



The VOTER

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

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Fall Forums Scheduled on Public Power & City Candidates

Should Iowa City Have Public Power?

Mark Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 pm on your calendar now.

That is when the Sierra Club, Environmental Advocates, and the League of Women Voters are hosting a forum on the public power referendum.

Jim Larew will speak for The Citizens for Public Power, and Terry Smith will represent MidAmerican Energy. The meeting will be held in Meeting Room A of the Iowa City Public Library.

The November 8 referendum questions will be:

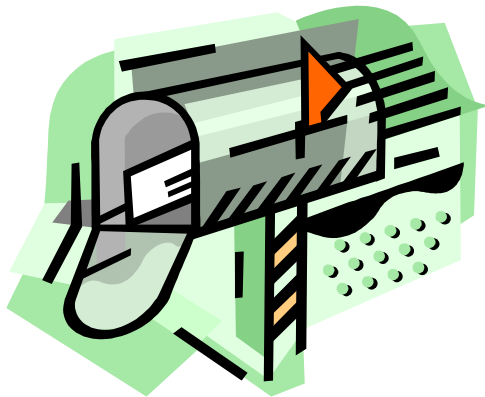
1. Shall the City of Iowa City in the County of Johnson, Iowa, be authorized to establish as a city utility an electric light and power plant and system?
2. Shall the management and control of an electric light and power plant city utility be placed in a Board of Trustees consisting of five trustees as provided by law

Come listen to the speakers and make up your mind. None of the sponsoring organizations has developed a position on this issue.

Turn to page 3 for the Candidate Forums schedule

CO-Presidents' Letter

The past year has been a busy and productive year for our League and for the Board. We would like to thank the Board, the Regional Government Committee and all the members who made our efforts successful. A



special thank you goes to Rebecca Reiter, Ann Bovbjerg, and Jean Lakin who will be leaving the Board and a special welcome to our new Board members Alison Smith, Naomi Schedl and Helen Burford. Pat Ephgrave has done an excellent job preparing and editing the Voter and Nancy Lynch deserves credit for our successful fund raising effort.

We have begun planning fall and winter meetings. We will start with a forum on the Public Power Referendum for Iowa City on Sept. 20 and a Candidate's Forum Primary Elections on Sept. 28.

Your Board has initiated a program of monitoring our various regional government entities. The Regional Government Committee will continue to monitor entities such as JCCOG and ECICOG while members have begun to monitor the Supervisors, Coralville's Council, and North Liberty's Council. Please contact Pasquale Cancilla or Pam Stewart if you are interested in assisting with our reviews.

In addition to monitoring Coralville's

Council, Audrey Moeller continues to review Affordable Housing and has expanded the effort to all of Johnson County. An update is planned for the future.

Our general membership meeting will be held on Dec. 3 from 9:30-11:30 AM at the Coralville Holiday Inn. An initiative on Electing Women to Government Positions is being planned for presentation at the meeting.

Other items for future consideration will be Renewing the Voters Rights Act some of which is due to expire in 2007, a possible program on voting machines, legislative forums for January through April, and updates on regional government. Steve Atkins, Iowa City's manager has proposed a Metro Agenda for Johnson County which we will be following.

Let us know if there are other items for your Board to be considering. Please plan on attending our forums and our meetings as we continue our work this year.

Pasquale Cancilla and Pam Stewart

Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters
of Johnson County

The League Presents Candidate Forums

What do you know about the upcoming city elections?

This fall elections for city councils and one mayor will be held. September 1, 2005 is the last day for filing(which is after this writing) , and candidates may withdraw up to September 6th.

Depending on the number of candidates, Iowa City, Shueyville, and University Heights will have primary elections on October 11th. September 30th is the Voter Registration Deadline to vote in these primaries.

In Iowa City, all city council

Primary Candidate Forum
Wednesday September 28
at 7 PM in Room A of the
Iowa City Public

candidates will receive an invitation to take part in Forums sponsored by The League of Women Voters.

The first forum, if there are enough candidates, will be on September 28th. Questions may be asked by the audience; the forums will be televised and played back on Channel 4 Television.

And on October 26th, the LWVJC will sponsor a forum for final candidates for the three offices, the two at-large seats and one District B seat for City Council. e Iowa City Public Library, Room A from 7-9 PM.

General Election Candidate Forum:

Wednesday October 26
At 7 PM in Room A of
Iowa City Public Library

Remembering a Champion Legislator

Minnette Dodderer, long time legislator, friend of women and the under privileged and former League member, died August 12th 2005.

Born in Allison, Minnette Doderer and her siblings were--like most of us at one time or another--taunted by the teasing sing-song of other children. Min's father sold beer, and the chant she heard was "Beer mug!" But, unlike most of us, Minnette turned her unpleasant childhood experience into compassion for all those who are subjected to discrimination, and dedicated her adult life to their defense and protection. It would be hard to think of anyone who has done more than Minnette to improve the human rights of so many people enabling legislation that enhances the lives of newborn babies, children, women, state employees, prisoners, and those with mental illnesses or physical challenges.

Minnette's political and legislative achievements span some thirty-one years, as a member of both the Senate and the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Iowa, and as a candidate for lieutenant governor.

She organized the Women's Caucus in the state legislature, and helped lead the campaign for the Iowa ERA. She has played a vital role in legislation improving retirement, benefits, and collective bargaining for public employees and of comparable-worth pay legislation. She supported legislation on campaign spending and financial disclosure, updated city government, reorganization of state and county boards of health, marriage, and inheritance, making tangible reality of her concern for the ways in which the people of Iowa can be governed well. Her long and honorable legislative service was recognized many times by many different advocacy groups such as the Association for Business and Professional Women, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence, the Iowa State Education Association, and the Midwest Race and Sex Desegregation Assistance Centers.

Minnette Doderer's life of concern, her knowledge of the needy, and her concrete efforts to effect worthwhile change will be long remembered.

Pam Stewart

The Progress of HAVA in Johnson County

Have you heard of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)? It was passed in 2002 by Congress to help states replace punch card and mechanical voting machines, administer elections, train officials, educate voters, set up fraud hotlines, and improve accessibility of voting systems for persons with physical disabilities or limited language proficiency.



Johnson County Election Commissioner Tom Slockett said that HAVA requires all states to have voting equipment that will meet the new standards and be in place by December 31, 2005. Appropriations have lagged badly, causing purchases by most voting jurisdictions to be behind schedule. This puts them in a sellers' market regarding equipment models and price.

Funding to Comply with HAVA

Mr. Slockett reported the State of Iowa received 29 million from the federal government, and with other funds will spend a little over 31 million divided as follows:

Voting systems	18,271,830
ADA Accessible Voting Place	241,224
Program Management	855,000
Contingency Funds	2,034,611
Training & Education	3,325,000
Provisional Voting	5,000
Voter Registration System	6,575,000

Johnson County, with 57 precincts, will receive \$635,180.

Voting Equipment Certified by the State of Iowa

In April of 2005, the Iowa State Board of Examiners certified for use the ES&S touchscreen, optical scan, and high speed counter machines, plus appropriate software. Other vendors under consideration are Diebold and Sequoia. The state is relying on an Independent Testing Authority for certification that these systems meet federal standards. (Note: The standards apparently do not address the compilers, operating systems, or security procedures, just the accuracy and reliability of the machines and their software. Preventing such issues as a "Trojan horse," which hides a sub-program to be activated after the voting has begun, is primarily the responsibility of the programmers.)

Johnson County Investigates Voting Equipment

Mr. Slockett explained the counties' task is to decide on a voting system (preferably state certified or in the process of so being, in order to take advantage of state master contracts), purchase the equipment, and then receive it by December 31, 2005. Counties are responsible for the security of the machines, memory cards, voting procedures, and poll workers, and the security of results and their conveyance to the Commissioner.

Johnson County, the Mr. Slockett noted, is looking primarily at Precinct Count Optical Scan

Johnson County will have a Voter Verified Paper Trail for the Optical Scan Machines and an internal paper audit for the Direct Response Electronic Machine

Systems plus a single Direct Response Equipment vote system (DRE) in each precinct for ADA accessibility. Every precinct will have several optical scanners, which would allow a marked ballot to be verified by the voter before being read and tallied in an optical reader. There will be one DRE to handle voters with disabilities, and also to back up the ballot supply for each precinct. HAVA requires DREs to have an internal paper audit trail. "Second chance" voting capability, or the ability to correct a ballot, is required for both systems. There is a Voter Verified Paper Trail (VVPT) from the optical scan but not the DRE machines. Results from the DRE and Optical Scan tallies will be phoned in, with safeguards. The machine-printed tallies and the

ballots will be secured and delivered by hand.

Procedures for Early Voting and Challenge Ballots

Mr. Slockett said absentee or early voting ballots will be screened and counted by a high-speed counter in the county election headquarters on election day. Challenge or provisional ballots will be available at every precinct. These are individually sealed and delivered to the Commissioner. If accepted by a bi-partisan review board, they are counted and added to the preliminary totals.

New Voter Registration System

HAVA will improve Iowa's voter registration process by replacing Iowa's 99 different county-based systems with one new system: the I-VOTERS system. It integrates voter information from all state and county offices, so that the data are current, accurate, and efficiently managed. The State of Iowa has contracted with SABRE to develop this voter registration system.

Training Administrators & Poll Workers for HAVA

The training of election officials has begun under the State Election Administrator Training (SEAT) program. Auditors and Election Officials have planned a statewide training program to include: 1) an interactive teaching curriculum, 2) take-home materials for Poll Workers and Election Officials for review and election day reference, and 3) a video/DVD with vignettes

of some of the most common challenges poll workers face and how best to manage them. These materials will be available to County Auditors in early fall 2005 with poll workers to be trained before the 2006 elections.

The League of Women Voters has strongly supported all the provisions of HAVA, although it differs from Johnson County in that the League prefers the use of DREs and the avoidance of VVPTs.

Patricia Ephgrave

Leaguers Celebrate Voting Anniversaries

On August 6, 2000, Johnson County League of Women Voters joined the Celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 85th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the implementation of the Help America Vote Act, appropriately held in the beautiful Iowa State Historical Society building.

The event was organized by the "Celebrate Voting " Partners:

Secretary of State Chet Culver
Iowa State Historical Foundation.
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Iowa Civil Rights Commission
NAACP State Conference
Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics
ID Action
League of Women Voters of Iowa.

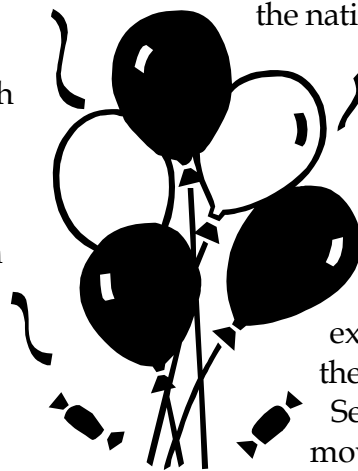
Our members: Pat and Dwight Jensen, Pasquale and Enid Cancilla, Audrey Moeller, Rebecca Reiter, and Pamela Stewart attended this very moving celebration.

From the Opening solo sung by Simon Estes to Chet Culver's summary of the

increased registration of Iowa voters-- bringing our percentage to the highest in the nation. From the hilarious and poignant speech and poetry of Nikki Giovanni (who had us laughing with and at ourselves) to the glorious singing of young men and women. From the Children's Mock Election to Interactive exhibits and story telling. From the Voting Rights panel with Senator John Culver, who spoke movingly about being in Congress when President Lyndon Johnson made his famous speech on the Civil Rights movement, to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. From the quiet spoken Native American from Tama who spoke of their reverence for land and the elements, to the Grand Finale when Simon Estes reminded us that the Native Americans had their country stolen from them, which we must never forget. To the choir led by Simon Estes to a grateful audience joining in to sing the National Anthem, it was a remarkable Celebration of Anniversaries! Wow I actually sang with Simon Estes!

The day was moving ,informative, and I for one had a feeling of pride in the accomplishments of our country, all the more poignant in the light of present times.

Pamela Stewart



***Five Iowa City School Board
Candidates in Forum***

Sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization and the Cedar Rapids Gazette, candidates will discuss issues

When: Tuesday, September 6th

Where: Iowa City School Administration Bldg.

Time: 7-9 PM

***School Board Elections and Bond Vote
in Johnson County on September 13th***

Place	N. of seats	Ballot issues
Iowa City	3	Kirkwood bond
Clear Creek/ Amana	3	Kirkwood bond
Lone Tree	2	physical plant/equipment levy and Kirkwood bond
Solon	1	physical plant/equipment levy and Kirkwood bond

2005 FINANCE DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

Listed in the Order Received

Ruth Davison
Jean Eckstein
John and Penny Balmer
Ann Bovbjerg
Patricia Ephgrave
Ann Shires
Hartwig Motors
Rhoda Vernon
Polly and Armand Pagliai
Jean Lakin
Iowa Book LLC
Miriam Canter
Leah Cohen (Bo-James)
Dottie Ray
Michael and Dolores
Kattchee
George and Mirriel Bedell
Rod Sullivan/Melissa Fath
Betty Erickson
Blank & McCune
Sally Stutsman
Bob and Maggie Elliott
Katherine Moyers
David Leshtz
Larew Law Office
Rebecca Reiter
Mary Gantz
Jan and Kenn Hubel

Aletia Morgan/David
Redlawsk
Stephen West/West Music
Co.
Helena P. Ponseti
Enid and Pat Cancilla
Janice and Jacob Sines
Margaret Richardson
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Charles Davidson
Marita McGurk Eicher
Cathy Johnson
Linda and Sam Levey
Claudine Harris
Frank and Gail Zlatnik
Linda Kerber
Virginia Stamler
Susan and Sandy Boyd
George Mather
Kevin O'Brien/McDonald's
Rest.
Marilyn Holland
Pat Harney
Kathy and Jim Clifton
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Margery Hoppin
Joyce and Dick Summerwill

Jo Catalano
Yvonne McCabe
Otilie Blodi
Pamela and Derek Willard
Mark Ruggenberg/Robert
Brooks
Barbara Beaumont
Pamela Stewart
John and Carolyn Gross
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Connie Champion
Verne and Patricia Kelley
Joe Brisben
Albert and Jean Hood
Dee and Carrie Norton
Carol and Gerald Nordquist
David Braverman Found.
Naomi Novick
Nora Steinbrech
Nancy Thayer
Maile-Gene Sagen
Ann Feddersen
Mary and James McCue
Dorothy Paul
K. Penningroth/L. Anderson
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LWVJC CALENDER September - December 2005

SEPTEMBER

- 6 - Board Meeting, Iowa City Public Library Room E @ 4 PM
- 13 - Iowa City School Board Election
- 20 - Membership meeting and Public Power Forum. Welcome to new members followed by a discussion of Public Power by Jim Larew and Terry Smith. Refreshments will be available. Iowa City Public Library, Room A @ 7 PM.
- 28 - General Meeting -Forum for primary candidates for the Iowa City Council. ICPL, Room A @ 7 PM

OCTOBER

- 3 - Board Meeting, ICPL, Room E @ 4 PM
- 11 - Iowa City Primary (if required)

- 15 - LWV Legislative Issues Briefing, West Des Moines Public Library. Contact Pasquale Cancilla for information at 644--2807

- 26 - General Meeting, Candidates for Iowa City's Council Election , ICPL, Room A @ 7 PM.

NOVEMBER

- 7 - Board Meeting, Iowa City Public Library Room E @ 4 PM
- 8 - Election Day
- ? - General Meeting, TBA

DECEMBER

- 3 - General Meeting. Brunch at the Holiday Inn, 9:30-11:30 AM
- 5 -- Board Meeting, ICPL, Room E @ 4 P

Welcome To New Members of LWVJC

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