



THE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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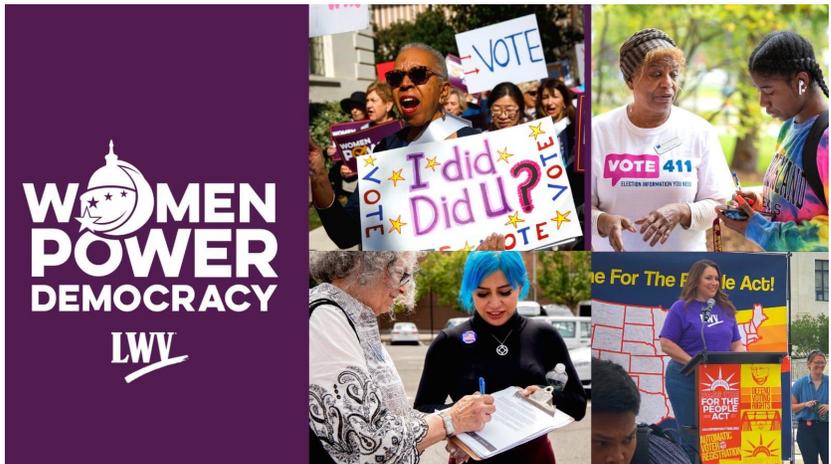
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President's Message

By Terese Grant, LWVIA President

For the past 100 years the League of Women Voters has been advocating for the right to vote in free and fair elections. The work of the League has never been more important. We are facing an election year with new voting laws that were passed in 2021 that have restrictions that will make voting harder for many here in Iowa.

This will mean that the League will need to help educate voters about these changes in addition to all of the work the Leagues always do during an election year: register voters and hold candidate forums. Our local Leagues are already busy doing these tasks and more.

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Petition to Repeal Anti-Voter Laws

Despite a historic Presidential election turnout in 2020, Iowa enacted legislation in 2021 to make voting harder, disqualify voters more easily, and make elections more difficult to administer. League of Women Voters of Iowa supports the ease of voting and will petition lawmakers to repeal sections of Senate File 413 and Senate File 568 when the 2022 General Assembly convenes in January. Please join us by signing our petition: <https://www.lwvia.org/petitions>

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But the LWV of Iowa has decided that this is not enough. We are working with our local Leagues and nonpartisan organizations and asking them to circulate petitions where we ask Iowans to sign their names in opposition to sections of Senate File 413 and Senate File 568. We will plan to present these signed petitions to the Legislature when they convene in 2022 to let them know that many Iowans are opposed to these laws. If you have not signed this petition yet, please use this link: <https://www.lwvia.org/petitions>

By the time you are reading this message, the Legislative Services Agency will have released the first set of redistricting maps, the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Committee will have held three public hearings, and the Legislature will be planning to hold a Special Session beginning on October 5. The Legislature will have an opportunity to vote to either approve or reject the first set of maps. If the first set of maps does not win approval, the LSA would need to draw a second set and perhaps a third and final set of maps. The League will be monitoring this process to ensure that Iowa will maintain the Gold Standard for its nonpartisan process of redistricting in Iowa.

The LWVIA Board is currently working on the set of Legislative Priorities for 2022. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 6, when we will have a virtual Issues Briefing. Our Lobbyist, Amy Campbell, will be our host for that event.

Our mission statement is more important than ever: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

HARD WON NOT DONE™

**19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration
Statewide Closing Event**

**DIVIDED
WE STAND**

Oct. 4 @ 7 p.m.
Scheman Building
Iowa State University

Marjorie Spruill,
historian and author

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Carrie Chapman Catt Center
for Women and Politics

Mississippi River Network Engagement Committee

Mississippi River Network has plans for October clean up days. An easy activity is to volunteer for two miles of highway clean up and include friends.

Have you called and/or emailed your congressperson to request their support for the Mississippi Restoration and Resilience Initiative Act? Take action now at: <https://1mississippi.org/action-center-2/>

Defending Democracy Award Presentation on October 14

League of Women Voters of Iowa will present the annual Defending Democracy Award to Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information about this virtual event!



League of Women Voters of Iowa Fall 2021

Monday, October 4
10:00 a.m. - Noon
LWV UMRR-ILO Governing Board meeting

Monday, October 4
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Should You Drink That? presented by LWV UMRR-ILO

Monday, October 4
7:00 p.m.
Iowa State University - Scheman Building
19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Closing Event

Wednesday, October 13
Auditors mail absentee ballots to voters

Thursday, October 14
7:00 p.m.
LWVIA Defending Democracy Award Presentation

Monday, October 18
Deadline for voter pre-registration for November 2 election

Tuesday, November 2
Election Day

Saturday, November 6
9:30 a.m.
LWVIA Issues Briefing

Saturday, November 20
9:00 a.m.
LWVIA Board of Directors meeting

Monday, December 6
1:00 p.m.
How federal farm policy ended up polluting our waters and creating the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico
Guest speaker: Alan Guebert; presented by LWV UMMR-ILO

If no location is listed, the event/meeting will be held virtually.



On the Road with the Suffrage Wagon

Indivisible Iowa hosted a 19th Amendment Celebration event in the Cedar Rapids area on August 28. It was a huge success!



The suffrage wagon replica was also featured alongside the Hard Won. Not Done. banner in the Iowa State Fair parade on August 11 in Des Moines.



Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times (6.26.21)

Council addressed nonpartisanship under the heading of Building our Power as an Organization, as Individuals, and with our Community.

How does nonpartisanship align with the LWV historical stance on positions?

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization formed to promote responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

The LWV neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for public office. However, the League is a political organization and encourages members to participate fully in the party of their choice.

Nonpartisan messaging does not mean non-political. We work with Elected Officials in a nonpartisan way:

- To advance our advocacy priorities
- To advance our voter access goals

ISSUES are not partisan; Democracy is not partisan; Facts are not partisan.

Use asset framing - consider all sides, value of people, and a positive focus to strengthen the message.

What is good for voters?

Don't directly agree with or oppose candidates or parties

Deciding when we should push back in countering claims:

- Lean on policy and LWV positions
- Letter to Editor corrections
- Use social media
- Ignore small accounts on Twitter and publications with anti-voter messaging.

Read Virginia Kase Solomon's article on the LWV.org site for more detail:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>

New Iowa Election Law Q & A

Information provided by Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor

Q: When do the polls close for the General Election?

A: The polls close at 8:00 pm for ALL elections.

Q: How many days before an election do I need to register to vote if I'm not registered or if I moved, and I want my name to be on the voter register at the polls?

A: 15 days. This is Monday, October 18 for the November 2, 2021 City/School Election.

Q: May I still register to vote at the polls?

A: Yes. You will need both proof of identity (which everyone needs) AND proof of residence.

Q: Will the county auditor send absentee ballot request forms to all voters in the county?

A: No. State law now prohibits this. If you personally request an absentee ballot request form, your auditor will send you one.

Q: Will the Secretary of State's Office send absentee ballot request forms to all voters in the state?

A: No, unless directed to do so by the state legislature during a public health disaster.

Q: Will ANYONE do large mailings of absentee ballot request forms to voters?

A: Probably, at least for General Elections. Political parties and other private organizations are not prohibited from sending them out.

Q: When is the first day that I may request an absentee ballot by mail?

A: 70 days before the election. This is Tuesday, August 24 for the November 2, 2021, City/School Election.

Q: After I send in my absentee ballot request form, when will the county auditor mail me my ballot?

A: The auditor will start mailing absentee ballots 20 days before the election. This is Wednesday, October 13 for the November 2, 2021, City/School Election.

Q: When is the first day I can vote absentee in person at the Auditor's Office?

A: 20 days before the election. You should only vote at the office if you have not requested a ballot by mail. This is Wednesday, October 13 for the November 2, 2021, City/School Election.

Q: When is the last day that I can request an absentee ballot by mail?

A: The county auditor must receive your request form at least 15 days before the election. (For exceptions, see below.) This is Monday, October 18 for the November 2, 2021, City/School Election.

Q: What is the deadline for getting my absentee ballot back to the county auditor?

A: The county auditor must have your ballot by the close of the polls, which is 8:00 pm on election day.

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Q: Won't my ballot be counted as long as it is postmarked before election day?

A: NO. The law changed, and your ballot must be in the possession of the county auditor by 8:00 pm on election day.

Q: When is the last day to vote an absentee ballot in person at the auditor's office?

A: The day before the election. (This didn't change.) This is Monday, November 1 for the November 2, 2021, City/School Election.

Q: May I return someone else's absentee ballot, or may someone else return my absentee ballot?

A: The only people who may return a voter's absentee ballot (we're talking about the **BALLOT**, NOT the ballot **REQUEST FORM**) are the voter, someone living in the voter's household, an immediate family member, or, if the voter is blind or has another disability, or a special delivery agent. (For exceptions and details, see below.)

For exceptions, details, and more law changes, click here for the 2021 Election Law Changes for Iowa Voters, published by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors.

<https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6114/2021-Election-Law-Changes-for-Iowa-Voters>

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION

FREE ONLINE EVENT
Monday, October 4, 2021
6-7:30 PM (Central Time)

SHOULD YOU DRINK THAT? THE UNFOLDING STORY OF PFAS IN OUR LIVES

PFAS: Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances, known as "Forever Chemicals"

**Please join us as our presenters help us understand
how PFAS have become a big part of our lives –
present in food packaging, household products and
drinking water – and what we know about how they
affect our health.**

Register by October 1: <https://tinyurl.com/PFAS-OurLives>

League of Women Voters of the U.S. 2021 Council

By Terese Grant, LWVIA President

This year the themes for the main sessions were “Building our Power through Individuals, Organizations and Communities.” Throughout these presentations there was also a focus on DEI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. There were many great sessions and here is a summary of a presentation I attended.

Working with Unfriendly Legislators

One thing to remember about working with Legislators is that the problem is not always one party against another party. Sometimes the issue is to gain power or maintain the current power.

It is important to remember that in working with our Legislators is that issues are not partisan.

We need to stay grounded in LWV positions that are long standing. Parties may change their support of these issues but the League remains committed to their priorities.

It is important to create a coalition of partners to work together.

Flexing Soft Power vs. Hard Power

Question - What is power?

Power is not a value - it can be used for good or bad

Power isn't stagnant. Organizing is the mechanism to build power (phone calls, forums, membership drives, voter registrations, webinars, etc.)

Power can be viewed as: organized people, organized money, and organized information

Creating an Action Plan to work with Legislators

Assess the causes and identify the specific issues and reasons that makes the state legislature difficult to work with

Create reasonable goals - all bills may not be successful, but other legislation can be agreed upon

Be sure to keep up a good relationship with Legislators, no matter what!

What are our strengths and opportunities within our League?

How do we overcome the bias that we are “left leaning”

What are the roadblocks that we encounter when dealing with our Legislators?

Where do we have potential or advantages in dealing with our Legislators?

Do we have personal relationships with Legislators?

Are Legislators members of the League?

Are there common interests that we share?

Using our “Soft Power” to reach Legislators

Invite Legislators to League Events or Special Events

Find common ground on areas of mutual interest

Contact the office regularly

Subscribe Legislators to newsletters and emails

Thank Legislators when appropriate

Using our “Hard Power” to pressure Legislators

Press releases

Organized constituents and members

Rallies and town halls

Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

Action Alerts

Mis- and Dis-Information

Workshop during the LWVUS Council June 25 & 26, 2021
 Attended by Linda Meloy, LWVIA Board Member

Media – social or otherwise – seems plagued of late with mis- and dis-information that organizations like the League are working hard to dispel.

Mis-information is false information provided with **no intent to do harm**, such as when the writer or speaker has misunderstood information presented to them and passes it on.

Dis-information is false information provided **with the intent to do harm**, such as knowingly providing unfounded, false, or misleading information (such contributors are known as bad actors).

How do you **spot it**, particularly online?

1. Consider the source, i.e. a strange URL;
2. Check the date, i.e. is it old news;
3. Cross check information in reputable news sources;
4. Read past the headline, i.e. “get the whole story”; and
5. Question emotionally charged content.

How do we in the League **combat it**?

1. Never quote or repeat the bad information, but refer to it, such as “some bad actors are making false claims about _____.” And don’t provide “myth vs. fact” statements since that approach just spreads the myth.
2. Focus our communications on providing the correct information (inoculation messaging), including trustworthy sources such as Factcheck.org., Politifact, SciCheck, Snopes, and the Washington Post Fact Checker.
3. Report and block at reportdisinfo.org. Common Cause can also get bad information removed.
4. On social media, don’t click or share and don’t engage publicly (if someone you know is sharing bad information, contact them privately and ask them to take it down).



