

January
2023

VOTER

Board of Directors - FY2023

- Co-President – Miriam Timmer-Hackett
timmer.hackert@gmail.com
- Co-President – Paula Vaughan
vaughanp893@gmail.com
- Vice President – Bea Hicks
beacruz@aol.com
- Secretary – Susan Enzle
SENZLE@msn.com
- Treasurer – Hazel Seaba
hazel-seaba@uiowa.edu
- Vicki Aden
vickiandleon.aden@gmail.com
- Jeanne Bancroft
jnn.bancroft@gmail.com
- Susan Corbin-Muir
scorbinmuir@gmail.com
- Kathleen Kamerick
kckamerick@gmail.com
- Shannon Patrick
shannonpatrick@gmail.com
- Sally Stutzman
[sstuttsma@sharontc.net](mailto:ssuttsma@sharontc.net)
- Voter editor—Linda Schreiber
lschreiber@gmail.com

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

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The 2023 Iowa Legislative Session will begin Jan. 9. We invited our newly-elected legislators to a luncheon on Dec. 3 to hear their forecasts and have time to get acquainted. We had 50 attendees and we hope everyone found the new format helpful. Please do give us feedback on all our events—we’d love to hear from you.

Our advocacy, education and voter services teams have been gearing up for the Legislative session to address the LWVIA Public Policy Priorities: Education, Environment, Human Trafficking, Reproductive Rights, Transparency and Voting. Unlike Congress or local governments, the Iowa Legislature is in session for only a few months each year starting in January. Lawmakers’ per diem (allowance for lodging, etc.) payments end April 28 so they try to wrap up business by that date. The Legislative calendar, including the funnel dates (when bills must make it out of committee to be considered), is on page 8 of this *Voter*.

Please make your voices heard. Iowa’s legislators want to hear from their constituents! They need encouragement and gratitude, and they want to know the challenges Iowans face. They want to share our stories with their colleagues, and they want names to put on issues. State legislative emails will be assigned soon. Typically they are firstname.lastname@legis.iowa.gov and are included in every *Voter* (page 8).

During the pandemic, the legislature held virtual meetings which allowed Iowans to hear what was going on in hearings and committee meetings. Please email or call your legislators now before the session begins to ask them to continue virtual meeting access so that the voices of Iowans across the state can be included. Please see the talking points in the advocacy section of this *Voter* (page 2).

Our education committee invited **Randy Evans** of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and *Bleeding Heartland* editor **Laura Belin** to present *Transparency Matters* at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 25.

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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 Jan. 23 at 5 p.m.**

Please join us at Iowa City Public Library because we need transparency to make democracy work. Local members are urged to attend the presentation in person if possible. The program will also be live streamed on the Library's YouTube channel.

The voter services committee is arranging legislative forums on the fourth Saturday morning in January, February and March. We hope to hold two at The Center in Iowa City and one in Hills, Iowa. These forums are a great opportunity to learn what is going on, ask questions and advocate. Read more about advocacy, education and legislative forums in their respective sections of this *Voter*. Please bring your friends and family to join us at these important events.

WISHING YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR!

Paula Vaughan and 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 we have something firmed up.

Nancy Halvorson
LWVIA Vice President



Advocacy Update

Advocacy opened in December this year with our annual Legislative Forecast combined with LWVJC's semi-annual membership meeting. We all enjoyed gathering and seeing many of our fellow Leaguers and lawmakers in person after two years of Zoom legislative forecast meetings. Our two continuing lawmakers shared their expectations for the new session, we thanked our outgoing representatives for their service and support of the League, and we welcomed three new legislators. I think all would agree the event was informative, enjoyable and motivating.

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, however, the priorities of our new legislature are unlikely to align well with the League in areas ranging from public school support to healthcare. Our voices will be needed in the next session, both to support our advocates and to convince other-minded lawmakers. (I encourage you to look at the statewide League priorities on page 7 in this month's *Voter*.)

If you would like to become more involved in advocacy, reach out to Shannon Patrick. The advocacy committee maintains a smaller (but, to LWVJC's credit, substantial!) mailing list of members who have opted in to receive action alert emails. These alerts contain contacts and speaking points when there are opportunities for us to be heard, and we expect to jump in right at the start of the New Year encouraging the legislature to continue online participation in committee meetings.

Shannon Patrick
Advocacy Chair

Education Committee

Get ready for a truly informative program

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with rock star speakers on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m. when **Randy Evans**, Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, and **Laura Belin**, Journalist and Editor of the *Bleeding Heartland* blog, will address *Transparency Matters*. Please invite friends and associates to attend in person and learn more about transparency in government and the media. (Note: LWVIA will honor the Iowa Freedom of Information Council in April.)



The Iowa City Public Library and *The Gazette* are education speaker series partners. The programs are offered in-person and streamed live on the library's channel. ICPL staff will videotape the programs for rebroadcast on its YouTube channel.

The third program this fiscal year will be held Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., titled *Women's History: Abortion*. Two speakers will present. **Patricia Cline Cohen**, professor of history emerita at University of California Santa Barbara and co-author of the friend-of-the-court 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.

Save the dates and make plans to attend.

*Rebecca Conard, Patty McCarthy and
Linda Schreiber*

2023 Fund Drive Begins

The 2023 fund drive for the League of Women Voters of Johnson County has begun, with a goal of \$7,000. All LWVJC members should have received a letter about the fund drive. Many thanks to those who have already made a contribution!

What is the purpose of the fund drive? The

greater part of our membership dues go to the League's state and national organizations, leaving only about 12% for expenses at the local level. This 12% is not enough to fund our work. Every dollar donated to the LWVJC funds essential activities in advocacy, education and local voter registration. The League of Women Voters of Johnson County needs your help in order to continue to sponsor: legislative and educational forums, study and advocate for policies that affect voters at the local level, develop workshops, and register and educate voters.



Together we make a difference. The power of the League of Women Voters comes from combining our work, talents, time and treasure. Please contribute today so the LWVJC can continue to work for voters and grassroots democracy in Johnson County.

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

Donations can also be made **online** at the LWVJC website: <https://lwwjc.org/donate/>.

Kathleen Kamerick
Fundraising Committee 2022-23

Membership

Active membership for LWVJC is currently at 146 members.

Thanks to each of you who have renewed your membership. Your promptness is greatly appreciated! Dues are \$70 per year or \$105 for a household membership.

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



Jeanne Bancroft
Membership Chair
lwwjcmembership@gmail.com



Voter Services

2023 Legislative Forums

The voter services committee met the first week of December to begin planning for the 2023 legislative forums.

Six of the nine legislators are new. So, the voter services committee invited the new legislators to meet with the committee in early January in order to give them an opportunity to learn how the legislative forums work. We have also offered one-on-one meetings for anyone who has a conflict.

In the past, we have had co-sponsors for each forum. This year, to broaden those who attend, we will offer relevant organizations an invitation to attend and participate in each forum. The number of organizations that could sponsor each forum has grown making it challenging to determine appropriate co-sponsorships. Co-sponsors often use our

legislative forums as an opportunity to lobby the legislators.

We hope our invitations to attend and participate will increase audience numbers and provide more possibilities for more inclusive participation.

We looked at the state League priorities to organize three topic areas: Education, Healthcare and Environmental Stewardship. The fourth Saturday in January, February, and March are traditionally the dates for League Legislative Forums. This year, forums will be held on Jan. 28, Feb. 25, and March 25. The forums run two hours, from 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

The Assembly Room at The Center, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City, will be the location for the first two forums, with City Channel 4 TV crew assisting with videotaping and live-streaming programming. At the Dec. 3 membership lunch, it was suggested incorporating another location. We contacted the Hills Community Center as a possible venue for one of the forums. We will visit the community center in Hills ahead of the March forum to assure that technology will work to record the March forum as well as live stream it.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! Be the engaged citizen that our democracy

2023 Legislators

HOUSE			2-year Term ends
Name	District	Party	
Amy Nielsen	85	Dem	2024
Dave Jacoby	86	Dem	2024
Elinor Levin	89	Dem	2024
Adam Zabner	90	Dem	2024
Brad Sherman	91	GOP	2024
Heather Hora	92	GOP	2024
SENATE			4-year Term ends
Zach Wahls	43	Dem	2026
Janice Weiner	45	Dem	2026
Dawn Driscoll	46	GOP	2024 - special 2-year term

December LWVJC Membership meeting and Legislative Forecast Photo Gallery



Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Monday, Jan 9		Des Moines	Opening of Iowa Legislative 2023 Session
Monday, Jan. 9	6:30-8 p.m.	Virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 25	6:30-8 p.m.	ICPL-Room A	Transparency in Public Governance Speakers: Randy Evans, Laura Belin
Saturday, Jan. 27	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Senior Center	Legislative Forum
Monday, Feb. 13	6:30-8 p.m.	Virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 24	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Senior Center	Legislative Forum
Monday, March 13	6:30-8 p.m.	Virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Thursday, March 23	6:30-8 p.m.	ICPL-Room A	Women's History: Abortion presented by Patricia Cline Cohen and Lina-Maria Murillo
Sat, March 24	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Hills - TBD	Legislative Forum
Thursday, April 13	4-7 p.m.	Des Moines	FundRaiser LWVIA: Defending Democracy Award dinner

February *VOTER* Deadline
Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. for Jan. 27 distribution
(the last Friday of the month).

Transparency Matters

in government and the media

Wednesday, Jan. 25

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library

123 S. Linn Street
Iowa City, Iowa



Laura Belin
Bleeding Heartland
Editor



Randy Evans
Iowa Freedom of
Information Council
Executive Director



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.



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.



CONTACTS AND USEFUL LINKS



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 49 - 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 (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)
FEBRUARY 10 (Friday of the 5 th week)	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill and joint resolution drafts to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)
MARCH 3 (Friday of the 8 th week)**	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate Committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 13 - 17 (10 th week)	Senate considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business House considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 20 - MARCH 31 (11 th and 12 th weeks)	Debate not limited by rule
MARCH 31 (Friday of the 12 th week)**	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 3 - 7 (13 th week)	Senate considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business House considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 10 (Beginning of the 14 th week)	Only the following bills and resolutions are eligible for consideration: (Joint Rule 20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 [Iowa 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 ▪ Bills on the Veto Calendar (Joint Rule 23) ▪ Unfinished Business
APRIL 10 (Beginning of the 14 th week)	House amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate (House Rule 31.8)
APRIL 28	110 th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - Iowa 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 [Iowa 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