

Legislation Appendix to *And They Persisted...A Century of Impact by Iowa Leagues (2020)*

League of Women Voters of Iowa and its local Leagues have worked diligently across almost one hundred years for better government policies for all Iowans. Here are the 324* laws and constitutional amendments that the League alone or in collaboration with other organizations worked to pass. Chapter 8 is a narrative presentation of these laws. Included in that chapter as well as in this list are bills that the League helped to defeat. Those defeated bills were contrary to League positions that had been established by the League’s study and action process (Chapters 5 and 6).

*Bills passed during the 2021 Legislature session added and not part of the above count or narrative.

Children and Families	
Year Passed	Description
1923	SF 513 prohibited milk additives such as coconut oil
1923	Authorized participation in the federal Sheppard-Towner Act regarding maternity and infant care
1924	Establishment of a Child Welfare Commission
1924	Adoption laws updated in the Iowa Code
1927	Adoption laws updated in the Iowa Code
1932	Five-day waiting period for marriage licenses, then repealed in 1933
1935	Three-day waiting period for marriage licenses with health examination
1939	Required reporting and testing of pregnant women for venereal diseases
1941	Another pre-marital health bill (blood test)
1943	Aid to Dependent Children program established
1945	Legislature passed appropriations for mental health facilities
1946	Adoption laws updated in the Iowa Code
1947	Legislature passed appropriations for mental health facilities
1950	Adoption laws changed to include sealed adoption records, six to twelve months living in adoptive home before adoption, and private adoption hearings
1950	Allowed voluntary commitment to a state hospital for treatment of mental illness
1951	Allowed voluntary commitment to a state hospital for treatment of alcoholism
1953	Margarine tax repealed and sale of colored margarine legalized
1965	Legislation provided family planning services only to a targeted population

1965	Legislature created a state committee on mental hygiene and its composition and functioning
1966	Child abuse defined in Iowa Code
1967	Closed juvenile court proceedings to the press
1967	State funding for foster care of abandoned children
1970	HF 1251 put restrictions on the labor of children under twelve
1971	Restrictions on the labor of children under sixteen
1974	SF 569 mandated licensing of daycare centers serving seven or more
1975	SF 434 provided funding of daycare centers to support low- and middle-income families
1975	Legislature funded the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development
1975	SF 223 and HF 332 established services for the deaf
1975	Updated legislation regarding definition of juvenile delinquency
1975	Legislation defined "child in need of assistance"
1975	County boards allowed to spend federal mental health funds without a referendum
1976	HF 1048 prohibited jailing juveniles for traffic offenses
1977	Immunizations required for school entry
1978	Package of juvenile justice reforms: decriminalizing running away from home; removal of skipping school and incorrigibility as status crimes; and detention limits for children who had not committed a crime
1982	Parent, not child, removed from home in cases of incest
1985	Child safety seat legislation
1986	Decentralized health care for pregnant women and other individuals receiving welfare benefits
1991	Legislation requiring inspections of childcare providers
1994	School dropouts required to return to school or training of some kind in order to obtain a driver's license
1994	Established grants to communities for development of local tailored mental health programs
1994	Established breakfast programs in schools with more than 35 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches
1996	Increase in funding for daycare centers
1996	Mandated insurance coverage for specified lengths for maternity stays ("drive-by delivery bill")

1996	Additional fines for sales of alcohol to minors
1997	Legislation setting ratios of adult caregivers to children in daycare centers
1997	Supported increased reimbursement rates for registered and licensed daycare providers
1997	SF 515 authorized peer review courts
1997	Increase in federal poverty level cutoff to 125 percent
1997	Warning against domestic abuse to be placed on all Iowa marriage license certificates and applications
1998	Legislation established a school-ready grant program for the age zero-five population
1998	Hawk-i Children's Health Care passed
1998	HF 2110 required single-pack cigarettes to be placed behind store counters
1998	HF 2275 required nursing homes to conduct criminal background checks of prospective employees and monthly nursing home reports cards on compliance to state regulations
1999	HF 204 banned promotional giveaways in concert with the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products
1999	SF 300 helped defeat bill that would have prevented nursing home violations from being made public
2000	Increase in federal poverty level cutoff to 140 percent
2000	Updated laws regarding the ratio of providers to children and the minimum size of facilities, per child
2000	HF 2362 established Domestic Abuse Death Review Team
2000	Legislative action for the use of federal tobacco tax monies for health care
2000	SF 2193 established Senior Living Program/Trust Fund, which established services to better meet the care needs in one's senior years
2002	Updated legislation regarding maximum number of children in registered daycare centers
2002	Prohibited smoking in areas used by children during the hours of operation of a childcare facility
2002	Preserved the \$55 million federal tobacco settlement for Iowa
2003	Mandatory background checks for previous sexual abuse charges for all childcare workers
2004	Supported the Healthy Families HOPES grant program
2005	Legislation required mental health parity in insurance coverage

2007	Increase in cigarette taxes with monies used to pay for health care
2008	Increased funding for family planning services
2012	Healthiest Child Initiative Implementation Plan passed
2012	Modernized criminalization of HIV transmission
2012	Three-phase redesign of portions of the state's mental health delivery system introduced
2013	Legislature doubled funding for domestic violence and sexual assault victim services
2013	Expanded Medicaid after passage of the federal Affordable Care Act, which created the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan; mandatory critical and congenital heart disease screening and vision screening for children
2013	Three-phase redesign of portions of the state's mental health delivery system refined
2014	Increase in federal poverty level cutoff to 145 percent with a minimum work threshold
2016	Established ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Accounts
2017	Helped defeat the Medicaid work requirement
2017	Legislation requiring stronger government oversight of the privatized Medicaid system
2017	Provided diversion options for juveniles who committed delinquent acts
2017	Mandated annual suicide prevention training for school employees and teachers
2017	Legislation encouraged the development of an array of integrated mental health, disability, and substance use disorder services for individuals with complex issues
2018	Mental Health Complex Needs regulations (HF 2456)
2018	HF 766 allowed mental health service regions to use other county funds to backfill any funding shortfall
2019	HF 758 expanded access to Medicaid for pregnant women who have legal protected status
2019	SF 589 added five years to the statute of limitations for sexual assault of a minor by a therapist, counselor, or school employee
2019	New funding for juvenile delinquency prevention (SF 615)
2019	HF 690 established a regionally managed children's mental health system with new core services

2019	SF 334 helped defeat a bill requiring lowans receiving public assistance to work
2019	Changes in Department of Human Services funding (HF 766)
2019	Medicaid oversight provisions (SF 2418)
1970s	Additional changes to adoption laws: father along with mother to participate in relinquishing process; simplified process to gain access to records when child of age; and full, mandatory investigation of adoptive parents prior to completion of the process
1980s	Physical abuse outlawed in schools; statute of limitations for sexual abuse extended
1980s	ADC program name changed to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), as well as DHS policy allowing for a man to live with a qualifying family without loss of benefits
1980s	Moped safety legislation
1990s	Emergency Assistance Program created
2021	SF 619 – (1) supported the policy of lifting the earnings cap on the child and dependent care tax credit contained in this omnibus bill, as well as (2) the policy that mandates private insurers pay equally for the treatment of a mental health condition whether delivered virtually via telehealth or in an office
2021	HF 891 – supported the policy of increasing funding for adults with disabilities living in their communities, nursing home reimbursements, pediatric health care for children with autism and other conditions within this bill
Education	
1921	Accepted a federal act to provide for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation
1931	Dropped population limit for districts offering pension benefits for public school teachers
1936	Lowering of the age for compulsory education from seven to six
1937	Allowed school boards to loan textbooks to students free of charge
1939	Allowed districts to rent textbooks to students
1939	Set minimum wage for public school teachers
1943	School funding (HF 300)
1946	Created director of special education position in the Department of Public Instruction

1946	Authorized state aid to districts for transportation costs
1946	Authorized supplemental aid for educational programming
1946	Teachers' pay differentiated by type of teaching certificate held and college credits earned
1946	Allowed for the creation of county school districts, to encourage consolidation
1950	Specified greater refinement of the functions of county school districts
1953	Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System replaced the Iowa Old-Age and Survivors' System
1957	Permitted a school superintendent to serve more than one school district
1962	Authorized Board of Regents to construct buildings/facilities for comfort and welfare of students
1965	Allowed joint county school districts
1969	Mandated special remedial reading, as well as speech and language services, for students in need
1971	Established the School Foundation Program, which based state aid on school district enrollment
1974	Established fifteen Area Education Agencies
1987	SF 2094 set up a task force on adolescent pregnancy and mandated development of a K-12 human growth and development curriculum
1988	Human growth and development curriculum accepted
1989	School finance legislation that provided avenues for achieving greater equity for Iowa students (HF 535)
1998	Provided funding for a variety of coordinated services for the birth-to-five population
2000	Increased funding for Community Empowerment programs
2002	Provided an additional \$1.2 million for English as a Second Language classes for schoolchildren
2008	Added provisions to assist school districts in maintaining fiscal responsibility
2009	Use of federal funds (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Education Fiscal Stabilization)
2009	New program funding, such as that for dropout prevention
2017	Helped defeat bill that would have allowed school vouchers for non-public school attendance

2018	Helped defeat HF 2162, which would have limited federal funding for family planning and sex education
2019	HF 766 provided funding for community colleges to assist students with English as a Second Language and for refugee assistance
2021	HF 868 – supported the policy for increased funding for health professional recruitment and school-based mental health services through AEAs
Environment	
1965	HF 412 established a Water Pollution Control Commission
1970	HF 1198 created a Fertilizer and Pesticide Review Board
1970	SF 666 created a Department of Natural Resources Management
1973	Soil Conservancy Act
1975	SF 289 provided \$1 million to the Energy Policy Council for research and development
1975	SF 419 allowed the Department of Environmental Quality and the Energy Policy Council to advise if requested by a city, county, or private agency operating a sanitary disposal system
1975	HF 736 required carriers of hazardous waste to notify police if they were involved in an accident
1975	SF 314 created new regulations for strip mining operations
1977	HF 210 set up the mechanism for the Temporary County and State Land Preservation Policy Commission
1978	Renewable Beverage Container Act, effective 1979
1979	Establishment of a Solid Waste Disposal Commission
1980	HF 2561 set up an interagency coordinating committee under the State Soil Conservation Committee
1980	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
1984	Handling and disposal of hazardous substances (HF 2099)
1987	HF 643 prohibited underground gas storage tanks within city limits
1988	HF 2441 established a state-administered insurance fund to cover repair of damage from leaking tanks
1988	Iowa Groundwater Protection Bill (HF 631)

1988	Forced those responsible to pay for cleanup of pollution
1989	Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Act (HF 753)
1989	Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program established
1990	Comprehensive energy efficiency bill (SF 2403)
1991	Regulations for medical waste disposal added to Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Act
1991	Recycling and Waste Reduction bill
1993	Established that the state would administer the federal Clean Air Act
1997	Agricultural Drainage Well Bill
2002	Livestock Confinement Bill
2008	Required septic tanks to be inspected when property is sold
2009	Surface Water Protection and Flood Mitigation Act (HF 756)
2015	Doubled funding for water quality, created a three-year pilot project to collect in-field practices data
2017 (2018 & 2019)	Defeated attempts to get rid of the “bottle bill”
2017	Legislature increased funding to \$282 million more over twelve years (for 2015 water quality pilot project)
2018	Water Quality Initiative (SF 512)
2021	HF 862 – Supported the part of this bill that restores funding for lake restoration/water quality and recreational trails; increased funds for Water Trails and Low Head Dams, and state parks, along with a new appropriation to community forestry to repair derecho tree damage
2021	Status quo on the bottle bill (Renewable Beverage Container Act of 1978); no resolution of SF 470 and HF 814
2021	REAP – sunset extended from FY 2023 to FY 2026, but no increase in funding (remains at \$12 million when original statutory funding was set at \$20 million)
Good Government	
1923	Consolidation of agriculture entities into one Department of Agriculture
1923	“Tuck Law” for county boards of supervisors; don’t spend more than available funds and bonds needed to be passed by vote of citizens
1935	Merit system used for selection of public employees
1937	Passage of the Municipal Civil Service measure

1937	Iowa State Planning Board established
1947	Guaranteed right of employees to join unions
1954	Council-manager form of government for municipalities
1955	Creation of Legislative Research Bureau
1962	Supported constitutional amendment on judicial selection based on merit
1963	Helped defeat Shaff Plan for reapportionment
1964	Supported constitutional convention proposals to be submitted to voters for ratification
1966	Creation of Iowa Office for Planning and Programming to replace the State Planning Board
1967	Helped defeat a resolution on redistricting that could have led to gerrymandering
1968	Supported a constitutional amendment on annual sessions of the Legislature
1968	Supported a constitutional amendment on item veto by the governor for appropriation bills
1968	Supported a constitutional amendment on size of the General Assembly and setting its own compensation
1968	Supported a constitutional amendment on home rule powers to cities
1968	Supported a constitutional amendment on reapportionment provisions
1968	Creation of sixteen area-wide regionally oriented planning districts
1968	Cities and counties allowed to enter into contracts for services with each other
1969	Residency requirement included in election laws reform (SF 665)
1969	Establishment of Legislative Service Bureau
1970	Supported a constitutional amendment on single-member legislative districts
1972	Supported a constitutional amendment on four-year terms for governors and lieutenant governors
1972	Supported a constitutional amendment on removal of unfit judges
1972	Supported a constitutional amendment on repeal of prohibition against lotteries
1972	Home Rule Act
1974	Supported a constitutional amendment to repeal allocation of county fines to school districts or libraries

1974	Supported a constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature the power to call itself into special session
1975	HF 431 established the Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission
1976	HF 1076 allowed the adoption of optional forms of county government
1978	Supported a constitutional amendment on county home rule
1978	Open Meetings and Records Law
1978	Prisoner Employment Program established
1981	Procedural provisions for the redistricting process
1982	Establishment of Iowa Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
1983	School district reapportionment (SF 485)
1983	HF 628 incorporated all county finance measures into one comprehensive law
1983	Established a year-round, full-time General Assembly public information officer
1984	Revitalized the Iowa Interstate Railroad
1988	Supported a constitutional amendment on electing the governor and lieutenant governor as a team
1988	HF 278 allowed counties to establish a charter commission to recommend one of several alternative forms of county government to voters for their approval
1991	SF 505 set penalties for candidates who do not abide by campaign spending limits
1991	Allowed for the consolidation of local governments
1991	Allowed bond issues for public buildings to be approved by a simple majority
1992	Helped defeat Tax Payers' Rights Amendment
1992	Government Ethics and Lobbying Bill
1994	Driver's Privacy Protection Act
1998	Helped defeat bill that would have reinstated the death penalty
1998	Supported a constitutional amendment adding "and women" to Rights of Persons section
1999	Improvements to the Iowa Campaign Finance Law
2000	Consolidated the state's six criminal and abuse registries into a single database
2001	Opposed cuts in funding to the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board

2001	Supported reforms related to campaign contribution transparency
2003	Creation of Legislative Services Agency
2003	Reduced mandatory minimum sentences for certain offenders
2007	Subcommittee meetings announced in advance
2007	Mandatory electronic filing of campaign finance disclosure statements
2007	Prohibited car title loans
2008	Required people who have 527 PACs (political action committees) to reveal their supporters and spending
2010	State government reorganization to improve public accessibility
2010	All independent campaign expenditures allowed only with candidate's knowledge
2010	Foreign nationals prohibited from making independent campaign expenditures
2010	All independent campaign expenditures above \$1,000 must be reported within forty-eight hours
2010	Worked to defeat Mid-American Energy's proposal to collect money from ratepayers for a feasibility study for a nuclear power plant
2011	Updates to open meetings and public records legislation
2011	All lobbyists required to file reports electronically
2012	Opposed bill that would shift the cost of building a nuclear power plant to ratepayers
2013	Helped defeat major changes to the Judicial Nominating Commission and judicial retention
2013	Opposed repeal of "Smart Planning Principles" in urban planning
2017	Helped defeat bill that would have reinstated the death penalty
2017	Helped defeat a constitutional amendment to require a supermajority of the Iowa Supreme Court to be in favor of declaring a law unconstitutional
2017	Change to asset forfeiture laws
2017	Consumer protection bill
2017	Opposed a federal mandate to take away drug offenders' driver's licenses

2018	Helped defeat HF 2114, which would have made public the immigration status of a person charged with a crime
2018	Helped defeat bill that would have reinstated the death penalty
2018	Helped defeat pro-payday lending legislation (HF 2485)
2018	Helped defeat HF 2064, which would have allowed money transfer service fees and income tax credits for payday lenders
2018	Helped defeat a constitutional amendment dealing with the Iowa Supreme Court
2018	Helped defeat a constitutional amendment dealing with term limits for elected officials
2018	Helped defeat a constitutional amendment dealing with General Assembly rules
2018	Helped defeat a constitutional amendment dealing with Marsy's Law/crime victims
2019	Helped defeat bill that would have reinstated the death penalty
2019	SF 634 required cities and counties to have extra public hearings and certify levies with a supermajority vote if the combined total of those levies increased by more than 2 percent
2019	Multiple criminal justice reforms, including allowing judges to oppose mandatory minimum sentences (SF 589)
2019	Increase in funding for offender re-entry program (SF 608)
2019	SF 2177 banned fees for consumer credit freezes
1980s	SF 457 prevented the weakening of finance disclosure requirements
	Supported civil service system (merit plan) for state employees
	Supported reorganization of the departments of Social Service and Revenue within the executive branch
	Supported a unified court system
2021	Support for the HF 867 policy for broadband expansion in needed areas of the state with the accompanying policy bill HF 848 specifying speed only; League supports affordability a need as well
2021	HF 424 – a bail forfeiture bill that gives individuals an extra 60 days to turn themselves in before bail is forfeited (150 days total), along with permission for

	judicial consideration of all facts in determining whether to set aside judgement – League’s Justice Committee worked hard on this!
2021	Supported the stand alone bill that was related to the final tax bill that increased the funding for the housing trust funds used for local affordable housing and homeless programs
2021	Emergency medical services (EMS) becomes an essential purpose with tax level authority
Human Rights	
1925/26	Struck the word “male” from the Iowa Constitution (defined who could serve in Legislature)
1933	Helped defeat bill that would have discriminated against women in public employment
1935	Helped defeat bill that would have discriminated against women in tax-paid positions
1937	Helped defeat bill that would have discriminated against women’s employment on the basis of kinship and marital status
1965	Unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin in housing, employment, credit, education, and public accommodations
1969	Eliminated requirement that complaints against realtors and landlords be accompanied by a \$500 bond
1972	Unlawful to discriminate based on age and physical or mental disability
1972	Established Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
1974	Eliminated requirement for a corroborating witness in order to obtain a conviction of rape
1975	Bill required all sample ballots in the state to have one-half the names feminine
1975	Bill to remove practices of sex bias in prisons
1975	Prohibited auto insurers from refusing a policy renewal because of the insured’s sex
1975	Eliminated language in criminal code related to judges’ instructions in rape trials
1976	Any wording in the Iowa Code affecting the legal status of women was removed or amended

1976	Unlawful for banks and savings and loan associations to reject mortgage loan applications within a specific geographic area because of the location or age of the property
1976	"Adequate resistance" eliminated as prerequisite for rape conviction
1982	Removal of masculine pronouns from Iowa Code and other official state documents begun
1983	"Comparable worth"
1984	HF 591 stated the General Assembly could not pass a bill that uses gender as a differential basis for treatment
1986	Bill mandating gender equity on state boards and commissions
1989	Marital rape illegal
1992	Prevented rape victims' names from being made public without permission from the victims
1993	Broadened the definition of those covered under the domestic abuse statute
1996	Affordable housing bill included \$1 million to help communities set up housing trust funds
1997	Helped defeat the attempted dismantling of the Commission on the Status of Women
1997	Department of Economic Development responsible for establishing local housing assistance program
1997	Added domestic abuse wording to back of marriage licenses
1997	HF 420 mandated pre-employment checks for health care facility employees (elder abuse protections)
1998	Added "and women" to the Iowa Constitution (Constitutional Amendment 45)
2000	Equity between men and women for insurance coverage for contraceptives (SF 2126)
2002	Broadened the definition of those covered under the domestic abuse statute to include "intimate partners"
2002	Allowed a person seeking relief from domestic abuse to use the address of a shelter or other agency as a mailing address for purposes of filing a petition or obtaining utility services
2006	Legislation made human trafficking a felony in Iowa
2007	Sexual orientation added as a protected category to Iowa's Civil Rights Code

2007	Increased minimum wage
2009	Bill mandating gender equity and minority appointments on local boards and commissions
2012	Helped defeat a stand-your-ground gun law
2015	Helped defeat liberalization of Iowa gun laws
2016	HF 2064 reduced mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders
2016	Established the Office to Combat Human Trafficking in the Department of Public Safety
2017	Helped defeat the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (SF 2154/HF 2209)
2017	Narrowed the gap between crack and powder cocaine sentencing
2018	Helped defeat the “bathroom bill”
2018	Helped defeat HF 2114, which would have made public the immigration status of a person charged with a crime
2019	Helped defeat another “bathroom bill”
2021	HF 452 addresses illicit massage businesses and sets new penalties for owners who rent to human traffickers
2021	HF 862 – support for a human trafficking hotel/motel/training system, which was a part of the bill
Voting Rights	
1923	SF 359 regarding time periods for applying for an absentee ballot and for the auditor to provide it
1923	SF 350 regarding the handling of absentee ballots if voting machines are used and who deposits and registers them
1926	Legislation to safeguard primary elections for both regular and absentee voters
1927	Helped defeat a bill that would have required voting in the preceding primary in order to vote in the general election
1927	Repealed the act establishing separate ballot boxes for women and men (HF 465)
1927	Made voters’ registration permanent until they were no longer a state resident
1971	Thirty-day durational residency in the state for voting in all elections
1971	Helped defeat a bill that would have required dependents’ voting residence to match their parents’

1973	Election law revisions, including mandatory training for election officials
1975	Polls open until 9 p.m. (HF 700)
1986	Independents and members of minority parties could serve as nonpartisan mobile registrars (SF 590)
1994	"Motor Voter Bill"
2002	Required county commissioners of elections to post a sign stating "Vote Here" at polling places
2004	Grant matching for Help America Vote Act
2004	New voting regulations for secretary of state
2007	Same-day voter registration
2007	Allowed seventeen-year-olds and people not affiliated with a party to serve on election boards
2007	Required a paper trail for voting machines
2008	Limited special elections by cities, counties, and school boards to four days per year
2008	School board elections would be held every other year, saving money for the school district
2008	Terms for school board members increased from three to four years
2009	County auditors could convene special precinct election boards
2012	Helped defeat a voter ID law
2016	Electronic online voter registration
2017	Required post-election audits
2017	Seventeen-year-olds allowed to vote in primaries if they would be eighteen by the time of the general election
2017	Worked with Secretary of State's Office to minimize impact of voter ID law (HSB 93)
2019	HF 692 required county auditors to subscribe to U.S. Postal Service bar code tracking system to track absentee ballots