February 2023

VOTER

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

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

February is a busy month for the League because the Iowa Legislature is in session. If you would like to receive the Advocacy Action Alert emails to contact elected officials about legislation and issues we care about, please reach out to Shannon Patrick.

Don't forget to take advantage of the Legislative Forums on the fourth Saturday in January, February and March.

Program Planning is also on the schedule in February. We will meet Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. in the Coralville Public Library meeting room B on the lower level to review our existing positions to determine if they need to be updated. We will also consider new areas of study. Local Leagues discuss local, state, and national positions. We review state and national issues and report what we think should be studied and updated.

To be most effective, LWVJC should prioritize the issues we want to focus on. Between the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision on reproductive rights, the new Iowa Constitutional Amendment on guns, and the Iowa Legislature giving thousands of dollars to private schools and cutting property taxes, there are many issues that we'd love to work on. But we must keep access to voting, transparency and our mission and vision in mind, "Empowering voters. Defending democracy." You can read League positions here:

LWVJC: https://lwvjc.org/about/lwvjc-positions/

LWVIA: https://lwvia.org/lwvia-positions/

LWVUS:https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf

Miriam plans to bring refreshments; email her with questions at <a href="https://linear.nih.gov/length/but/https://www.nie.g

The League advocates for transparency. Legislatures and lawmakers should give adequate notice of proposed actions and the costs, hold open meetings, and make public records accessible. The League believes that efficient government requires competent

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Board Email Addresses

LWVJC Board members' email addresses are listed above.

Voter Deadline

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide readers advance notice of activities. **The February** *Voter* **deadline is Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.**

Website: www.lwvjc.org Facebook: League of Women Voters of Johnson County

personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. The League of Women Voters believes that citizens should be informed and active participants in government. We can do this by becoming involved, and supporting journalists and other civic groups who are involved.

Paula Vaughan Miriam Timmer-Hackert LWVJC Co-Presidents



LWV of Iowa Update

Save the Date

Thursday, April 13, 2023 | 4 - 7 p.m.

Defending Democracy Award: Presentation to the Iowa Freedom of Information Council

Dinner catered by Baratta's Restaurant

Admission \$75

Jasper Winery | 2400 George Flagg Parkway |

Des Moines

This LWVIA fundraiser supports League activities and efforts to *defend democracy*. We expect each local League to help support this effort by promoting the event to local members and with attendance. When you support LWVIA, we can do more to support Iowa Leagues. Please help LWVIA honor this organization and have a lovely evening with LWV members around the state.

We are also working with area hotels to secure a special rate for out-of-towners who may like to spend the night in Des Moines. Details to follow when they are finalized.

Nancy Halvorson LWVIA Vice President

Advocacy Update

Advocacy spent the month of January working breathlessly to slow down and call public

LEAGUE ADVOCACY Resources to help Leagues do effective advocacy





attention to the governor's school voucher bill. While those efforts did not derail this fast-tracked bill, committee members and the larger advocacy volunteer group deserve credit for all of their work. They wrote opinions and letters to the editor, created talking points and distributed them to the state League, submitted comments on bills, journeyed to Des Moines for the public hearing, contacted legislators, and reached out to other local organizations. It was a great effort and contributed to the overwhelmingly negative coverage and public input on this issue that our lawmakers have chosen to ignore at their peril.

Now that the window for action on that bill has sunset, the committee will look at our state priorities and current legislation to see where we can make an impact. If you have not already signed up to receive Advocacy Action Alerts and would like to, please reach out to Shannon Patrick or another member of the committee.

Shannon Patrick Advocacy Chair



Education Committee

Our thanks go to Jan. 25 presenters, **Randy Evans** and **Laura Belin**. They really are Iowa's journalistic superstars. We hope you took advantage of this excellent program. If you missed the in-person event, you can view the rebroadcast on the Iowa City Public Library's

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YouTube channel.

Thanks go to *The Gazette* for a publicity partnership that afforded the League three advertisements about the program and the Iowa City Public Library for co-hosting.

The third program this fiscal year will be held Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., titled Abortion History Matters. Two speakers will present. Patricia Cline Cohen, professor of history emerita at University of California Santa Barbara and co-author of the friend-of-thecourt brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, and Lina-Maria Murillo, University of Iowa gender, women's sexuality studies and history professor. She will present information about the history of abortion access in Iowa.

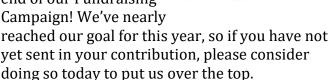
> Rebecca Conard Patty McCarthy and Linda Schreiber

JOIN THE TEA



2023 Fund Drive Update

We are tying up the end of our Fundraising Campaign! We've nearly



The LWVIC relies on the annual fundraising campaign to support its multiple ongoing actions: advocacy, education, candidate and legislative forums, League studies, voter registration and workshops. These activities are the grassroots of democracy and the LWVIC's nonpartisan work for democratic government at local, state and national levels is needed more than ever. Your donation makes a difference,

and contributions to the Operations Fund are especially appreciated.

The LWVJC operates very frugally, so every dollar is spent with care. Membership fees in the League go primarily to state and national operations. For important work at the local level, the LWVJC relies on your donations.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed so generously. Without your help, the LWVIC could not succeed in its critical activities of advocating for fair and transparent government, working for voter rights and education, and making democracy work in Johnson County.

Donations made by **check** can be mailed to: LWVIC, P. O. Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241

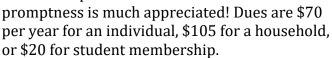
Donations can also be made online at the LWVIC website: https://lwvjc.org/donate/

> Kathleen Kamerick Fundraising Committee 2022-23

Membership

Active membership for LWVIC is currently at 146 members.

Thanks to each of you who have renewed your membership. Your



Please consider inviting a friend or a newer member to join you when attending one of our upcoming in-person events. The 2023 Legislative Forums scheduled for the last Saturday in January, February and March are great opportunities for this.

The link to join online or by mail is lwvjc.org/join-league.

> Jeanne Bancroft Membership Chair

lwvjcmembership@gmail.com







THE LWV UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization (UMRRILO)

Upper Mississippi River Region-InterLeague Organization will hold its regular meeting on the first Monday of the (even) month on Feb. 6. The Board meeting begins at 10 a.m. and a program will follow about 1 p.m. Check hwwwmrr.org for details. Our local League pays dues to this organization so as a member of LWVJC, you are also a member of UMRR-ILO. Our program in February will focus on the advocacy work for Clean Water for All. Our meetings are on Zoom.

The Mississippi River Network (MRN) has been meeting regularly since the annual meeting in October to set goals, establish priorities and continue good works for the river. We have lots of work to do, and some celebrations too! Don't hesitate to contact me with "River" in the subject area if you have any interest in either of these groups.

The MRN (1Mississippi.org) recently sponsored four programs covering: 1) soil, 2) women selling/gifting farmland, 3) environmental hunting on your land, and 4) establishing habitat management. Jean Eells, PhD, presented. You can learn about programs by going to the website and signing up for the weekly newsletter.

This is the year that Congress will vote on the Farm Bill. Our newly established Advocacy Committee representing the Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization (lwvumrr.org) will focus on the Farm Bill and work closely with the Mississippi River Network (1Mississippi.org) which has been lobbying for Farm Bill concerns.

The 5-year design of a new federal Farm Bill received a reset last fall when Congress authorized the climate-forward Inflation Reduction Act. With those funds and a new Congress in mind, agriculture conservationists in Minnesota and Iowa met in early January to

pool priorities and strategies. Led by the Izaak Walton League and the National Wildlife Foundation, participants organized the results of last year's listening sessions. These were: how to make good on non-operating landowner demands; the need for meat processors; an update on soil erosion formulas; insurance incentives for soil health practices; doubling conservation dollars for programs known to improve water, soil, and wildlife; and climate needs.

The January gathering asked for perspectives and combined the priorities of two states which are determined not to be "flyover." (Editor's note: flyover states are usually defined as not worthy of a stop or visit.)

The <u>Upper Mississippi River Initiative</u>, a monthly series, is offered by the Izaak Walton League of America, with co-hosts **Chris Henning** of the Panora Conservation Chapter and Des Moines Chapter Communication Director **Bud Hartley**. Guests are featured for 30 to 40-minute presentations that shed daylight on work done in defense of the Mississippi River and its uplands. The programs present our shared goals for a cleaner river, a cared-for environment, and kinder communities. Recorded programs are available at https://umri.org/resources-2/.

If you are interested in the Farm Bill, please go to the link above and find some great programs (one by **Mary Ellen Miller**, our UMRR-ILO chair) and expand your knowledge.

Nancy Porter, UMRR-ILO co-chair Mississippi River Network Regional Representative Nancy55555@icloud.com

Voter Services

2023 Legislative Forums

The first of our three Legislative Forums will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa City Senior Center. Please come to hear from our legislators. Our moderator for the January forum will be **Eliza Willis** and the timekeeper will be **Vicki Aden**.

Mark your calendars for all three forums

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Website: www.lwvjc.org

and plan to attend and make sure that your voice is heard.

- Jan. 28 at the Iowa City Senior Center, 9:30 11:30 a.m., doors open at 9 a.m., focus on Education.
- Feb. 25 at the Iowa City Senior Center, 9:30 11:30 a.m., doors open at 9 a.m., focus on Healthcare.
- March 25 at The Hills Community Center, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., doors open at 9

 $a.m., focus\ on\ Environmental\ Stewardship.$

City Channel 4 will provide live stream and videotape the first two forums.

Kiran Patel will work with us to provide the live streaming and video for the Hills forum.

We have several new legislators representing Johnson County districts. All legislators have been invited to attend to share their vision for the 2023 Legislative session and to answer questions from constituents.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Susie Corbin-Muir.

Susie Corbin-Muir Voter Service Chair

Photo Gallery In Memoriam



Lee Wood spoke at the 2017 LWVJC annual meeting recognizing Pat Jensen. Lee passed away in January 2023.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Monday, Feb. 13	6:30 – 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 19	2 - 4 p.m.	Coraville Public Library – meeting room B	Program Planning
Saturday, Feb. 25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Iowa City Senior Center	Legislative Forum
Monday, March 13	6:30 – 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Thursday, March 23	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library – meeting room A	Abortion History Matters presented by Patricia Cline Cohen and Lina-Maria Murillo
Saturday, March 25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Hills Community Center	Legislative Forum
Thursday, April 13	4 - 7 p.m.	Des Moines	Fundraiser LWVIA: Defending De- mocracy Award dinner

February *VOTER* Deadline Feb. 20 at 5 p.m. for Feb. 24 distribution (the last Friday of the month).

Abortion History Matters

Thursday, March 23 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library

123 S. Linn Street Iowa City, Iowa

Patricia Cline Cohen
Professor of History emerita
University of California
Santa Barbara

Lina-Maria Murillo
Professor of Gender,
Women's Sexuality Studies
and History University of Iowa





Website: www.lwvjc.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*

OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

The Gazette

Twitter: LWVJCIA

The program will be offered in person and live streamed on the Library's YouTube channel.

LWVIA Public Policy Priorities



VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Iowa should adopt automatic voter registration and pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served.



TRANSPARENCY

Demand government accountability and transparency by requiring all amendments and bills discussed in committee to be available to the public prior to a vote. Encourage direct citizen participation by continuing virtual committee and subcommittee meetings.



EDUCATION

Keep public money in public schools, fully fund public schools, and continue to expand access to affordable childcare.



2023 State Public Policy Priorities



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services, make contraception available without prescription, and ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible.

Website: www.lwvjc.org



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.

Twitter: LWVJCIA



Nancy Porter registers voters on Jan. 30 at the Senior Volunteer Fair at the Iowa City Senior Center.



Check bill tracker for current standings

www.ialobby.com/billtracker/lwvia/.

This website is also helpful:

https://legiscan.com/IA/legislation

Track legislation here:

Alphabetical list of all active legislation:

https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/ billTracking/subjectIndex

Lawmakers' contact info

Contact your Iowa Elected Officials representing Johnson County Senate

zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov - District 37 - D

janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov - District 45 D

dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov - District 46 - R

House

david.jacoby@legis.iowa.gov - District 74 - D amy.nielsen@legis.iowa.gov - District 77 - D elinor.levin@legis.iowa.gov - District 89 - D adam.zabner@legis.iowa.gov - District 90 - D brad.sherman@legis.iowa.gov - District 91 - R

heather.hora@legis.iowa.gov - District 92 - R

Iowa Senate: 515.281.3371 **Iowa House**: 515.281.3221

Legislative Committees members:

https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees

Iowa Governor and U.S. Congress

Gov. Kim Reynolds—515-281-5211 email: governor.iowa.gov/contact

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

202-225-6576, email:

MillerMeeks.House.gov/contact

Sen. Joni Ernst—202-224-3254, email: Ernst.Senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-joni

Sen. Charles Grassley—202-224-3744, email:

Grassley.Senate.gov/contact





90th Iowa General Assembly 2023 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMETABLE*



Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change

*See HCR 10 and HR 3 (2021), SR 3 (2019), and SR 113 (2020)

JANUARY 9	First day of session (lowa Code Sec. 2.1)
FEBRUARY 10	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill and joint
(Friday of the 5th week)	resolution drafts to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)
MARCH 3	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate
(Friday of the 8th week)**	Committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 13 - 17	Senate considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business
(10th week)	House considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 20 - MARCH 31	Debate not limited by rule
(11th and 12th weeks)	
MARCH 31	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House
(Friday of the 12th week)**	committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 3 - 7	Senate considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business
(13th week)	House considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 10	Only the following bills and resolutions are eligible for consideration: (Joint Rule 20)
(Beginning of the 14th week)	Bills passed by both Houses
	 Appropriations Bills Ways and Means Bills
	Government Oversight Bills
	Legalizing Acts
	Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills
	 Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [lowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)]
	 Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House
	Conference Committee Reports
	Companion Bills sponsored by Senate and House Majority Leaders
	Concurrent or Simple Resolutions
	Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules Pills on the Vate Colonder (No. 1994).
	 Bills on the Veto Calendar (Joint Rule 23) Unfinished Business
APRIL 10	House amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
(Beginning of the 14th week)	(House Rule 31.8)
APRIL 28	110th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - lowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)]

^{**}The March 3 and March 31 committee deadlines do not apply to Appropriations Bills, Ways and Means Bills, Government Oversight Bills, Legalizing Acts, Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills, Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [lowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)], Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House, Conference Committee Reports, Companion Bills sponsored by the Majority Leaders of both Houses after consultation with the respective Minority Leaders, Concurrent or Simple Resolutions, and Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules. Legislative Information Office: 08/30/2022

Website: www.lwvjc.org Facebook: League of Women Voters of Johnson County Twitter: LWVJCIA 9

2023 Iowa Legislative Committee Chairs

2023 Iowa Legislative Session | New Committee Chairs

Joint Budget Subcommittees

Administration & Regulation

Sen. Dave Rowley (R-Spirit Lake)* Rep. Mike Bergan (R-Dorchester)

Education

Sen. Jeff Taylor (R-Sioux Center)*
Rep. Carter Nordman (R-Panora)*

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Sen. Dan Zumbach (R-Ryan)*
Rep. Norlin Mommsen (R-DeWitt)

Health & Human Services

Sen. Jeff Edler (R-State Center) Rep. Joel Fry (R-Osceola)

Economic Development

Sen. Mark Lofgren (R-Muscatine)*
Rep. Martin Graber (R-Ft Madison)*

Justice Systems

Sen. Julian Garrett (R-Indianola) Rep. Brian Lohse (R-Bondurant)*

Transportation, Infrastructure & Capitals

Sen. Carrie Koelker (R-Dyersville)* & Rep. Jacob Bossman (R-Sioux City)

Other Joint Committees

Administrative Rules Review

Rep. Megan Jones (R-Sioux Rapids) - Chair Sen. Mike Klimesh (R-Spillville)* - Vice Chair

Website: www.lwvjc.org

International Relations

Rep. Eddie Andrews (R-Johnston)* - Chair Sen. Annette Sweeney (R-Alden) – Vice Chair

*New to position in 2023

Editor's note: The 2023 Iowa Legislative Committee Chairs and subcommittees on page 9 and 10 were provided by The Advocacy Cooperative | Campbell Patterson Consulting LLP | www.ialobby.com.

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.

2023 Iowa Legislative Session | New Committee Chairs

House

AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mike Sexton (R-Rockwell City)*

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Rep. Ray Sorensen (R-Greenfield)

ETHICS

Rep. Anne Osmundson (R-Volga)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ann Meyer (R-Fort Dodge)

LABOR

Rep. Dave Deyoe (R-Nevada)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Phil Thompson (R-Boone)*

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rep. Chad Ingels (R-Randalia)*

APPROPRIATIONS

Rep. Gary Mohr (R-Bettendorf)

EDUCATION

Rep. Skyler Wheeler (R-Hull)

EDUCATION REFORM**

Rep. Pat Grassley (R-New Hartford)*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

????

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rep. Shannon Latham (R-Sheffield)*

STATE GOVERNMENT

Rep. Jane Bloomingdale (R-Northwood)*

WAYS & MEANS

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton)*

COMMERCE

Rep. Shannon Lundgren (R-Peosta)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Dean Fisher (R-Montour)

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Rep. Brooke Boden (R-Indianola)

JUDICIARY

Rep. Steve Holt (R-Denison)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Rep. Tom Jeneary (R-Le Mars)*

TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Brian Best (R-Glidden)

*New to position in 2023 **New committee

2023 Iowa Legislative Session | New Committee Chairs

Senate

AGRICULTURE

Sen. Dawn Driscoll (R-Williamsburg)*

EDUCATION

Sen. Ken Rozenboom (R-Pella)*

APPROPRIATIONS

Sen. Tim Kraayenbrink (R-Fort Dodge)

Sen. Tom Shipley (R-Nodaway)*

ETHICS

COMMERCE

Sen. Waylon Brown (R-Osage)*

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Sen. Amy Sinclair (R-Allerton)*

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Sen. Jeff Edler (R-State Center)

JUDICIARY

Sen. Brad Zaun (R-Urbandale)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sen. Jesse Green (R-Boone)

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

Sen. Annette Sweeney (R-Alden)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Sen. Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig)*

TECHNOLOGY***

Website: www.lwvjc.org

TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Twitter: LWVJCIA

Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose)*

Sen. Chris Cournoyer (R-LeClaire)

Sen. Mike Klimesh (R-Spillville)*

WORKFORCE**

WAYS & MEANS Sen. Dan Dawson (R-Council Bluffs)

Sen. Adrian Dickey (R-Packwood)*

*New to position in 2023

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Johnson County

^{**}Renamed committee

^{***}New committee in 2023