LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS* OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

VOTER

Board of Directors - FY2023

Co-President–Miriam Timmer-Hackert <u>lwvjcpresident@gmail.com</u> Co-President – Paula Vaughan <u>vaughanp893@gmail.com</u> Vice President – Bea Hicks <u>beacuz@aol.com</u> Secretary – Susan Enzle <u>SENZLE@msn.com</u> Treasurer – Hazel Seaba <u>hazel-seaba@uiowa.edu</u>

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 sstutsma@sharontc.net

> Voter editor—Linda Schreiber Inschreiber@gmail.com

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

Board Email Addresses

LWVJC Board members' email addresses are listed above.

May 2023

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Please join us for our Annual Membership and Business Meeting on May 23, 2023, from 5 -7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville. Dinner will be catered by Tabooleh. We will celebrate our many accomplishments of the prior year, approve the budget, elect new board members, thank our League volunteers and Linda Schreiber for her years of service as our communications coordinator. *(Editor's note: See pages 9-13 for a preview of items League members will be asked to vote on at the meeting.)*

Our speaker, Chris Jones, Ph.D., will address *Ethanol Must Die*. Dr. Jones recently retired from IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa, where he worked as a research engineer studying water quality in agricultural landscapes.

The cost of dinner is \$25. Watch your email for an invitation, details, and RSVP information.

We will meet again at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 10, for Casual Coffee and lively conversation at Poindexter Coffee, in the lobby level of The Graduate Hotel, 210 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City. You can enter from the PedMall or the parking garage next to the hotel.

Friday, June 9, everyone is invited to join our Mississippi River Day of Education and Action. The day starts with lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the patio at the Stone Cliff Brewery overlooking the Mississippi River, 600 Star Brewery Drive, Dubuque. Next, we will drive across the river to the Galena Public Library in Illinois where Steve Repp will present the *History of the Mississippi River*. Most of us will return to Dubuque to join the League of Women Voters of Iowa Convention, but you can do river events on Friday even if you can't attend the Saturday convention. Contact Nancy Porter at <u>mailto:nancy55555@icloud.com</u> with Mississippi River in the subject line with questions or to RSVP.

The LWVIA Convention registration opens Friday, June 9. Most of

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Voter Deadline

The *Voter* is issued the last Friday of the month to provide readers advance notice of activities. **The June** *Voter* **deadline is May 22 at 5 p.m.**

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the meetings and presentations will be held Saturday, June 10, at the Holiday Inn in Dubuque, from 9 a.m. to mid-afternoon. LWVUS President Deb Turner will be the keynote speaker on Saturday. LWVJC plans to donate gift baskets at the state convention to help raise funds for LWVIA. Please let Miriam know if you have items to donate.

If you plan to stay at the convention hotel, reservations at the Holiday Inn need to be made by May 10. Call 563-556-2000 and tell them you want one of the League's block of rooms.

> Miriam Timmer-Hackert and Paula Vaughan LWVJC Co-Presidents

LWVJC Annual Meeting May 23

Our guest speaker for the LWVJC 2023 Annual Membership Meeting is Chris Jones, Ph.D., who will present *Ethanol Must Die*. He places the

production of corn ethanol within the historical contexts of Iowa agriculture and water quality, and details how the demise of ethanol is likely necessary if the environmental condition here in Iowa is to be improved.

Dr. Jones recently retired from the University of Iowa



where he worked as a research engineer at the Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research (IIHR) Hydroscience and Engineering studying water quality in agricultural landscapes. Previously, he worked at the Iowa Soybean Association and the Des Moines Water Works. He has authored or coauthored 50 scientific journal articles, three book chapters, and is the author of a newly-released book, *The Swine Republic*.

Dr. Jones is a frequent guest on Iowa Public Radio and has appeared on NPR's *On Point*. Dr. Jones has a BA in chemistry and biology from Simpson College in Indianola, and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Montana State University. He lives in Iowa City and DeSoto, Wisconsin.

Susan Enzle LWVJC Board member



Advocacy Update

The flowers are blooming, the trees are developing leaves, and the fields are almost warm enough to plant. That means, in Advocacy terms, the legislative session is coming to a close. And it couldn't happen soon enough.

Not everything is doom and gloom. Our legislature has produced a steady trickle of noncontroversial, bipartisan, boring legislation that keeps the state functioning. For example, we expect a milguetoast amendment to appear on our ballots soon aligning the Iowa Constitution with the federal Constitution setting the voting age at 18. Similarly, Iowa's adoption tax credit went up, teacher licensing became easier for those with advanced degrees, and many other ignorable laws were passed. Further, some bad ideas that we were watching appear to be dead – at least for this year. Those include bills to restore the death penalty, further politicize judicial nominations, eliminate Iowa's requirement that public boards and commissions attempt gender balance and more.

But there's no denying that this session has been a sorrowful one for democracy in Iowa. The press is still banished from the Senate floor. An extremely unorthodox procedure was contrived to avoid deliberative budget processes so the school vouchers bill could pass. Minority party amendments are rejected out of hand. Majority lawmakers neither show up to legislative forums nor, recently, even accept questions from the minority, and a bill to disarm the State Auditor just passed the House. And that doesn't even touch the bills that were

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passed or proposed to target minority lowans. The sky is not falling, but we must not kid ourselves: Iowa's lawmakers are not following or respecting democratic norms, and they are not using democratic processes designed to make good decisions. They may be serving *some* people, but they are not serving *the* people.

In these circumstances, the advocacy committee has focused on opposing or limiting the damage of some of these bills, creating tools to help Iowans follow the legislative process, and considering how we can be effective during the legislative off-season. Members of the committee continued to improve instructions for following legislation. Some bills that we have been watching and acting on include the education "reform" bill, a women's health bill, the public benefits bill (SNAP), a new election bill, and child labor bills. And, finally, when the session ends, we expect to close out the season as usual with a gathering to celebrate and commiserate and move on to discussing public advocacy.

> Shannon Patrick Advocacy Chair

Education Committee



In March, the League of Women Voters of Johnson County hosted *Abortion History Matters* with **Patricia Cline Cohen**, professor of history emerita at the University of California Santa Barbara, and **Lina-Maria Murillo**, University of Iowa Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, History and Latina/o/x Studies assistant professor, presenting.

We appreciated support from *The Gazette* to publicize the program. Thanks also go to the Iowa City Public Library for promotion and live streaming and videotaping the presentation. The in-person and online audience for this event was more than 160 members.

Susan Enzle joins the committee in FY2024 as **Linda Schreiber** retires.

Rebecca Conard, Susan Enzle, Patty McCarthy and Linda Schreiber

FOIN US HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

Membership

Active membership for LWVJC is currently at 151 members. We welcome the following new members: **Mary McCarthy** and **Christine Kapp**. Each new member receives the League Member Orientation Guide and the current edition of *The Voter*.

The League of Women Voters Johnson Co has a common annual renewal date of June 30. Individual dues are \$70, Household \$105 and student \$20. Everyone will be notified to renew June 1 each year. You will also be able to renew or join at our annual meeting on May 23.

Most of our new members come as a result of a current member reaching out to a friend to

consider joining. If you know someone who would like to join the LWVJC, here is the link for online membership form lwvjc.org/joinleague or you can also use this QR code to get the membership form.



Jeanne Bancroft Membership Chair <u>lwvjcmembership@gmail.com</u>





Voter Registration

Happy May everyone! We are ramping up voter registration activities with our first voter registration event of the year scheduled on April 28 at Kirkwood's Celebration of Civic Engagement event. We are also currently scheduled to visit the Iowa City CommUnity Food Pantry on Monday, May 22, and Wednesday, May 24, from noon – 4 p.m. to register voters there, and on Tuesday, May 30, we will be at the Coralville Community Food Pantry's new facility from 2 – 6 p.m.

Looking ahead, June also looks to be a busy month for voter registration. We will be at the Iowa Arts Festival in downtown Iowa City on Saturday, June 3, (stop by and see us if you are at the festival that day – we will be there until 6 p.m.). We are also trying to coordinate voter registration at the high school graduation rehearsals for Iowa City Liberty, West, and City High on Friday, June 2, at Xtreme Arena. And dates are being set for a second visit to the Coralville Community Food Pantry and the North Liberty Community Pantry. As the events are finalized, the details and sign-up information will be sent to the Voter Registration Committee members. Not a member and want to help? Just send me an email (my email is on page 1 of this *Voter*) and I can add you to the notification list.

Before I sign off, did you see that over 500,000 Iowans had their voter status changed to "Inactive" last month? What does this mean? Registered voters who did not participate in the 2022 General Election were made Inactive. Voters who were inactivated should have received a postcard notice in the mail. Responding to the notice (checking the appropriate box, signing their name, and returning the card) will return these voters to Active status. Any voter on Inactive status can also be returned to Active by requesting an absentee ballot for an election, voting in an election, submitting a new voter registration, or updating their voter registration before the end of the 2026 general election cycle. If you want to check your voter status, just visit the link to the Iowa Secretary of State website here: https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/ regtovote/search.aspx

Looking forward to seeing you at a future voter registration event!

Vicki Aden Voter Registration Coordinator

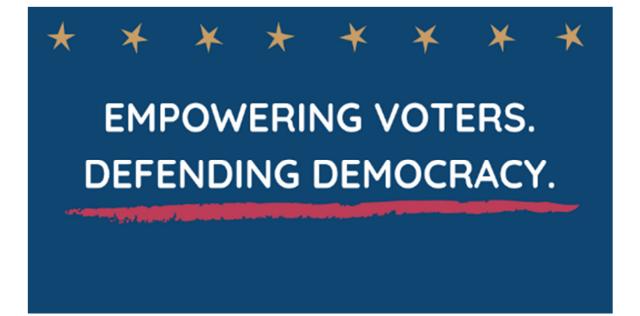


Photo Gallery—LWVIA Defending Democracy







ABOVE: Gaylen Wobeter (right), former LWVJC President, visits with Jessica Rohloff before the meeting.







ABOVE LEFT: Terese Grant, president of the League of Women Voters of Iowa, presented Randy Evans with a *Defending Democracy* Award in April. MIDDLE LEFT: Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President, shares a moment with Terese Grant, LWVIA President, before dinner. RIGHT TOP: Bonnie Pitts (left) visits with a League member. RIGHT MIDDLE: Katie Obradovich, Iowa Capital Dispatch editor, checks for messages before dinner. RIGHT ABOVE: Nancy Halvorson (left) visits with her daughter Vicki.

Photo Gallery



League members had opportunities to visit with Girl Scouts at their Convention on April 15 explaining how women organized and worked hard to win the right to vote in 1920. The discussion included how voters should use their votes and voices to make the government work for all. Photos include Jennifer Patel hanging clothes up, Miriam Timmer-Hackert and Judith Anthill making a V for Vote, and Kiran Patel posing with Carol Clark's pink dress.

Photo Gallery — Coffee Clatter









April 12 Coffee Clatter at Poindexter Coffee participants: Vicki Aden, Eileen Beran, Carol Clark, Syndy Conger, Joan Cook, Susie Corbin-Muir, Cathy Eisenhofer, Bea Hicks, Polly Horton, Connie Stannard, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Paula Vaughan and Gaylen Wobeter. All are welcome to attend these informal gatherings on the second Wednesday of the month at Poindexters Coffee in The Graduate Hotel.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Progra.m.
Friday, April 28	1 - 4 p.m.	Kirkwood Community	Voter Registration
		College, Iowa City Campus	
Monday, May 8	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 10	10 a.m.	Poindexters Coffee	Casual Coffee
Monday, May 22	Noon - 4 p.m.	CommUnity Food Pantry	Voter Registration
Tuesday, May 23	5 - 7 p.m.	Unitarian Universalist	Annual LWVJC Membership and Business Meeting
		Society, 2355 Oakdale	
		Road, Coralville	
Wednesday, May 24	Noon - 4 p.m.	CommUnity Food Pantry	Voter Registration
Tuesday, May 30	2 - 6 p.m.	Coralville Food Pantry	Voter Registration
Saturday, June 3	9 - 6 p.m.	Iowa Arts Festival,	Voter Registration
		downtown Iowa City	
Friday, June 9	11:30 a.m.	Stone Cliff Brewery, 600	Lunch and discussion of the Mississippi River
		Star Brewery Drive,	
		Dubuque, Iowa	
Friday, June 9	afternoon	Galena Public Library,	Steve Repp: History of the Mississippi River
		Galena III.	
Friday, June 9, and		Holiday Inn, Dubuque	LWVIA State Convention
Saturday, June 10			
Monday, June 12	6:30 - 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 14	10 a.m.	Poindexters Coffee	Coffee Clatter conversation
Saturday, July 8	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Monday, July 10	6:30 - 8 p.m.	virtual	LWVJC Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 12	10 a.m.	Poindexters Coffee	Coffee Clatter conversation
Saturday, July 15	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Saturday, July 22	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Saturday, July 29	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Saturday, Aug. 5	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Saturday, Aug. 12	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Saturday, Aug. 19	3 - 7 p.m.	South District Diversity	Voter Registration
		Market	
Tuesday, Sept. 19			National Voter Registration Day

June *VOTER* Deadline May 22 at 5 p.m. for May 26 distribution (the last Friday of the month).

Make plans to attend the LWVJC in-person Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters Johnson County Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 5 - 7 p.m. Business Meeting Agenda

5 p.m. Registration, Social, Dinner Buffet

5:45 p.m. Call to Order: Paula Vaughan, co-president

Introduce Current Board members: Paula Vaughan

Attendance, Roll Call: Paula Vaughan

Budget Committee Report: Hazel Seaba, LWVJC treasurer **League members in attendance VOTE to adopt Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget**

Fundraising Committee Report: Kathleen Kamerick, chair

Nominating Committee Report: Kelcey Patrick-Ferree, chair League members in attendance VOTE to elect officers and directors for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Delegates to LWVIA State Convention, June 9-10, 2023: Miriam Timmer-Hackert **League members in attendance VOTE**

Recognition and Thank Yous: Miriam Timmer-Hackert

Motion to Adjourn Business Meeting: Miriam Timmer-Hackert

6:15 p.m. Introduce Guest Speaker: Susan Enzle, LWVJC Secretary

Guest Speaker: Chris Jones, Ethanol Must Die.

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	Proposed	
League of Women Voters of Johnson County	Budget	Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
	FY24	Background
REVENUE Donations to Operating Funds	\$ 5,000.00	Free will fund raising donations to Oper Fund
	\$ 5,000.00	
Dues	\$ 10,460.00	Primary 127 x \$70 = \$8,890, Household 14 x \$105 =\$1,470, Student 5 x \$20 =\$100
Special Events		
Fall Reception	\$ 400.00	Hills Bank donation; event is free to members
Winter Membership Mtg & Legislators Lunch	\$ 2,000.00	Fees from attendees
Spring Annual Membership Meeting	\$ 1,500.00	Fees from attendees
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 100.00	All income not from other line items
Donations to Education Fund	\$ 2,500.00	Fundraising donations explicitly for state Education Fund
Reimbursements from LWVIA Education Fund Checking Interest	\$ 3,497.00 \$ 20.00	Under new Guidelines: \$3,497.55 (FY23 Ed Fund) may be used to off set Forums, Lectures, VOTE411, and PMP expenses [budgeted forums + lectures =\$3,220]
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 25,477.00	
EXPENSES		
Board/Administrative/Operating		
Fundraising	\$ 350.00	\$260 printing; stamps \$90.
Other Postage and PO Box	\$ 200.00	P.O. Box rent \$166.
Printing	\$ 100.00	Misc printing, not in Fundraising or Voter Registration
Membership	\$ 250.00	venue fee, food, member gifts
VOTER/Newsletter	\$00.00	
eMeetings	\$ 203.40	Zoom License \$16.95 x 12months
Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00	expenses not in other line items
Convention/Council	\$ 2,000.00	LWVUS convention (biennial) 2024
Education		
Voter Services Committee: Forums	\$ 920.00	3 local forums + 3 legislative forums + food
Education Committee: Lectures	\$ 2,300.00	6x\$150 speaker honoraria \$900; 6x\$150 mileage \$900; UI OCOB J Ramos \$500
Voter Registration	\$ 350.00	\$100 for printing, \$250 for event registrations
VOTE411	\$ 500.00	fee to LWVEF, Washington, DC
VOTE411 Marketing	\$ 800.00	Advertisements
UMRRILO (Water Quality)	\$ 25.00	Annual membership
Funds transferred to Educ Fund at LWVIA	\$ 2,500.00	Transfer all funds raised in FY24 to state Ed Fund
Website	\$ 35.00	estimate Domain \$20; WordPress \$15
Per Member Payment		
National PMP	\$ 4,288.00	Primary + Households = (127 x \$32) +(14 x \$16)
State PMP	\$ 4,095.00	Primary + Households + Students= (127 x \$30) +(19 x \$15)
Special Events		
Fall Reception	\$ 1,300.00	Venue \$450; Food \$850
Winter Ann Membership and Legislators Mtg	\$ 2,000.00	Attendees fees cover expense
Spring Annual Membership Meeting	\$ 1,500.00	Attendees fees cover expenses
Transfer to Hills Reserve Fund	\$00.00	50% of end of FY23's margin
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,216.40	
Net +Gain/-Loss	\$ 1,260.60	

Board of Directors Election Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 ** Vote by LWVJC members in attendance

Officers**

Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Co-President, July 1-2022 - June 30, 2024
Paula Vaughan, Co-President, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024
Vicki Aden, Vice-President, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025
Sally Stutsman, Secretary, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025
Hazel Seaba, Treasurer, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024

New Directors**

Rebecca Conard, Education, July 1, 2023 - June 30 2025 Silvia Quezada, Voter Registration, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025 Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025

Continuing Directors**

Jeanne Bancroft, Membership, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024 Bea Hicks, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Kathleen Kamerick, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024 Shannon Patrick, Advocacy, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024

2024 Nominating Committee**

Kelcey Patrick-Ferree, Chair, Julie Wittig, and board-appointed member

Thank you to our retiring board members for their service:

Susie Corbin-Muir, Voter Services, technology Susan Enzle, Secretary Linda Schreiber, Communications Coordinator Alison Smith, Nominating Committee League of Women Voters of Iowa State Convention LWVJC Delegates **Vote by LWVJC members in attendance

June 10, 2023

Vicki Aden Jeanne Bancroft Eileen Beran Cathy Eisenhofer Susan Enzle Barbara Helmick Donna Hirst Jennifer Patel Kiran Patel Kelcey Patrick-Ferree Nancy Porter Miriam Timmer-Hackert Paula Vaughan Gaylen Wobeter Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, alternate

Program Planning**

Vote to approve was taken by LWVJC members in June 2022.

The League believes accurate voting information should be available to all eligible voters. VOTE411 provides important information to register voters online, based on their home address, obtain ballot and candidate information, districts, races, and voting locations. To accurately identify locations and avoid mapping distortion the League's VOTE411 mapping system should be updated using GIS, Geographic Information System, a spacial system that is used to create, manage, analyze and map data and provide reliable mapping to offer voters accurate information. The Google mapping system currently used alters important locations and information. Local 911 Emergency personnel seek a similar localized system to accurately map addresses. Combining efforts may expedite a study process. *The LWVJC membership voted to approve the proposal in June 2022. This proposal will be added to the LWVIA Convention agenda for consideration of a statewide study.*

Dhuha Tawil, chair LWVJC VOTE411.org

The League believes that all governments and public entities within Johnson County should adopt and follow sound fiscal policies including procurement functions. Procurement should be transparent and accountable and identify a specific dollar limit that requires consistent bidding practices of purchases for public entities. The practices of four local governments were reviewed and staff interviewed for the communities of Coral-ville, North Liberty, Tiffin and Johnson County. Purchasing practices and procedures for each entity were investigated and reviewed for adherence and compared to best practices and state law. The League recommends that all governments and public entities review procurement practices to determine transparency and accountability to achieve and ensure a sound fiscal policy is followed. To address accountability, the League supports and recommends undertaking a comprehensive review. The aim of such efforts would ensure transparency and provide residents the confidence that fairness is achieved. *This proposal will be added to the LWVJC Policies and added to the LWVIA Convention agenda for consideration of a statewide study*.

Kelcey Patrick-Ferree, chair Purchasing Practices Study

** These Program Planning proposals were presented at the LWVJC annual membership and business meeting on June 9, 2022. The membership voted to advance the projects to the biennial LWVIA Convention. The LWVIA Convention 2023 will be held June 9-10, in Dubuque, Iowa. This information is presented as a reminder of action taken in June 2022.



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 (11th and 12th weeks)	Debate not limited by rule
MARCH 31	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House
(Friday of the 12 th 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(
	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	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 - 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 [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

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