the coming year and at the upcoming September 5 Membership Reception and New Member Drive.

**Membership Renewal Reminder:** Our membership renewal date was June 30. It is more important than ever to support the League of Women Voters Johnson County but also the US and State Leagues. Check your email for a reminder if you have not yet renewed. It is easy! Renew online at <https://mylwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/join> or send a check to LWVJC, PO Bx 5452, Coralville, IA 52241. Individual memberships are \$70 pr \$105 for a household or \$20 for students. This is a great time to update any of your contact information so you don’t miss out on important League information and events. Your membership supports the work of the League at all levels. At the National level, the LWV is championing the campaign of One Person One Vote, <https://www.lwv.org/opov>, focusing on the election of the President by popular vote instead of by the Electoral College. According to the Pew Research Center, a majority of Americans favor moving away from the Electoral College.

Everyone please plan to attend the September 5 Member Reception and New Member Drive to be held at the UUS in Coralville, sponsored in part by Hills Bank. See details in the *President’s Message* on page 1.

All members are always invited to attend our Casual Coffees on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Poindexter’s Coffee in the Graduate Hotel. See you there!

*Diane Duncan-Goldsmith  
Membership Chair*

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is ramping up. Upcoming opportunities include a series of 3 registration events at Oaknoll West focusing on facilitating requests for absentee ballots. These will occur August 31 at 9:30 a.m., September 7 at 2:30 p.m., and September 14 at 3:00 p.m. No additional volunteers are needed.

On September 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., Vicki Alden, Kathy Clark and Barb Henke will host a Zoom training for first time and experienced volunteers. This training provides basic voter registration information as well as the most recent changes to the registration process. Everyone is welcome. You can join through the Zoom link below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423701310?pwd=sX2axDwaGYkfyWwEaFtePcITqEkSnn.1>

We have confirmed several events for September and October and are actively working to set up more. All members of the voter registration committee will be sent sign-up genius emails to volunteer for the various events. LWVJC members who are NOT on the voter registration committee but would like to volunteer, please email Kathy Clark at [mkathyclark@gmail.com](mailto:mkathyclark@gmail.com) and we will add you to the Sign-up Genius emails.

National Voter Registration Day, September 17, is our largest event. We will register voters at Iowa City Public Library, Kirkwood, Coralville Public Library, North Liberty Rec Center and Public Library. Our other big event is the Naturalization Ceremony, at the Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch, Iowa on September 20.

We have already scheduled several other events throughout the community:

**September 12** Melrose Meadows Retirement Community, 1:15 - 3:30 p.m.

**September 20** Miller Orchard Jamboree, Benton Hill Park, 5 :00 – 7 :00 p.m.

**September 25** FilmScene (Chauncy), 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.. in conjunction with Iowa City Climate Fest and the movie *Scale of Hope*. We will register before and after the movie. Volunteers will get tickets to watch the movie.

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**September 25** The LWV Education Committee event, *The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's it all About?*, Iowa City Public Library, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

**September 29** Show up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Iowa Public Library, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**October 19** Corridor Community Action Network (C-CAN-Con), Engagement Fall Festival, Iowa City Ped Mall 11:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

We plan to schedule other events throughout the community including the Community Food Bank, free lunch program, winter coat distributions, senior living centers, and the university libraries and professional colleges. We welcome any additional suggestions for registration events. Please contact Kathy Clark at [mkathyclark@gmail.com](mailto:mkathyclark@gmail.com), with your ideas.

**GOING ROGUE.** Two League members requested a bag of registration materials so they could register people at other nonpartisan, more informal, events or gatherings. Given the importance of registering as many people as possible, we will be happy to provide any member with registration materials.

*Kathy Clark  
Voter Registration Coordinator*



## **DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

The LWVJC is pleased to announce an exciting event on September 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Dave Markward, former Cedar Rapids Community School District Superintendent, will talk about his stirring and enlightening memoir *From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America*. Described by Amazon as ‘a call to action, urging readers to step beyond their comfort zones, to educate themselves, and foster compassion. It emphasizes the crucial role of education in combating racism, promoting inclusivity, and shaping a more equitable world’.

The Diversity Equity Inclusion committee of the League is cosponsoring this opportunity with Tools and Resources for Active Independent Living.

Put this on your calendar and join us!

*Anne Spencer  
DEI Committee Chair*



## **VOTER SERVICES**

We are gearing up for an exciting general election season. Use Vote 411 to educate yourself about the federal, state and county candidates. Then make a plan to vote on November 5 or earlier. Early voting begins on October 16.

The League of Women Voters Johnson County will host several candidate forums this fall for county offices. The slate of candidates is set for Senate District 46, House District 92 and House District 91. There may be a contested race for the Johnson County Auditor position but until the August 28 filing date has passed, we aren't sure. All other county races are currently uncontested and LWVJC only sponsors candidate forums for contested races.

### **Senate District 46**

Dawn Driscoll, Republican (Incumbent)  
Ed Chabal, Democrat

### **House District 92**

Heather Hora, Republican (Incumbent)  
Anna Banowski, Democrat

### **House District 91**

Judd Lawler, Republican  
Jay Gorsch, Democrat

Watch for information on the schedule for candidate forums and join us

*Jeanne Bancroft  
Voter Services Committee Chair*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for two upcoming programs in the fall!

### **The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's It All About?**

Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library

On November 5, Johnson County voters will be asked to approve a \$30 Million Conservation Bond Initiative that will appear on the general election ballot. Join us on September 25 when Pat Heiden and Josh Schamberger, co-chairs of the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future Committee, and Brad Friedhof, Johnson County Conservation Program Manager, will highlight 15 different projects funded by the 2008 Conservation Bond passed by a super majority of voters. Looking to the future, they also will discuss the anticipated benefits of the proposed \$30 Million Conservation Bond.

### **The Hero You Don't Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights**

Thursday, October 24, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library.

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, award-winning author Samuel G. Freedman, professor of journalism at Columbia University, and Norman Sherman, Hubert Humphrey's long-time speechwriter and one of his closest aides, will delve into a bit of history that bears remembrance this presidential election year. Together, Freedman and Sherman will examine Humphrey's efforts -- in tandem with African American leader A. Philip Randolph -- to advance civil rights in the 1940s which set the stage for what President Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Humphrey accomplished in the 1960s. Readers of the *Gazette* may recognize Sherman's byline because, at age 96, he is still writing op-ed pieces.

*Rebecca Conard  
Education Committee Chair*

## UMRR-ILO

On the weekend of July 12, the Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization (UMRR-ILO) held its two-day Annual Retreat in Davenport, Iowa. We began with an interesting field trip through the Moline Water Works which earned recognition because of its system of cleansing, including cleansing of Per and Polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS) known as forever chemicals that are not water or oil soluble.

The Board added three people from each of our five state memberships in the ILO. We stayed at the Historic Adler House which is a lovely Airbnb with "F. Scott Fitzgerald-style" décor in Davenport. Those who could not attend in person joined us virtually. We were fortunate to have Christina Curry as our guest who displayed and presented her artwork. Another guest was Gretchen Sable's grandson who helped with the technical part of our meetings.

UMRR-ILO is a wonderful group to be part of and if you ever want to join us, let me know. Special thanks to Cathy Eisenhofer and Susan Enzle for their interest and activity with our group[.

*Nancy Porter  
Vice Chair UMRR-ILO*



## Carrie Chapman Catt Book Group

The first meeting of the Carrie Chapman Catt Book Group for the 2024-2025 year is on Monday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coralville Public Library. We will be discussing Ari Berman's newest book, *Minority Rule: The Right-wing Attack on the Will of the People – and the Fight to Resist It*. He is one of the speakers for the UNESCO City of Literature Book Festival, October 14 – 19.

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It was decided at the organization meeting that we would meet on the third Monday of the month in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May. You are welcome to attend all the meetings, the ones that fit your schedule or even just those which interest you. The schedule will be posted in the **VOTER** after we select our books at the September meeting. A member will guide the discussion each month.

Please park east of the first two rows by the Library or in the underground parking area to allow plenty of spots for Library patrons. Contact either of us if you have any questions. Hope to see many of you at our first meeting!

*Deanne Mirr ([dmirr@me.com](mailto:dmirr@me.com))*

*Jeanne Bancroft ([jnn.bancroft@gmail.com](mailto:jnn.bancroft@gmail.com))*

## **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Iowa City Charter provides the City Council shall establish a Charter Review Commission at least once every ten years. The Commission purpose is to review the Charter and recommend any changes. One of the major alterations being looked into is how to elect Council Members, primary the District Council Member. Another issue is the selection of the Mayor.

Two Public input meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Iowa City Public Library and Saturday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Building.

Additional information can be found on the Iowa city Website under the Charter Review Commission. The website includes a ongoing updated draft of the Charter.

*Jennifer Patel*



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



INVITES YOU TO THE

*Fall Reception & Membership Drive*

September 5, 2024

5:30-7:30 pm




Unitarian Universalist Society

2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville

Speaker: Dr. Caroline Tolbert

*Electoral Innovations and Modernizing Presidential Elections*

Please invite some friends who you think would be interested in joining us



**League of Women Voters of Johnson County**

*Casual Coffee*

*Wednesday, September 11, 10 a.m.*

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

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A  
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

# Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club

Please join us!  
September 16, 2024  
5:30-7:00 PM  
Coralville Public Library



Book:  
*Minority Rule: The Right-Wing Attack on the Will of the People-And the Fight to Resist It*  
by Ari Berman



FROM DUBUQUE TO SELMA AND BEYOND: MY JOURNEY TO UNDERSTAND RACISM IN AMERICA

JOIN AUTHOR DAVE SHAW-WARD, FORMER CEDAR RAPIDS SUPERINTENDENT, AND MODERATOR EARL CASSELL FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK. MARSH IS BASED ON SIX YEARS OF RESEARCH AND PERSONAL INTERVIEWS ABOUT RACE IN AMERICA.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024  
FROM 7:00 PM TO 8:30 PM  
- BOOKS & BOOKS  
SENIOR CENTER, 28 S. GOWAN ST.  
IOWA CITY

THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

SPONSORED BY LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY

## ★ ★ ★ LEAGUE LECTURE SERIES ★ ★ ★



### THE \$30 MILLION CONSERVATION BOND: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Pat Heiden, Josh  
Schamberger, Brad Friedhof

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024  
6:30 – 8:00 P.M.  
IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MEETING ROOM A

CO-SPONSORED BY TRAIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY, BUR OAK LAND TRUST, 100 GRANNIES, SIERRA CLUB IOWA CITY AREA GROUP, ICPL & LWVJC

★ 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.

🏛️ 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. Preserve gender balance requirements for state boards and commissions.

🎓 EDUCATION

Increase 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 and four-year-old preschool.

👩‍⚕️ REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. Make contraception available without prescription. Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible. Support new moms with 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage. Set policies that attract maternal health professionals and address the state's OB/GYN deserts.

👤 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, support its victims, and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect human trafficking survivors from criminal prosecution.

💧 ENVIRONMENT

Increase funding for environment and water quality initiatives, including REAP, and develop state climate change strategies.

🔫 GUN SAFETY

Enact comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation to address increasing gun violence in the state. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal "stand your ground" law, and resist efforts that expand carrying in public spaces and schools.





# Photo Gallery



Above: Pictured, left to right, League members Barb Henke and Susan Enzle registering voters at National Night Out on August 6 at Wetherby Park.



Like LWVJCI on Facebook!

## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Saturdays, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14	Near game time	Oaknoll	Voter Registration
Thursday, September 5	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville	Annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive
Tuesday, September 10	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Zoom/Virtual Event	Voter Registration Training
Wednesday, September 11	10:00 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Thursday, September 12	1:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Melrose Meadows	Voter Registration
Monday, September 16	5:30 - 7 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club discusses the book <i>Minority Rule: The Right-Wing Attack on the Will of the People—and the Fight to Resist It</i> by Ari Berman
Tuesday, September 17	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Senior Center Assembly Room	Dr. Dave Markward will discuss his memoir <i>From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America</i>
Tuesday, September 17	10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m..	Kirkwood College, Coralville; Iowa City Public Library; Coralville Public Library; North Liberty Rec Center	Voter Registration for National Voter Registration Day
Friday, September 20	1:30 p.m.	Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch	Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremony
Friday, September 20		Benton Hill Park, Iowa City	Voter Registration at Prairie Hill Cohousing Get Out the Vote Jamboree
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's it All About?</i> , Pat Heiden, Josh Schamberger, Brad Friedhof
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 - 8 p.m.	FilmScene, Chauncy Iowa City	Voter Registration at Climate Fest screening of <i>The Scale of Hope</i> . Pay-as-you-can Proceeds go to LWV
Sunday, September 29	2 - 4 p.m.	Iowa City Library	Voter Registration at the Show Up for Racial Justice event
Wednesday, October 9	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Saturday, October 19	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Iowa City Ped Mall	Voter Registration at CCAN-Con Engagement Fair
Thursday, October 24	6:30 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The Hero You Don't Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights</i> , Samuel G. Freedman, Norman Sherman