



VOTER

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

March 2023

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Join us for the next Legislative Forum, Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S Linn St, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to use the Washington Street entrance.

With the Iowa Legislature in full swing, now is the time to raise your voice. Bills are moving fast, and many of the bills will impact the daily lives of Iowans. Share your stories with legislators in person at the forum. Write or call them to tell them how you feel and where you stand on issues.

Leaguers are encouraged to sign up for Advocacy Alerts with talking points and a legislative contact list. To join the Advocacy team send [Shannon Patrick](mailto:Shannon.Patrick@iowaleague.org) an email. For a quick look at legislative trends in Iowa and the nation follow [Iowa Capitol Dispatch](http://www.iowacapitoldispatch.com) or listen to the *Iowa Public Radio* podcast [Under the Golden Dome](http://www.underthegoldendome.com).

The next LWVJC education program, *Abortion History Matters*, will be held Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the Iowa City Public Library. If you missed *Transparency Matters in Government and the Media* you can view the program on the Iowa City Public Library's [YouTube channel](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

The final Legislative forum will be held Saturday, March 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Hills Community Center, 110 Main St., Hills. This forum will focus on environmental stewardship. The forums are a great place to wear your League shirt. You can order League shirts in neutral colors and financially support [LWVIA](http://www.lwvia.org).

On Sunday, March 26, the League will celebrate 150 years of Coralville and Iowa history at the Coralville Public Library, from noon to 3 p.m. We will host a table celebrating Samuel Kirkwood, a Coralville business owner, Iowa governor and senator; Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the LWV; Amelia Bloomer and other early Iowa suffragists. If you would like to come in costume but don't have pioneer or Victorian items, feel free to contact [Miriam](mailto:Miriam@lwvjc.org).

Program Planning is an important part of LWVJC's work every

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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 April Voter deadline is March 27 at 5 p.m.**



year. Interested members met Feb. 19 to discuss our many concerns and priorities. The discussion centered on two areas: good governance and public health/safety. While we are all concerned about clean water, school funding, streamlining government, workforce issues, and reproductive rights, we know good governance is at League's core: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

We plan to encourage LWVIA to follow up our proposal last year to correct mapping disparities using the Geographic Information System. *(Editor's note: additional information about GIS, can be found in the February 2022 Voter.)* We will also propose a state study of Transparency in Government. Our League's transparency purchasing study can be used as an example. There's a lot of interest in state government transparency given: the news conference cancelations, the removal of the media from the floor of the Senate, and the slowing and/or denying Freedom of Information requests.

Our League is also interested in exploring local control and Home Rule. If you are interested in studying these subjects, please contact [Miriam](#). *(Editor's note: The Home Rule Amendment to the Iowa Constitution was passed by Iowa's electorate in 1968.)* Iowa City is one of four cities in Iowa with a Home Rule Charter, though lately, it is apparent that we have less local control as the legislature has legalized the sale of fireworks, tells teachers exactly what they can say, and has pre-emptively prohibited a ban on plastic bags.

Please add the LWVJC Annual Membership & Business Meeting to your calendar. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 23, at 5:30 p.m. Watch for more details in an upcoming *Voter*.

The League will host a Casual Coffee at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. Join us for a relaxed, drop-in conversation with League members. Everyone is invited to join us at Poindexter Coffee, in The Graduate Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City. Enter Poindexter Coffee from the Pedestrian Mall or the south side hotel entrance.

Miriam Timmer-Hackert
Paula Vaughan
LWVJC Co-Presidents

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA
Defending Democracy Award Dinner



Award Honoree:
Randy Evans
Executive Director of
the Iowa Freedom of
Information Council



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

The Advocacy Committee has been reorienting after the blitz of private school voucher bills and determining where we can make the most impact amidst the torrent of new bills. Many of these new bills fall somewhere between appalling and awful, but there are a few good ideas in the stack. Here's a list of issues that we are closely watching as of this writing:

- SNAP and nutritional support: unlike earlier versions, this bill no longer prevents food aid from being used to buy staple foods, but it still imposes impractical and counterproductive requirements for assistance. HF3
- Gender balance requirement for boards and committees: Iowa law has long required an attempt to create gender parity on government boards and commissions. The current law allows a 90-day period to make an effort for balance. There is a bill to repeal that requirement, but it may have stalled out. We are keeping an eye on it. SF136
- Human trafficking: a non-controversial bill passed the House last year would have the state treat trafficked minors as victims instead of offenders. We are encouraging the legislature to take this bill up again this session.
- Voting: a mix of bills have been proposed about voting. We would be delighted to support a bill that restores a 40 or 45-day absentee voting window, and some that would fix the recount issues that were real problems in 2020. We are also watching worse bills, that would in one case require provisional ballots for all votes cast after same-day registration.
- Anti-abortion pregnancy centers: Iowa

should not hand off reproductive care services to faith-based organizations that do not have medically-trained staff. However, this is part of a larger healthcare bill that may contain provisions we would support, so we are educating ourselves and determining how to approach this issue. HSB126 and SSB1123 government reorganization bills

We have a great committee doing excellent work on these issues, and those of you on our larger Advocacy Alert list should expect more updates as the session progresses. If you are not on the Advocacy Alert mailing list but would like to be, please contact [me](#) or any member of the committee.

Shannon Patrick
Advocacy Chair



Civics Education

Education Committee

Reproductive rights are under attack. If you support the freedom to make a decision when and if to start a family, you will want to make plans to attend the League's next education program, *Abortion History Matters*. The program will be held Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the Iowa City Public Library. Two speakers will present. **Patricia Cline Cohen** is professor of history emerita at the University of California Santa Barbara and the co-author of the friend-of-the-court brief submitted to the U. S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. She will be joined by **Lina-Maria Murillo**, University of Iowa gender, women's sexuality studies and history professor, who will discuss the history of abortion in Iowa.

The program will be presented in person and live-streamed on the Iowa City Public Library's YouTube channel.

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Thanks go to our partners, *The Gazette* and the Iowa City Public Library, for efforts to bring programming to the public.

*Rebecca Conard
Patty McCarthy and
Linda Schreiber*



2023 Fund Drive

Thank you for your generosity. The LWVJC has met its 2022-23 fundraising goal of \$7,000. Your contributions to the Operations and Education funds will sustain the work of the League in many ways, from sponsoring legislative forums about critical issues like education and healthcare to hosting speakers covering topics ranging from reproductive rights to transparency in government.

If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so today.

Donations may be made either by mail or online. Mail checks made payable to the LWVJC to:

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

Online donations may be made at:

<https://lwwjc.org/donate/>

*Kathleen Kamerick
Fundraising Committee 2022-23*



Membership

Active membership for LWVJC is currently 149 members. We welcome the following new members: **Deborah Hartman, Laure Nothnagle, and Laure Wess Peters.**

Dues are \$70 per year for individual, \$105 for household, or \$20 for student membership.

Please consider inviting a friend or a newer member to accompany you when attending one of our upcoming in-person events. The legislative forum scheduled for Saturday, March 25, and our lecture series event on March 23 are great opportunities for this. See the *Voter* calendar for details.

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

*Jeanne Bancroft
Membership Chair*

lwwjcmembership@gmail.com



Voter Registration

The Voter Registration committee will start holding voter registration events in late March/early April as we register voters before the county-wide City and School elections on Nov. 7, 2023.

Special elections will be held on March 7 for voters in the College Community School District, Lone Tree Community School District, Solon Community School District, and Swisher residents. If you or your friends/family are in these areas, you can find more details on the Johnson County Auditor's website at: <https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/auditor/elections>

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In-person early voting for these special elections is available at the Johnson County Auditor's office, 913 S. Dubuque St., weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Feb. 15, through Monday, March 6.

We are looking forward to seeing you at a future voter registration event!

Vicki Aden
Voter Registration Coordinator



Voter Services

The first legislative forum was very successful despite the snowy weather. Thanks to all who attended in person or viewed live stream. Thank you to the six legislators who participated: Reps. Dave Jacoby, Amy Nielsen, Elinor Levin, Adam Zabner and Sens. Zach Wahls, Janice Weiner. Sen. Dawn Driscoll and Rep. Brad Sherman had conflicts and sent regrets. Rep. Heather Hora did not respond.

Our next legislative forum will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Iowa City Senior Center



JOIN US FOR LEGISLATIVE FORUMS 2023



Saturday, Feb. 25 - Iowa City Senior Center - Health Care

Saturday, March 25 - The Community Center, Hills - Environmental Stewardship
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Doors open at 9 a.m.

Open to the Public- Make Plans to Attend



from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. All legislators have been invited to participate. We have heard back from some, but not all, legislators. Sens. Zach Wahls, Janice Weiner, and Reps. Amy Nielsen, Elinor Levin, and Adam Zabner have responded they will attend. The focus of this forum is health care, and all questions are welcome. We hope to see you there.

Our final legislative forum will be held March 25 at the Hills Community Center from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. The focus of this forum will be environmental stewardship.

We hope you will come and bring your friends.

Susie Corbin-Muir
Voter Service Chair

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



The Gazette

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

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Saturday, Feb. 25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Iowa City Senior Center	Legislative Forum
Wednesday, March 8	10 a.m.	Poindexter Coffee Graduate Hotel, IC	Casual Coffee
Monday, March 13	6:30 - 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Thursday, March 23	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library	Women's History: Abortion presented by Patricia Cline Cohen and Lina-Maria Murillo
Saturday, March 25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Hills Community Center, 110 Main St, Hills	Legislative Forum
Sunday, March 26	12 - 3 p.m.	Coralville Public Library	Coralville & Iowa History 150th Anniversary
Monday, April 10	6:30 - 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Thursday, April 13	4 - 7 p.m.	Des Moines (see page 2)	LWVIA Fundraiser: Defending Democracy Award Dinner
Tuesday, May 23	5:30 - 7 p.m.	TBD	LWVJC Annual Membership & Business Meeting
June 9-10		Dubuque	LWVIA Convention

April VOTER Deadline
March 27 at 5 p.m. for March 31 distribution
(the last Friday of the month).

Reproductive Rights: The freedom to make a decision when and if to start a family.

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

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/](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/subjectIndex)

[billTracking/subjectIndex](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 86 - D

amy.nielsen@legis.iowa.gov - District 85 - 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 (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