



The Voter

October 2016

League of Women Voters Johnson County, Iowa

From the President

With just a month until Election Day, what can we still do to make democracy work besides vote? For one thing, we can attend the upcoming candidate race forums that are listed in this month’s calendar and ask questions. Our two chances to do this are coming soon and very close together: the in-state House District 77 forum on Thursday, October 6 from 7 - 9 pm, Coralville City Hall and the U.S. House of Representatives Forum on Monday, October 10 from 2 - 3:30 pm in the Coralville Public Library.

Just as important we must use our persuasive skills to encourage friends, family members, neighbors, and associates to let their voices be heard too, at the ballot box. “Too late!” say the pessimists. “Never too late!” say the optimists. “What difference does it make?” say the dispirited. It is that latter, large group we still need to convince that elections are not tweedle-dee tweedle-dum personality contests; they are events that change the flow of history.

Voting for candidates who informed voters believe have the best ideas about issues can change lives. It can make all the difference in their pocket books, their schools, their health care, the quality of their water and lives. Not voting gives us representatives who do not represent “us.” Voting gives us officials who share our concerns. If each of us inspired one extra person to vote, what a difference that could make!

Voter Services

Come support the League at these important election-year events:

October 6: Candidate race forum for Iowa House District 77 (Candidates Amy Nielsen (D), and Royce Phillips (R)), 7-9pm, Coralville City Hall

October 10: Candidate race forum for Congressional District 2, cosponsored with Task Force on Aging, and LWV Leagues of Muscatine, and Ottumwa, 2-3:30pm, Coralville Public Library (room A). This is a terrific opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Dave Loeb sack (D), and Christopher Peters (R).

November 2: Public education event on Restoration of Voting Rights for Felons presented by Mike Cervantes of Inside Out Reentry Program, 7-9p, Iowa City Public Library (rooms A,B,C)

Inside this issue:

From the President	1
Voter Services	1
Calendar	2
Partnerships	3
Early Voting	4
TIF Studies	5
VOTE411.org	5
Register Voters	6

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Calendar of Coming Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
Monday, October 3	1 – 2:30 pm (lunch at 12)	Wickiup Hill Nature Learning Center – NW of Cedar Rapids	Interleague Board meets (ILO): Clean Up Mississippi Watershed
Thursday, October 6	7 – 9 pm	Coralville City Hall	Candidate Forum, House District 77
Saturday, October 8	10 am – 2 pm	Marshalltown Community College	LWVIA State Issues Briefing
Monday, October 10	2 – 3:30 pm	Coralville Public Library	Candidate Forum, U.S. Rep. 2 nd District
Wednesday, October 12	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Club Moeller, 445 Breconshire Ln	How League Transforms Members
Monday, October 17	12 – 1:30 pm	Iowa City Public Library Rm B	LWVJC Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 25	7 – 8:30 pm	Coralville Public Library	Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club: <i>Souls of Black Folk</i>
Wednesday, November 2	7 – 9 pm	Iowa City Public Library, Rms A,B,C	Felon Voting Rights Restoration (Mike Cervantes, “Inside Out”)
Tuesday, November 8	7 am – 9 pm	Polling Places of Johnson County	ELECTION DAY!
Wednesday, November 9	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Club Moeller, 445 Breconshire Ln	Making Connections: Voting Rights Then and Now
Monday, November 21	12 – 1:30 pm	Iowa City Public Library Rm B	LWVJC Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 22	3:45 – 5 pm	13 Lakeview Dr, NE Iowa City	Centennial Planning Group
Tuesday, November 22	7 – 8:30 pm	Coralville Public Library	Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club: <i>The Promised Land</i>
Wednesday, December 14	12 – 1:30 pm	Elks Club, 637 Foster Rd, Iowa City	League Brunch



How this QR code is used by the LWV Vote411.org website

A QR code is a digital image that stores information in pattern that can then be scanned. Many QR codes will prompt a user's smart-phone to load a specified website. The QR code at left will direct users to VOTE411.org. To use it, one needs a scanning app such as Red Laser which is free from the App Store or iTunes Store.

LWVJC Forms New Partnerships in 2016

This summer was unusually busy for League members. In addition to planning for the annual Fall Reception on August 25 and intensifying voter registration events, the League received three invitations to work together with other agencies or nonpartisan nonprofits to enhance voter turnout on November 8, Election Day.

At the first meeting of the year in mid-July 2016, the League accepted the Iowa City Human Rights Commission's invitation to co-sponsor Voter Information Neighborhood Forums to talk about the who, what, why, how and when of voter registration and voting. The first of those events took place Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Broadway Neighborhood Center, complete with a voting booth provided by the Johnson County Auditor's Office. Others will be announced in October.

Then in mid-August, the League began planning for a joint candidate race forum with the Johnson County Task Force on Aging to be focused on the U.S. House District 2 race between Chris Peters and Dave Loeb sack. This will be held Tuesday, October 10, 2 – 3:30 pm, at the Coralville Public Library. LWVJC had already invited other nearby Leagues to join them for such a debate and Muscatine and Ottumwa accepted. The format of the event will vary slightly with a preliminary question from the Leagues and the Task Force, to be followed by audience questions read by two Iowa journalists, Dean Borg of Iowa Public Television, and Kathie Obradovich of the Des Moines Register. The League will collect, question cards from the audience.

A third creative partnership opportunity came at the very end of August. A unique joint coalition of several area nonprofits has been formed to ensure persons with disabilities have an opportunity to vote during the morning hours on Election Day, Nov. 8. Organizations include: NAMI, ARC, LWVJC as well as Iowa City, the Iowa City Human Rights Commission, Coralville and Johnson County.

Iowa City and Coralville will provide free bus transportation on Election Day for persons with disabilities, and now efforts are underway to provide an assistant at every polling place in Johnson County to help with the voting process.

Organizers estimate the project will require 150 volunteers, and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County is joining in the effort to recruit them.

Volunteers are asked to complete one of the following short training sessions prior to Election Day:

- ☐ Oct. 11 (at Arc of SE Iowa, 2620 Muscatine, Iowa City): 3:30 – 5 or 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- ☐ Oct. 13 (Coralville Public Library, Schwab Auditorium): - 3:30 – 5 or 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- ☐ Oct. 15 (at NAMI (1105 Gilbert Ct., Iowa City): 3:30 – 5 p.m.

To volunteer call Harry Olmstead at [319-855-2666](tel:319-855-2666) or email harryo3@aol.com. For more information, contact Brianna Wills [319-383-1025](tel:319-383-1025) or Brianna.wills@gmail.com. League volunteers, should contact Syndy Conger at syndymc67@gmail.com for tracking purposes.

The League has always worked very closely with the Johnson County Auditor's Office to ensure accuracy in its voter registration services; but there is an exciting new development in that partnership. The League's new online comprehensive voter information site, www.VOTE411.org, has a link on the Auditor's homepage.

Early Voting for November 8 Election

Early voting for the November 8 presidential election begins at 7:45 AM on Thursday, September 29 at the Johnson County Auditor's Office, 913 S. Dubuque St. In-person early voting continues during regular business hours, 7:45 AM to 5:30 PM, through the end of business on Monday, November 7.

The Auditor's Office is also announcing weekend and evening hours and satellite voting locations.

Early Voting at Auditor's Office, 913 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City

Weekdays 7:45 AM -5:30 PM

Thursday, September 29 through Monday, November 7

Evening Hours - Open till 9 PM

Tuesday, November 1

Wednesday, November 2

Thursday, November 3

Weekend Hours

Saturday, October 29, 8 AM – 5 PM

Saturday, November 5, 8 AM – 5 PM

Sunday, November 6, Noon – 5 PM

Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City

Early Bird Day

Thursday, September 29, 11 AM – 6 PM

Saturday, October 29, 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, October 30, Noon-5 PM

Monday, October 31 through Friday, November 4, 11 AM – 4 PM

Saturday, November 5, 10 AM - 5 PM

Old Capitol Town Center, 201 S. Clinton St, Iowa City, 2nd Floor

Friday, October 21, 10 AM - 2 PM

Mary Louise Petersen Residence Hall, 304 Grand Ave., Iowa City

Multipurpose Room - Friday, October 21, 3 - 7 PM

Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N. Madison St., Iowa City, lower level

Monday, October 24 through Friday, October 28, 9 AM – 3 PM

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, 200 Hawkins Dr., Iowa City, Fountain Lobby

Monday, October 24 through Friday, October 28, 10 AM – 4 PM

North Liberty Community Library, 520 W Cherry St., North Liberty

Saturday, October 29, 11 AM - 3 PM

Lucky's Market, 1668 Sycamore St, Iowa City

Sunday, October 30, 11 AM - 4 PM

Boyd Law Building, 130 Byington Rd, Iowa City, Levitt Auditorium

Tuesday, November 1, 9:30 AM - 2 PM,

Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St., Coralville

Friday, November 4, 11 AM - 5 PM

Saturday, November 5, 10 AM - 4 PM

TIF Study Committee to Give Progress Report at State Issues Briefing

State Issues Briefing attendees will receive a progress report from TIF Study Committee members at the League's Oct. 8 meeting in Marshalltown. Chairs Barbara Beaumont (Johnson County) and Lauris Olson (Story County) are expected to report that committee members have expanded their knowledge and understanding of the state law governing this economic development and financing tool. "TIF is not pro or anti. It is multi-faceted, and there are opportunities with legislative leadership to improve this important financial instrument for cities and counties," Barbara said following the September TIF Study Committee meeting.

A report restating the purpose and outlining the study process is in early draft form, Barbara reports. Findings obtained from dozens of interviews will be merged into the narrative. The group is maintaining a schedule outlined early in the study process. The committee plans to have a study report for League members in January 2017 when Leagues across the state will have opportunities to participate, study and refine findings for the published report, which is expected to be released in February 2017.

Since adopting the proposal at the State League meeting in May 2015, committee members have worked to identify and read nearly 40 source documents and interview numerous professionals ranging from elected officials, city, county and school administrators, private attorneys, and representatives from consultants and nonprofit agencies.

At a meeting scheduled for Nov. 18, committee members will develop and finalize plans to introduce the TIF Study through forums and a series of speakers across the state. TIF Study Committee members, representing four Iowa counties – Black Hawk, Johnson, Polk and Story counties, have met numerous times in Marshalltown from September 2015 through September 2016. Members are Barbara Beaumont, committee chair, LWVJC; Kathy Kahoun, LWV Metro Des Moines; Lauris Olson, LWV Ames and Story County; Geraldine Perreault, LWV Black Hawk-Bremer Counties; Karen Person, LWVIA staff; and Linda Schreiber, LWVJC.

Johnson County VOTE411.org is live

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County is providing information about candidate races and voter issues on the League of Women Voter's www.VOTE411.org website. Following months of work, the committee is pleased to announce the site went live in September. Visit www.VOTE411.org and obtain election information you need; find local polling places and candidate election and voting information, and more. Eleven state and local candidates were invited to submit a biography and answer specific questions on their positions.

The LWVJC has engaged in a collaborative effort with the Johnson County Auditor's office to advertise the site on the County web page. Additional upcoming publicity includes posters in local busses, including, CAMBUS, Coralville and Iowa City. An interview with KXIC's Jay Capron is scheduled on National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 27, at 7:15 a.m. with Syndy Conger and Cathy Eisenhofer.

VOTE411.org committee: Syndy Conger, Patty McCarthy, Dhuha Tawil, Linda Schreiber, Polly Horton, Nancy Porter, Paula Vaughn and Cathy Eisenhofer.

Reach out to Register Voters and Get Those You Know to the Polls

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County began its summer/fall voter registration drive in July 2016, and by mid-September the number of registered voters totaled 103. Fourteen events were held with seventeen members participating. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to help, but our work is not over yet. During the month of October the League will reach out to more community groups to offer voter services.

LWVJC, in partnership with the Iowa City Human Rights Commission, will hold several events in communities with relatively lower levels of voter registration and voting in the Iowa City area. The focus will be on voter registration and voter education to ensure that everyone we help is knowledgeable and comfortable with the basics of voting in an election. We try to instill an understanding of why voting is important. Two events are planned so far, and we need volunteers to help. On Friday, October 7 we will be at Pheasant Ridge Neighborhood Center from 3-5:00 pm and on Sunday, October 16 at the New Creations International Church from 1-3:00 pm. Come and make a difference in the community by helping someone discover the power in voting.

Also, as members of LWV, it is incumbent upon us to reach out to family, friends, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, etc., and make sure they are registered and planning to vote in the November 8 election. The Johnson County Auditor's Office is making it so convenient for us to vote by offering in-person early voting starting Thursday, September 29 at their office and at satellite voting sites throughout the county through Monday, November 7. A list of those sites is included in this issue of The Voter on page 4. There is also absentee voting for voters who will be away or want to vote from home. (Note that Absentee Voting requires the voter to request and complete an Absentee Ballot Request Form and return it to the Auditor's Office before a ballot can be mailed out. See Auditor's website for more details.) Of course there is voting on election day at the polling place in your precinct. **For all eligible voters, there is no excuse for not voting.** Spread the word to those you know as to why voting is so important. **A vote is a voice in government.**

Here are ten reasons to vote that you can use if you encounter anyone disinterested in voting in the upcoming election:

- Your vote does count.
- Democracy truly works if we vote.
- If you don't vote, others decide your future.
- You cannot change a situation by ignoring it.
- Voting is power.
- Elections determine leaders and politics.
- Without your vote your voice will not be heard.
- When you don't vote special interests take control.
- If you don't vote, don't complain.
- People have died for the freedom to vote.

Please contact Julie Wittig, Voter Registration Coordinator, at j903greenfields@gmail.com if you can help at one of the October events.