

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF IOWA

## THE VOTER

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### LWVIA ATTENDS JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

“The Road to Enfranchisement: Advancing Rights Restoration,” a symposium on voting rights for individuals with felony convictions sponsored by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, was attended on September 11 by two members of the LWVIA Criminal & Juvenile Justice Committee, Myrna Loehrlein, chair, and Karen Person, immediate past-chair. Seen in the photo above are participants from Iowa, left to right, Drew Kline, Americans for Prosperity; Person; Daniel Zeno, ACLU of Iowa; Heather Stratham, NAMI-Iowa; and Loehrlein. See page 8 for information on advocacy for restoration of voting eligibility.

### LWVIA CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

January 11, 2020, 10 am, LWVIA Board of Directors meeting, Cedar Rapids

February 3, 7 pm, Iowa Caucuses

February 14, 1-5 pm, 19th Amendment Kickoff Event, ISU Memorial Union

February 19, Virtual Lobby Day - Lobby from home

March 11, 9:30 am, LWVIA Capitol Day

March 14, 10 am, LWVIA Board of Directors meeting, Ames

April 25, 10 am, LWVIA Board of Directors meeting, Iowa City/Coralville

June 6, LWVIA Council, Comm. Foundation of NE Iowa, Cedar Falls

June 25 - 28, LWVUS Convention, Washington, D. C.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### IOWA IS GOLD STANDARD FOR REDISTRICTING

from Terese Grant, LWVIA President

The state of Iowa has been the nation's "gold standard" for the reapportionment process for the last 40 years. Did you know that the LWVIA played a role in getting the state redistricting maps drawn in a non-partisan way? Not only was the League instrumental in the passage of an Iowa constitutional amendment on reapportionment in 1968, but in 1970, the LWVIA, led by President Jean Lloyd-Jones, and three other organizations challenged the 1971 redistricting plan drawn by state legislators. The Court upheld the challenge since it was obvious that the legislator-created plan had been gerrymandered, so a new plan was devised by the Court. The Iowa Legislature in 1981, with encouragement and input from the League, added statutory provisions for creating re-districting plans every 10 years thereafter, a task assigned to the non-partisan Legislative Service Bureau (now Agency). The current process of drawing redistricting maps based on the previous year's census data has worked well across all these years and a Court challenge has not been needed.

The LWVUS has initiated a **People Powered Fair Maps Campaign** that will assist Leagues across the nation to obtain a non-partisan redistricting process in their states to eliminate gerrymandering of voting districts. On

October 10 - 11, League representatives gathered in Washington, D.C. for a symposium to hear from experts on how to develop strategies for fair redistricting processes and best practices for a successful redistricting campaign.

I represented the League of Women Voters of Iowa in D.C. and your LWVIA Board supported being part of this campaign in the months ahead to ensure that the redistricting process in Iowa remains non-partisan. In order to do this, we will need help from every local League and its members. Not only will we monitor the 2020 legislative session for any attempts to change the statutory aspects of our reapportionment process, but we will also develop a campaign to educate the citizens of Iowa on the importance of participating in the 2020 census. The information gathered in the census will have an immediate impact on redistricting, as well as in the amount of population-based federal assistance that comes back to the state of Iowa.

We look forward to working together in the coming months. Stay tuned for the details and be ready for action in the **People Powered Fair Maps Campaign!**



In October, President Grant attended the **People Powered Fair Maps Campaign** in Washington, D.C. She is pictured above left to right with LWVUS staff members Christina Davis, Special Projects Manager; Celina Stewart, Senior Director of Advocacy and Litigation; and Priya Pandey, Legislative and Policy Coordinator.



Yours in League,  
Terese

# 2020: OPPORTUNITY FOR LEAGUE TO PUBLICLY CELEBRATE WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

by Doris Kelley, Chair, Iowa's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee

The 2020 calendar year is just around the corner whereby all states will commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. LWVIA and its 11 League Chapters have a historic opportunity to help their neighbors recognize 2020 as the "19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration" plus increase public awareness of the League's goals, objectives and planned activities.

Fifteen other agencies and institutions are co-sponsors with the League on Iowa's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration and all agreed 19th Amendment-related endeavors will occur between January 1 and December 31, 2020. In the first week of January 2020, League members need to take a leadership position and present their area city mayors and council members and regional county Board of Supervisors with a Resolution (already available on website: <https://19th-Amendment-Centennial.org>), which declares 2020 as the year of Iowa's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration.

Additionally, League members should now be posting the date and location of their 2020 calendar year 19th Amendment-related projects on the website for the entire state to view. Plus, by all Leagues using the official trademarked theme and logo ("Hard Won -Not Done" with the female symbol and voting checkmark) in news/press releases about their 19th Amendment-related activities, we will drive the same message to all Iowans -- versus using a different theme and logo, which will only confuse Iowa citizens.

All Leagues should be contacting their area libraries and art and history museums to apprise them of your willingness to assist them in promoting the 19th Amendment during the year 2020. While all of Iowa's

1,110 libraries, art and history museums are aware of this historic 100-year anniversary event, having a local partner (i.e., LWV) may be the boost they need to have your League name as a sponsor of book readings, book exhibits, guest speakers and artifact displays. Leagues should also be contacting area service organizations (e.g., Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, religious groups, etc.), volunteering to give a 20-minute presentation regarding the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. (A six-minute video explaining the statewide project is on the website ready-to-go-and-show).

All affiliate League presidents (or their designee) have had an opportunity -- since 2017 -- to attend the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee meetings so as to be "in-the-know" and apprise their members of statewide activities. Since 2017, 15 different not-for-profit organizations, agencies and institutions throughout Iowa have collaborated with the LWVIA and its

11 League Chapters and planned 28 different statewide projects and activities that are educational, historical, community and cultural in nature for the purpose of educating citizens on the ideals embodied in the 19th Amendment.

The website <https://19th-Amendment-Centennial.org> is the best resource for League members and fellow Iowans to become informed of the 28 projects and activities planned for 2020. Examine the website and become a catalyst for your League, community and county to become activists for Iowa's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration.

Questions regarding activities related to Iowa's upcoming 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote may be directed to Kelley; #515-988-2344 and [DJKelley@cfu.net](mailto:DJKelley@cfu.net).



Save the Date: Feb 14, 2020, 1 - 5 pm  
19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration  
Statewide Kickoff Celebration  
Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames

The logo for the League of Women Voters of Iowa features the letters "LWV" in a large, bold, blue font. To the right of "LWV", the words "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, with "OF IOWA" centered below it. A thick, red, brush-stroke-like line sweeps across the bottom of the "LWV" and underlines the text to the right.

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF IOWA

## 2020 STATE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

- ★ **Automatic reinstatement of voting rights for people with felony convictions upon release from incarceration.** Iowa and Kentucky are the only states to permanently ban all individuals with a felony conviction from voting unless rights are restored by the Governor. Legislators need to take immediate action to begin the process for a constitutional amendment to be presented to the voters in 2022.
- ★ **Protect Iowa's redistricting process.** The "Iowa Model" ensures that there is a balanced, fair, and non-partisan approach to redrawing the political landscape.
- ★ **Increase the state sales tax to create a stable, sufficient, and dedicated funding source for water quality.** The Legislature needs to ensure REAP is fully funded at no less than \$20 million.
- ★ **Build on Iowa's successful bottle redemption law** by adding other non-carbonated beverages, doubling the deposit, and increasing handling fees that go to redemption centers. Stores should not be allowed to opt out of the collections; instead the Legislature should use unredeemed deposits to incentivize partnerships with redemption centers.
- ★ Ensure reliable and sufficient funding for the state's **regional mental health and disability services system**, including funding for the new core services for those with complex needs and children.
- ★ Guarantee access to comprehensive women's **reproductive health services**.
- ★ Ensure **Medicaid** services are comprehensive and accessible throughout the state without unnecessary administrative burdens.
- ★ Fully fund all levels of **education**, including childcare, preschool, K-12 education, community colleges, and Regents institutions.
- ★ Address the income cliff for **childcare assistance** and ensure quality and safety with better oversight and enforcement of unlicensed and unregulated childcare homes. Working families should not be forced to choose between safety, affordable childcare, and job advancements.
- ★ Provide greater judicial flexibility in sentencing by eliminating **mandatory minimum sentencing** and penalty enhancements that do not contribute to public safety.
- ★ Protect and support victims of sex and labor trafficking and adopt policies to prevent **human trafficking** and build public awareness.
- ★ Oppose reinstatement of the **death penalty**.
- ★ Enact **gun safety laws** that encourage responsible gun ownership, give law enforcement greater authority to deny licenses, ensure background checks are conducted prior to any purchase, and protect children from gun violence.
- ★ Support the adoption of state strategies to address **climate change**.
- ★ Make Iowa a welcoming place for **immigrants and refugees**.

# LEAGUE SIGNS ON TO LETTER SUPPORTING A MORATORIUM ON FACTORY FARMS

**Letter from Food & Water Watch, signed by over 80 organizations including LWVIA, and to be presented to members of the 2020 Iowa Legislature**

Dear Iowa General Assembly Member:

The undersigned organizations urge you to support enactment of a legislative moratorium on new and expanded factory farms in Iowa.

Iowa's water pollution problems have reached crisis levels. Our state's hog factory farms, also known as concentrated animal feeding operations, alone produce 22 billion gallons of manure annually. The manure produced on Iowa's factory farms would fill Iowa's tallest building, the Principal Building in Des Moines, 2.3 times every day. No longer a valuable fertilizer, this manure is applied to fields at rates that far exceed crops' ability to absorb them, and the excess runs off into already polluted rivers and streams. As a result, agricultural pollution has damaged more than 1,000 miles of Iowa's rivers and streams and over 59,000 acres of its lakes, ponds and wetlands.

High levels of nitrates from factory farm pollution threatens both aquatic species and the health of those who drink from the tap. Des Moines Water Works, the largest water utility in Iowa, consistently struggles to provide safe drinking water to Des Moines residents due to excessive amounts of nitrates from factory farms upstream. Des Moines famously has one of most expensive nitrate removal systems in the world, but it is far from the only place in Iowa with unsafe drinking water. In 2015, nitrate pollution, which has been linked to certain cancers, birth defects and other diseases, exceeded federal limits in 11 of the state's public water supplies. More than 200 of Iowa's community water systems struggle with high nitrate levels.

The rise of factory farms has resulted in a steep decline in Iowa's independent family farms. Between 1982 and 2007, the number of hog farms in Iowa plunged by 82 percent, while the average number of hogs per farm rose from just under 500 to just over 5,000 — a 10-fold increase. And this pork isn't ending up on the plates of Iowa residents. Pork is the second most exported commodity in the state of Iowa. In fact, Iowa is the top pork exporter in the country, sending close to \$2 billion in pork to countries

abroad. Iowans are burdened by the impacts and the pollution this industry generates while the pork— and the corporate profits— leave our state.

Officials in both rural and urban counties are fighting to protect their residents. Nearly 25% of Iowa counties have passed resolutions in favor of stronger local control or a legislative moratorium because they recognize they have very little control in the permitting of new or expanded factory farms. The “Master Matrix,” a scoring mechanism intended to give communities input, is so weak that in its 15-year existence all but 2% of proposals have passed. A passing score on the Master Matrix is 50% — an “F” by any other standard.

This industry and its unchecked expansion are wreaking havoc on family farms, communities and drinking water. A moratorium will give legislators and regulators an overdue opportunity to evaluate the public health, economic and societal impacts of factory farms while providing Iowa's communities with important statutory protections from further expansion of this industry.



We urge Iowa Senators and

Representatives to co-sponsor and support legislative proposals for a moratorium on new and expanded factory farms in Iowa.

Sincerely,  
League of Women Voters of Iowa  
and over 80 other organizations

*Food & Water Watch and Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture* invite LWVIA members to join them for a Factory Farm Moratorium Lobby Day on Thursday, January 23. Training will begin at 9 a.m. at the Wallace Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines. After training, attendees will head over to the Capitol across the street for a rally and lobbying. To RSVP, go to: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mG9Trsv5ylmlkSRJW6Fs2oehHk4Z6jFrRe3IKsOHGQ4/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mG9Trsv5ylmlkSRJW6Fs2oehHk4Z6jFrRe3IKsOHGQ4/viewform?edit_requested=true)

# YOU'RE INVITED TO SENECA FALLS!

## "FACES & PLACES - A JOURNEY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS" SPONSORED BY AMES & STORY COUNTY LWV

by Linda Hagedorn, Ames & Story County LWV President, & Betty Baird, Story County 19th Amendment Chair

You are invited to join the League for a motor coach tour of historic sites on the Hudson River, including the Roosevelt Museum and Eleanor's private cottage retreat. From there, journey to the Finger Lakes region and Seneca Falls, home of early suffragist activities and the first Women's Convention. See Harriet Tubman's home and visit the National Women's Hall of Fame. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home is on the schedule for Rochester, and finish with a stop at beautiful Niagara Falls. Meet new friends from across Iowa and sample good food and wines of Upper New York State.

**Registration forms must be returned by January 1, 2020.** For more information, including cost, complete itinerary and registration forms, contact:

Marcia Thompson  
515-451-9639  
marciat\_ames@yahoo.com

Carolyn Klaus  
515-231-0857  
candjklaus@aol.com

### Itinerary:

- Day 1 - May 11: Ames – Des Moines – Iowa City to Toledo, Ohio
- Day 2 - May 12: Toledo, Ohio to Poughkeepsie, New York
- Day 3 - May 13: Poughkeepsie to Hyde Park, New York
  - Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park
  - Eleanor Roosevelt cottage at Val-kill
  - Vanderbilt Mansion
  - Overnight back in Poughkeepsie
- Day 4 - May 14: Poughkeepsie to Hyde Park to Seneca Falls
  - Culinary Institute of America tour
  - Kinderhook – home of Martin Van Buren and Lindenwald
  - Drive to Seneca Falls (3.5 hours)
  - Overnight in Seneca Falls
- Day 5 - May 15 - Seneca Falls
  - Tourism Center and Museum
  - National Women's Rights Historical Center/Park
  - National Women's Hall of Fame
  - Overnight in Seneca Falls
- Day 6 - May 16: Seneca Falls/Auburn
  - Harriet Tubman sites in Auburn
  - Choices - Cayuga Museum, Seneca Cayuga Canal, It's a Wonderful Life Museum, or shops and stores
  - Overnight in Seneca Falls
- Day 7 - Seneca Falls to Rochester, New York
  - Susan B. Anthony House
  - Eastman Museum
  - Lighthouse
  - Casa Larga Winery
  - Overnight in Rochester
- Day 8 - May 18: Rochester to Buffalo, New York to Toledo, Ohio
  - Niagara Falls
  - Overnight in Toledo
- Day 9 - May 19: Toledo, Ohio to Ames, Iowa



**Above: Inez Milholland Boissevain speaks at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. The Convention, organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is the beginning of the women's movement in the United States.**

This trip has been planned as part of the Ames & Story County LWV commemoration of the 19th Amendment Centennial, representing 100 years in which women have had the right to vote.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO LWV METRO DES MOINES

On November 9, the Metro Des Moines League received the NAACP Des Moines' 2019 Community Organization Award "for your commitment to protecting democracy, enhancing equality, and increasing voter participation and civic engagement." Shown in the photo left to right receiving the award are League members John Olsen, Metro DM president Teresa Bomhoff, Christie Gerken, Hannah Olson, and Holly Olson.

## LWVIA DEVELOPS CRITERIA FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Individuals living in Iowa and interested in League membership are generally encouraged to join local Leagues where they can attend local educational meetings on issues, participate in local advocacy efforts, and help with voter registration drives. However, the LWVIA Board recognizes that this can be difficult in areas where there are no local Leagues. **Member-At-Large (MAL)** is now available as LWVIA membership for individuals not living near one of Iowa's eleven local Leagues – Ames/Story County, Blackhawk-Bremer, Dubuque, Grinnell, Jasper County, Johnson County & Quad Cities Unit, Linn County & Mt. Vernon Unit, Metro Des Moines, Muscatine, Ottumwa, and Sioux City.

Individuals may pay the membership dues on-line through PayPal and provide information to LWVIA including email, address, and phone. LWVIA Member-at-Large will receive the following benefits:

1. Communications from LWVIA, such as The Voter, messages from our lobbyist, and informational emails, as well as all communications from LWVUS, such as League updates and Action Alerts;
2. Participation in any LWVIA events, such as Issues Briefings, Leadership Development, and Lobby Days at the Capital;
3. Participation in any local League events where travel is possible;
4. Participation in League State studies and/or serve on State committees;
5. Attendance at State Conventions (odd-numbered years) and Council (even-numbered years), with the possibility of being a voting delegate; and
6. Attendance at National Conventions (even-numbered years), with the possibility of being a voting delegate.

We encourage all prospective Members-at-Large to review League Bylaws and to specifically read carefully the League Non-partisan Policy as part of an orientation to the organization.

Information source on Members-at-Large: [lwvia.org](http://lwvia.org) - Bylaws, particularly Article III Section 2., a.2., Article VI Section 2.; and Article VIII Section 2. b. and c. and Section 4. Information sources for League's Non-partisanship Policy: [lwvia.org/league-basics-bestpractices](http://lwvia.org/league-basics-bestpractices) (page four) and [lwws.org/league-management/bylaws/bylaws-and-certificate-incorporation](http://lwws.org/league-management/bylaws/bylaws-and-certificate-incorporation), particularly Article II Sec. 2 Political Policy.

For questions about MAL or non-partisanship, contact LWVIA Treasurer – Linda Meloy, [lmeloy3@gmail.com](mailto:lmeloy3@gmail.com)

**Find the MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP link for submission online at [lwvia.org](http://lwvia.org)**

# CONTACT STATE SENATORS RE RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

from the LWVIA Criminal & Juvenile Justice Committee, Myrna Loehrlein, Chair

Current law in Iowa prohibits voting for life for individuals with felony convictions, unless the individual completes an application to the governor who can then restore voting rights. This is done on a case-by-case basis. House Joint Resolution 14 (HJR14) is a bill introduced in the 2019 Legislature by Governor Kim Reynolds to amend the Iowa Constitution (Article II, Section 5), to take out the phrase “infamous crime” and allow felons to vote after they have “discharged their sentence,” including any probation or parole.

On March 28, 2019, HJR14 was passed by the Iowa House with bipartisan support - 95 yes votes, two no votes, and 3 absent or not voting. HJR14 was then passed in a Senate subcommittee meeting in April, but it was never put forward to the full Senate Judiciary Committee or the full Senate for votes.

Under Iowa law, a Constitutional change must pass two successive General Assemblies and then be ratified by a majority of the electors voting at an election designated by the General Assembly. Since a General Assembly is two years and 2019 was the first year of the 88th General Assembly, HJR14 is still alive for the 2020 legislative session but must pass through the Iowa Senate, or the entire process must start from scratch in the 2021 legislative session.

This bill is supported by the Governor and the Iowa House. It is supported by religious groups such as the Iowa Catholic Conference, the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church, Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, and the Family Leader. It is supported by progressive groups such as ACLU of Iowa, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP, Iowa Justice Action Network, and LULAC of Iowa, and conservative organizations such as Americans for Prosperity. It is also supported by League of Women Voters of Iowa. A coalition group of over two dozen organizations called Restore Votes Iowa (website [restorevotesiowa.com](http://restorevotesiowa.com)) has formed and we are working together with national groups such as the Brennan Center for Justice and Voting Rights Lab toward ending Iowa’s disenfranchisement laws for individuals with felony convictions.

So what’s the hold up in the Senate about? The biggest concern appears to be the meaning of “discharged their sentence” in the Constitutional Amendment. Some Senators have expressed concern that restoration of voting rights should not be granted until all fines, fees and restitution to victims are paid.

So why is that a concern? Restricting the right to vote to payment of all fees creates a two tiered democracy - those whose wealth allows them to pay off all fees so they can vote, and those where skyrocketing legal obligations cause them to lose voting rights far beyond the time they are released from incarceration, parole and probation. Here are more reasons why League wants you to contact your state Senator in favor of HJR14:

- Kentucky and Iowa are the only two states that permanently ban individuals with felony convictions from voting, and Kentucky’s governor-elect has promised to sign an executive order giving the vote back to more than 100,000 people impacted by the ban. This will leave Iowa as the worst in the nation for disenfranchisement of its citizens.
- There currently exist 90,000 names in Iowa’s felon data base of individuals who are prohibited from voting. However, the data base has been found to have extensive errors, and Secretary of State Pate has received HAVA monies to review the 90,000 entries individually. With additional staff, he hopes to complete these reviews for accuracy by the November, 2020, election. If Iowa should restrict the constitutional amendment to those with full payment of fees, fines, and restitution, it will further complicate the felon data base process as it will often be after the individual has been released from prison, parole, or incarceration.
- There are ten’s of thousands of individuals living, working and paying taxes in Iowa’s communities who are disenfranchised. Shouldn’t we support those who are working to rebuild their lives by giving them a voice in their communities and their state?
- The 24th and the 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution bar the use of poll taxes in voting. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1966 stated, because “[w]ealth, like race, creed, or color, is not germane to one’s ability to participate intelligently in the electoral process,” the Court found that poll taxes constitute invidious discrimination against individuals based on socioeconomic status.
- Iowa disproportionately incarcerates African-Americans which means they are also disproportionately represented among those who have lost their vote. This can also impact jury pools making it less likely that defendants receive a trial of a jury of one’s peers.

**Please contact your State Senator re restoration of voting eligibility for individuals with felony convictions. If sending email, please blind copy Myrna Loehrlein at [myrnaloehr@gmail.com](mailto:myrnaloehr@gmail.com)**