

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA
2026 Council Agenda
Saturday, June 6, 2026
Reiman Gardens, Ames, Iowa

- 9:00 – Registration begins
Enjoy Suffrage display from Slater Museum
- 9:30 – Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:45 – Keynote Speaker
“The Third Way: Teaching Civics in Polarized Times”
Dr. Kelly B. Shaw, Professor Political Science
Cyclone Civics, Co-Chair
- 10:45 – Demonstration of Citizens Handbook to Schools and Community Organizations
Dr. Linda Serra Hagedorn and Carolyn Klaus
- 11:15 – Report and Video from Lobbyist Amy Campbell
- 11:30 – Advocacy - Election 2026
SJR 11 Constitutional Amendment
Kylie Spies – Common Good Iowa
- 12:00 – Lunch and Round Table Discussions
- 1:00 – What is your advocacy plan for 2026-2027?
- 1:15 – Call to order – Business Meeting LWVIA by President Oppelt
Introduction of Officers, Directors, Past Presidents
Credential Report by Ames
Adoption of Agenda
Appointment of Parliamentarian
Approval of Minutes of 2025 Convention
- 1:40 – Current Year Financial Report and New Budget Presentation- Shannon Patrick
- 1:50 – Report of UMR
- 2:00 – Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers

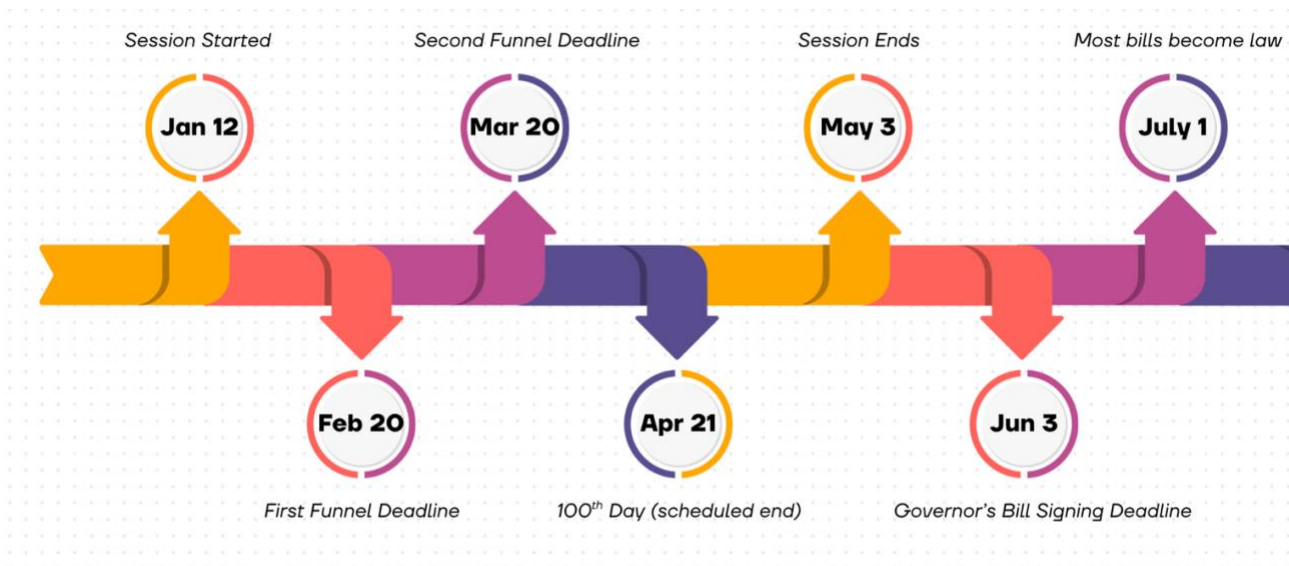
2:15 – Directions to the Board

2:30 - Adjournment



2026 End of Session Review | May 22, 2026

The Iowa Legislature ended on May 3 (12 days overdue). During the 34-hour weekend marathon of lawmaking, legislators sent all 10 budget bills and 38 policy bills to the Governor.



Out of the 1,791 bills introduced this year, only [197 bills](#) made it to the Governor's desk (11%). The Governor line-item vetoed four budget bills and vetoed five other bills.

2026 Iowa Legislative Session



1,791 bills introduced



197 sent to Governor



192 signed*

*Five bills were vetoed and four budgets were line-item vetoed

Policy Bills Sent to Governor

The [LWVIA Bill Tracker](#) is updated as the Governor acts on bills. You can read more detailed descriptions of these bills in the tracker. All bills are effective 7/1/2026 unless otherwise noted.

Voting

- ☑ [HF 2501](#): Clarifies that all laws that apply to “election day voting” include when a person votes in person early at a satellite voting center or county election office. Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to be immediately notified of any local or state investigations into county election officials, and the Governor to be immediately notified of investigations of the SOS. **Cancels voter registration of any voter whose registration is incomplete/pending/unconfirmed after 90 days** if the election official has been unable to contact the voter and the voter failed to submit requested information. Substantially changes recount boards for public measures, consolidating recount responsibilities under the county commissioner and staff, and modifies recount petition thresholds for public measures requiring a 60% affirmative vote. Centralizes local and school election filings, objections, and contest processes with the county commissioner of elections instead of city clerks or school board secretaries, standardizing deadlines and procedures. **Removes the ability for voters to establish identity by attestation from another voter in their precinct**, tightening voter ID requirements. *Signed*
- ☑ [HF 2601](#): Prohibits **foreign nationals** from contributing to or influencing ballot issue campaigns, either directly or indirectly (election misconduct).
- ☑ [SF 140](#): Prohibits **satellite voting locations** on school property if there is a school-related bond, levy, or program on the ballot. Clarifies that prohibition of candidate materials being visible around voting locations applies to public ballot measures as well.
- ☑ [SF 2218](#): **Adds a new oath affirming US citizenship on voter registration forms**. Requires the SOS to use the SAVE system to verify citizenship of all on the voter rolls annually using the SAVE system (and all new voters monthly). Requires the SOS to share findings with county election officials, who are to mark these voters “unconfirmed” and send them a letter asking for documentation (with cancellation after 90 days if not cured). Makes violation of the new citizenship oath election misconduct. Requires all educators licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners to provide proof of legal residency/citizenship prior to licensure and renewal. Requires all public employers (state government, legislature, Regents, school districts, townships, counties, cities) to use **E-Verify** to verify citizenship/immigration status for all new employees. Requires all professional licensing boards to use the **SAVE** system to verify citizenship and legal status before issuing or renewing a professional license. Individuals have 10 days to appeal a denial, and employers have 7 days to decide on the appeal (agency decisions are considered final). Requires all employers to share failed checks with ICE). Requires cities and school boards also use E-Verify for newly hired staff. Private employers are prohibited from hiring or continuing to employ someone who provides a false social security number (\$10,000 civil penalty per incident; four or more violations shut down a company’s operations in the location of the violation).

Transparency & Civics

- ✓ [HF 2231](#): Creates a new **Seal of Civics Excellence Program** to recognize student excellence in civics (similar to the existing Seal of Biliteracy). The Department of Education will determine criteria for this, including demonstrated knowledge of American government and participation in civic or community activities.
- ✓ [HF 2490](#): **Modernizes open meeting and public record laws** by requiring posting notice in prominent and conspicuous place that is visible at all times (replacing use of a bulletin board); posting the notice on the body's Internet site (as long as it is regularly updated and maintained); and requiring notation on the notice if it has been amended (and requiring renotification after amendment made). Prohibits governmental agencies from requiring requesters of public records to be physically present to receive the records (requests can be made in writing, by phone, or electronically). Requires reasonable efforts to provide public records at no cost (other than copying costs) if production takes less than 30 minutes (and still requires expenses be reasonable and communicated when request received). Clarifies only direct costs attributed to supervising, making, and providing copies of records can be charged (excludes general administrative overhead). Legal costs are only chargeable for redacting legally protected information. Expands ex-employee public disclosure to include the date of the last day the employee worked and details of any post-separation payments or benefits that are beyond what is owed for work performed. Establishes a process for governmental bodies to seek court injunctions against individuals found to be "vexatious requesters," with safeguards that include attorney fees if courts find no vexatious conduct. Clarifies that high volume requests alone does not constitute vexatious conduct and protects news media from being classified as vexatious solely based on volume.
- ✓ [HF 2670](#): This is the Education Omnibus bill which substantially changes summative assessment, health education curriculum, and replaces common core standards. The bill adds **social studies assessments** in grades 8 and 11. The bill also removes the mandate that social studies curriculum be multicultural, gender-fair, and include global perspectives.
- ✓ [HF 2783](#): This is the Education Budget, but it includes language that mandates all three state universities mandate three credits each of **American History and American Government courses** as part of their undergraduate general education requirements (effective 7/1/2028).

Education

- ✓ [HF 2493](#): Allows younger five-year-olds to be included in the **statewide preschool program**. Districts are allowed to expand beyond these age group but will not get additional state funding for those children. Adds preschool to compulsory attendance laws (but allows a parent to opt out of this requirement in writing). Fixes laws so that children are not double counted. Allows schools to contract with community-based providers to deliver preschool (using 28E agreements). Effective starting with the 2027-2028 school year.

- ✓ [HF 2539](#): Eliminates the Board of Regents' **Minority and Women Educators Enhancement Program**, which recruited minority and women educators to faculty positions at the three state universities (because it is DEI).
- ✓ [HF 2670](#): In addition to the new social studies assessments listed above under the "civics" header, this **Education Omnibus** bill also eliminates the requirement for schools to adopt protocols for identifying adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and develop strategies to mitigate toxic stress. Standards for equity coordinators are removed, new health curriculum topics are added for all grades (communicable diseases, physical fitness, nutrition, substance use, CPR, prevention and control of disease), expands high school math coursework to include agriculture, applied sciences, technology, engineering, and manufacturing, and prohibits students from serving on committees that make school library removal decisions (applying this to charter/innovation schools as well). Expands personal finance literacy course requirements to charter and innovation zone schools but takes out a lot of the detail required in the instruction. The bill also states that any state mandates in this bill are to come out of existing school aid and strengthens state enforcement when districts are not complying with state or federal law (right now the Department of Education is allowed to enforce; this bill requires enforcement).
- ✓ [HF 2676](#): The **Governor's "MAHA" bill** reintroduces the Presidential Fitness Test curriculum in school physical education courses and requires K-4 students to have at least 40 minutes/day of physical activity (30 minutes/day for 5th graders). Prohibits a list of dyes and food additives in foods sold on school property and in the summer EBT program, including an anti-caking additive that is in all white flour products). Allows any kind of epinephrine delivery device on school property (not just Epi-Pens). Limits digital instruction for K-5 students to 60 minutes/day and requires all elementary schools to adopt a technology use policy (assistive technology exempted). A work group is also established to study the cognitive impact on school-issued technology.
- ✓ [HF 2754](#): Overhauls Iowa's **charter school laws** by allowing UNI to authorize and monitor a charter school; requires performance frameworks to be included in contracts; strengthens audits/reporting; changes funding formulas; requires AEAs to provide services and media to charter schools; establishes a Charter School Facilities Revolving Loan Program Fund; allows students in private and charter schools to participate in public school extracurriculars; requires public schools to offer or make available driver's education courses to charter school students; makes charter school employees eligible for IPERS; and allows community-based providers to participate directly in the statewide voluntary preschool program (and receive direct state funding). It also removes references to innovation zone schools (they will be considered a charter school). Bars a private school that loses its accreditation from reapplying for three years. Convenes a work group to look at the requirements for teacher training, including those required for licensure renewal (report due 12/31/2026). Allows a school tuition organization in Bettendorf to fund first year operational costs for a preschool. Requires superintendents given the authority to deny open enrollment requests to document the reasons for that denial (information to be submitted to department of education). Effective 5/12/2026.
- ✓ [HF 2783](#): This is the **Education Budget**, but it includes the elimination of the Iowa Special Education Council, reduces funding for at-risk student programs by \$2.6 million, suspends automatic appropriation for college work study, repeals tuition grants for for-profit colleges but allows students from eligible for-profit schools (notably barbering/cosmetology) to access the vocational-technical tuition grant instead, freezes tuition for resident undergraduates at state universities, caps annual tuition increases at the average Higher Education Price Index growth for past three

years, and makes changes to dropout prevention funding. The bill also requires the Department of Education to submit an annual report on the incidents of violence in schools, referrals to therapeutic classrooms, and anti-bullying programs and funding. The budget is mainly status quo, with new funding for dyslexia specialist program to offset costs to teachers getting this certification (\$335,000) and school district electronic mail security to protect from cyber threats (\$500,000). Funding for teacher training to support students with mental health conditions was cut nearly in half (\$1.5 cut, leaving \$1.9 million). These funds were used to pay for training in ACEs, Mental Health First Aid, and de-escalation techniques (the Department says that they've consolidated this programming at the state level, saving money in the process).

- ✓ [SF 2201](#): Sets **school funding** growth at 2% for the 2026-2027 school year.
- ✓ [SF 2231](#): Establishes new guidelines for K-12 schools regarding **constitutionally protected prayer and religious expression**. Mandates the Department of Education to distribute and train staff on federal guidance, requires model policies for compliance and extends protections to charter schools; preserves maximum autonomy and freedom to community-based preschool providers (so they can be religious); and adds new civil penalties for violations and waives sovereign immunity for schools.
- ✓ [SF 2428](#): Prior Iowa law set up a process for addressing **classroom clears** when a student becomes violent. This bill expands that process to include students causing non-violent disruptions. The process is refined, each school building must create a new oversight review committee to determine when a removed student may return to the classroom, empowers teachers to remove students for nonviolent disruptions for at least 30 minutes (return with teacher consent or oversight committee decision), requires students removed more than once for nonviolent disruptions to participate (with parents and staff) in creating a behavioral plan and consider alternative placements, and requires a teacher to consent to a student removed for a violent disruption to refuse if they were assaulted in the disruption (and the oversight committee cannot override the teacher's decision). The bill also establishes explicit IEP team meeting requirements, teacher involvement and training, and reviews. It also allows for a pilot in one urban and one rural school district that allows for **separate schools for disruptive students and students receiving special education services** (but placement must be voluntary).
- ✓ [SF 2474](#): The Iowa Department of Education will survey all public K-12 schools to determine if they have 1) adopted a **cardiac emergency response plan**; 2) if they have automatic electronic defibrillators; and 3) where in each school those AEDs are located. Legislators will use this information to determine if a grant program is needed to encourage schools to purchase more AEDs.
- ✓ [SF 2488](#): Creates an **Early Childhood & Family Services (ECFS) System** within Iowa HHS with the goals of prevention, early intervention, and ongoing family/community support for families with children under age 19. There are new district advisory councils (aligned with seven behavioral health districts) and new policies for data collection and program oversight. The bill eliminates decategorization (flexible source of funding for local use to support children/families) but retains the current Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) structure, which had previously been replaced by this new system. Allows ECI boards to transition home visiting services to the state's ECFS system, with safeguards added to ensure uninterrupted service and stakeholder involvement. Requests a legislative interim study committee to review and advise on transitioning from ECI board responsibilities to the new ECFS system.

Reproductive Rights

- ✓ [HF 571](#): Health care providers and institutions will be allowed to refuse to provide a service if it conflicts with their moral or religious beliefs. They will also be protected from any legal, employment, and professional disciplinary retaliation. Titled the “**Medical Ethics Defense Act**,” it is targeted at abortion care, contraceptives and LGBTQIA affirming care. However, it is written so broadly it could be used to justifying medical refusals to people with mental illness or substance use disorders, or from certain ethnic backgrounds. It also includes protections so that a provider does not even have the obligation to *refer* a person to the service they are denying or let a patient know options exist.
- ✓ [HF 2502](#): Expands **parental leave policies for state employees** not covered under the federal Family & Medical Leave Act.
- ✓ [HF 2564](#): **Pregnant minors** are allowed to consent to their own prenatal, intranatal, and postnatal care. Under current Iowa law, a pregnant minor can consent to their infant’s care, but not their own.
- ✓ [HF 2788](#): Does not allow Iowa-licensed physicians to prescribe **medication abortion** drugs (mifepristone, misoprostol) via telehealth; instead, it requires an in-person visit with screening for coercion. While there is an exception for emergencies, it does create a loophole that could allow medications to still be prescribed by health professionals outside the state (depending on federal court rulings). Requires informed consent, renames this to “chemical” abortion; redefines abortion to exempt miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies, and makes other reporting changes. On the positive side, the Legislature did take all of the changes that the medical community requested to make it less bad, but medical providers say it will still have a chilling effect on access to these safe services and potentially endanger the lives of women.
- ✓ [HF 2670](#): In addition to what we’ve covered in prior categories, this bill eliminates references to kindergarten programs to include “healthy emotional and social habits” and references to “age-appropriate and research-based **human growth and development**.”
- ✓ [HF 2782](#): This is the HHS Budget, but it includes a significant increase (\$500,000) for the **More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS)** program, which has been criticized for funding crisis pregnancy centers instead of non-judgmental, secular supports for pregnant women. Two years ago, the program received \$1 million; last year there was no appropriation because funds were not fully utilized. This year, there is a \$1.5 million appropriation, and the program is allowed to carry-forward any unused funds at the end of the current fiscal year.

Human Trafficking

- ✓ [HF 1036](#): Strengthens Iowa’s response to **human trafficking** by requiring annual stakeholder meetings for the next five years to develop legislative proposals to combat human trafficking (report due annually on 12/1). Defines “commercial sexual exploitation” to juvenile justice code section. Establishes new screening and referral protocols for children potentially subject to commercial sexual exploitation (when referred for child abuse or during intake for juvenile delinquency). Extends

some civil statute of limitations for sexual assault and adds human trafficking. Minors will have up to five years after turning age 18 to file a civil action (or up to five years following the discovery of the sexual assault/human trafficking, if they were adult when they realized it happened). Gives more discretion to prosecutors to allow them to waive arrest and prosecution of a victim of human trafficking and instead refer them to Iowa HHS as a “child in need of assistance.” Moves victim compensation orders in human trafficking cases up to “category A,” which means they will be paid first before other restitution (this was done in the victim rights bill below for all other sexual assault and domestic violence cases). Finally, the bill directs the Iowa HHS to develop a plan for increased restoration facilities and clarifies that minors engaged in sex work are not to be prosecuted but referred for protective services.

- ✓ [HF 2598](#): Requires individuals applying for a commercial driver’s license to complete a 30-minute **human trafficking prevention training** (offered only in English and focusing on recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking).
- ✓ [HF 2770](#): This is the **Justice Systems Budget**, which includes \$365,115 increase for victim services (\$75,000 of that increase goes to human trafficking, bringing the total designated for human trafficking victims to \$225,000). The bill also raises fines on several court filings by \$20, including divorce filings. Existing law required 20% of the divorce filing fees to go toward sexual assault and domestic violence programs, but they never were directed in that way. The bill not only increases the fee but also requires 20% of the total collected go to sexual assault/domestic violence programs in FY 2027 and then transition those funds to the SAFE Center grant in FY 2028 and beyond. That amount is estimated to be between \$400,000-600,000 annually (which is in addition to the general fund increase noted first). It should also be noted that the fee increase in other areas is dedicated to a new Attorney Recruitment Program to pay off student loans for attorneys who dedicate some of their time to indigent defense.
- ✓ [HF 2794](#): Sets up a grant program to fund a regional hub-and-spoke model **SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) Center** to provide trauma informed care to adult survivors of sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic violence. Children would still be served through the network of child protection centers. SAFE Center is to provide other services, including access to crisis mental health services. This grant is funded with approximately \$400,000 annually beginning July 1, 2027 (appropriation in HF 2770).
- ✓ [HF 2800](#): This is the Standings Budget; it includes a requirement that trained child protection workers **screen children for commercial sex abuse** if they identify known risk factors in the child’s background.
- ✓ [SF 2379](#): This is the **Attorney General’s victim rights bill**, which applies to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. It expands and clarifies confidentiality protections between victims and counselors, narrows and standardizes training requirements for victim counselors, allows protective orders for sexual assault victims to extend beyond current limits (including options for lifetime protection), and shortens deadlines from five to three days for sex offender registrations and updates. Mandates law enforcement to store sexual assault kits for 20 years (or lifetime if a minor victim), with required written notice to victims prior to disposal and the right for victims to request further preservation beyond that timeframe. Expands the list of victim rights – including rights related to sexual assault examination kits. Gives victims the rights for individual evaluations of mental competency and alters the order of restitution payments, elevating pecuniary damages and fines and victim compensation.

Water

- ✓ [HF 2527](#): While not related to water, this bill limits liability for damages “allegedly” caused by the **effects on climate** from greenhouse gas emissions, specifically those caused from renewable fuel sources (i.e. ethanol).
- ✓ [HF 2771](#): The **Agriculture/Natural Resources Budget** includes a significant increase for water quality: \$300,000 new appropriation to support the Iowa Geological Survey/Iowa Water Quality Information System at the University of Iowa; \$10 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) to help small and medium sized communities (population <11,000) to upgrade their water and wastewater infrastructure; \$25 million from RIIF to help the Des Moines Water Works construct and install additional nutrient removal technology (with funding available through 6/30/2029). Also increases the Water Quality Financial Assistance Fund maximum grant from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Gun Safety

- ✓ [SF 2280](#): No gun safety bills, but also the “anti-red flag” and school-carry bills failed too. This bill expands the list of professions that are eligible for **professional carry permits** to include the Attorney General, the AG’s deputies/assistants and judicial officers. It also adds a new “C” felony for threatening a judicial officer or their immediate family member and a serious misdemeanor for maliciously sharing personal information about a judicial officer/immediate family member (address, phone, location). The definition of harassment is also expanded to include communicating a true threat to a public official, if the official becomes aware of it within one year.

Worthy of Noting

- ✓ [HF 2297](#), [HF 2800](#), [HF 2635](#), [SF 2480](#): There was a significant discussion about **cancer prevention and treatment** this year, including a strong focus on pediatric cancer research. These bills dedicate \$3 million this year (FY27) to pediatric cancer research at the University of Iowa (HF 2800), establish a new 5-cent tax on vaping and nicotine analog devices and dedicate proceeds to pediatric cancer research beginning FY28 (SF 2480), require all new single-family or two-family homes will be required to have passive radon mitigation systems installed beginning July 1, 2026 (HF 2297) and prohibit insurance companies from requiring prior authorization for cancer screenings recommended by clinical guidelines (HF 2635).
- ✓ [HF 2542](#): Strengthens Iowa’s “**three strikes law**” – requires a third time felony offender to be sentenced as a habitual offender and serve at least 7 years (instead of current 3 years) and does not allow earned time to reduce that minimum. Increases habitual offender penalty ceiling from 15 years to 20 years. Requires probation officers to report any violations to proper authorities and does not allow deferred or suspended sentencing for habitual offenders. The [costs](#) of this are astronomical –

almost \$2 billion to build the required new facilities and \$115.6 million in annual operational costs.

- ✓ [HF 2711](#): Eliminates all state laws mandating or authorizing **affirmative action** in employment, procurement and education. Replaces targeted language (minority, women, disadvantaged businesses) to “Iowa-based business enterprises.”
- ✓ [SF 579](#), [HF 2800](#): This first bill prohibits local governments from enacting any ordinance or law that goes beyond the protections in the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965, specifically going after communities enacting **civil rights protections** for LGBTQIA citizens. The second bill clarifies that local governments are not allowed to enforce any such ordinances or laws.
- ✓ [SF 2422](#): The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA/HR 1) made a number of changes to **public assistance programs**, so this bill brings our state laws in line with that (but goes even further with a few waiver requests). HHS would need to verify eligibility for all Medicaid products, SNAP, childcare assistance, and FIP using the federal government’s SAVE system. HHS will request a waiver to use other systems to help improve accuracy of the verification process. HHS will also ask for a waiver to claw back any unused SNAP funds in an EBT account after 91 days of inactivity. All Medicaid retroactive eligibility is eliminated, except two months allowed for pregnant women, children, and nursing home residents (currently they have three months and everyone else has two months). HHS is also prohibited from asking for a waiver to add retroactive eligibility back for others unless the Legislature okays that request. All Medicaid state plan amendments and waiver requests not currently in process would need to be expenditure neutral unless approved by the Legislature. While language locking the state into Medicaid managed care was removed, equally concerning language was included. HHS is prohibited from taking any actions without legislative approval that reduce the HMO taxes the MCOs pay. Getting rid of MCOs would reduce the HMO tax, so that in essence locks the state into managed care. Finally, HHS is required to submit an annual report showing any trends in exceptions to policies (geographic, demographic, type of service).
- ✓ [SF 2472](#): The last-minute passage of **property tax reform package** is supposed to save Iowans \$4 billion on their property tax bills in the coming years. Most of those savings are in cost-avoidance, capping local government budget growth at 2% annually. Homeowners will get 10% exemption on their property’s taxable value, replacing the current \$4,850 homestead credit. It also increases the elderly/disabled tax credit and rent reimbursement program. Legislators made changes in taxing multi-residential properties by increasing the taxes they pay by up to 6% more, which landlords say will likely boost monthly rental costs. There are also tax deductions for first time homebuyers, requirements that county assessors explain big increases in valuations, and new user-friendly tax notices to improve accountability.
- ✓ [SJR 11](#): Iowans will vote this November on a constitutional amendment to **require 2/3 vote for any new or increased income-based tax**. That requires 34 Senators and 67 Representatives for approval, limiting the state’s options for revenue enhancements to user taxes and sales taxes (and a reminder that a sales tax increase is constitutionally protected for outdoor recreation and environmental programs).

Budget Overview

The Legislature adopted a budget that spent more than expected revenues and relied on transfers from reserves and a temporary HMO tax to sustain services. While this helped avoid cuts in the short term, it may set the state up for a budget crisis in the coming years. That would be exacerbated by a limit on the types of revenue the state could raise.

Fiscal Year	Total Revenues	Total Spending
FY 2020	\$7.848 billion	\$7.644 billion
FY 2021	\$7.877 billion	\$7.779 billion
FY 2022	\$8.386 billion	\$8.119 billion
FY 2023	\$9.156 billion	\$8.209 billion
FY 2024	\$9.65 billion	\$8.517 billion
FY 2025	\$8.942 billion	\$8.949 billion
FY 2026	\$8.103 billion	\$9.496 billion
FY 2027	\$8.472 billion	\$9.640 billion
FY 2028	\$8.717 billion	

It is important to remember that education and HHS spending makes up **78%** of the state budget. When funding is tight, those two budgets take a larger hit. You can find final details on each budget bill [here](#) (just make sure you are looking at the files marked “final”). You can also go directly to the HHS budget review [here](#).

2027 Watch List

There were a number of bills that didn't make the cut this year – you can see them all in the [LWVIA Bill Tracker's "Inactive" List](#). While bills need to start over and be reintroduced in 2027, we expect them to come back with renewed energy next year. These include:

- Forced cooperation with ICE.
- Home school access to state education vouchers.
- More attacks on public libraries.
- Firearms on school property and clergy in schools.
- Applying anti-DEI policies to private colleges.
- Opening door to conversion therapy, protecting parents from child abuse.

- Disclosure of AI use in campaigns.
- More attempts to weaken school vaccine laws.
- Pipelines and any follow-up to hydrogen mining.
- Bridging the budget shortfall.
- Revenue challenges if pass constitutional amendment on 2/3 vote for income tax.

The state will have a new Governor in 2027, so many of the changes made this year limit what a new Governor will be able to do without legislative approval. Overturning the supermajority of Republicans in the Iowa House and Senate is unlikely, but narrower margins would help keep the fringe issues off the to-do list.

Election 2026

Iowa Senate 33 R | 17 D

25 seats on ballot (14 R, 11 D)
 5 Republicans retiring
 3 Democrats retiring
 11 races are unopposed (5 R, 6 D)

28

At least 28 new
 lawmakers out of
 the 150 serving

Iowa House 67 R | 33 D

All 100 seats on ballot
 7 Republicans retiring
 10 Democrats retiring
 2 Republicans lost their primaries
 1 Democrat lost his primary
 43 races are unopposed (17 R, 24 D)
 3 running for Senate (1 R, 2 Ds)

Roberts Rules of Order – Simplified

Guiding Principle:

Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.

Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.

Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.

Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

A **motion** is the topic under discussion (e.g., “I move that we add a coffee break to this meeting”). After being recognized by the president of the board, any member can introduce a motion when no other motion is on the table. A motion requires a second to be considered. Each motion must be disposed of (passed, defeated, tabled, referred to committee, or postponed indefinitely).

How to do things:

You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the president of the board, present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for discussion, or consideration.

You want to change some of the wording in a motion under discussion.

After recognition by the president of the board, move to amend by

- adding words,
- striking words or
- striking and inserting words.

You like the idea of a motion being discussed, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, discussion will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea being discussed.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

You want more time personally to study the proposal being discussed.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

You are tired of the current discussion.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote.

You have heard enough discussion.

Move to close the debate. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote. Or move to previous question. This cuts off discussion and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote.

You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3^{rds} vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

You believe the discussion has drifted away from the agenda and want to bring it back.

Call for orders of the day.

You want to take a short break.

Move to recess for a set period of time.

You want to end the meeting.

Move to adjourn.

You are unsure that the president of the board has announced the results of a vote correctly.

Without being recognized, call for a "division of the house." At this point a roll call vote will be taken.

You are confused about a procedure being used and want clarification.

Without recognition, call for "Point of Information" or "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry." The president of the board will ask you to state your question and will attempt to clarify the situation.

You have changed your mind about something that was voted on earlier in the meeting for which you were on the winning side.

Move to reconsider. If the majority agrees, the motion comes back on the floor as though the vote had not occurred.

You want to change an action voted on at an earlier meeting.

Move to rescind. If previous written notice is given, a simple majority is required. If no notice is given, a 2/3^{rds} vote is required.

You may INTERRUPT a speaker for these reasons only:

to get information about business – **point of information**

to get information about rules – **parliamentary inquiry**

if you can't hear, safety reasons, comfort, etc. – **question of privilege**

if you see a breach of the rules – **point of order**

if you disagree with the president of the board's ruling – **appeal**

Quick Reference					
	Must Be Seconded	Open for Discussion	Can be Amended	Vote Count Required to Pass	May Be Reconsidered or Rescinded
Main Motion	√	√	√	Majority	√
Amend Motion	√	√		Majority	√
Kill a Motion	√			Majority	√
Limit Debate	√		√	2/3 ^{rds}	√
Close Discussion	√			2/3 ^{rds}	√
Recess	√		√	Majority	
Adjourn (End meeting)	√			Majority	
Refer to Committee	√	√	√	Majority	√
Postpone to a later time	√	√	√	Majority	√
Table	√			Majority	
Postpone Indefinitely	√	√	√	Majority	√

Meeting convened at 9:03 a.m. by Holly Oppelt

Credentials report: 68 members in attendance

Agenda adopted by consent. Moved by Jennifer Patel, Johnson County. Seconded by Carolyn Stephensen.

Linda Hagedorn, Parliamentarian, presented an overview of parliamentary procedure

Rules adopted: moved by Steve Walberg, seconded by David James

Local Leagues presented their top items:

- Ames-Story: Learn with the League events, *Voter*, twice-monthly member events, one for coffee and one at a brewery. Hosts State of the Community event.
- Blackhawk-Bremer: voter registrations at new citizen ceremony. Succeeded at refilling and rejuvenating their board. Changed tact at voter registrations in response to “I am registered” to “Do you have any questions about recent changes to the voting laws” and is moving to “Is there anyone among your friends and family who is reluctant to vote in the coming election?”
- Des Moines Metro: their newsletter is extensive and weekly. Voter registrations and naturalizations among 43 events, which also provided education. Talked to nearly 300 people who expressed that they would not vote in the coming election. Local coffee and education meetings. Equality Day event on women’s health care. Had an outing to the Secretary of State’s Office regarding a voting bill. Defending Democracy. Had a very busy and productive Pride Festival event.
- Muscatine: candidate interviews on local TV. Involvement with the UMRRILO and pollution issues.
- Dubuque: voter registrations, QR code events at events to be able to track voter and registration status, monthly member gatherings. Candidate and legislative forums. Hoover Library excursion. Advocacy.
- Grinnell-Jasper: Jasper merged with Grinnell since the last Convention. Maintained relationships with GOP to continue bipartisan forums. Had a local event by a speaker on growing up Ojibwe.
- Johnson County: hosted 5 public educational programs on local and national issues. Candidate and legislative forums across the county and, in one case, in an adjacent county. 34 voter registration events.
- Linn County: legislative forums, including 240 at a school board forum in Mount Vernon. State of the Schools events. Rural transportation study. Numerous voter education events. Noted that even at events with low numbers of registrants, there are often many valuable conversations and voter education. 20% increase in voter

turnout in one area of Cedar Rapids. Succeeded in getting a lawmaker back to forums.

- Northern Iowa: they are hosting today's event. Forums and voter registration. Local and state candidates were live-streamed.
- Sioux City: candidate forums at local community college, who puts them out YouTube, and the local TV channel also carries them. Legislative town halls that are attended by **all** local representatives. Attendance increased every time. Youth involvement with Girl Scouts and other. Voter registration and a local immigration organization, including with naturalizations.
- Southeast Iowa: 4 public meetings, has been invited to speak to local women's groups. Participated in advocacy rallies, e.g. No Kings, and partnering with (and sometimes advising) likeminded organizations. Was able to quickly react to local budget/tax issue and convene a public meeting. Reacted to local LGBTQ issue with a panel event.

Minutes moved to approve the minutes of the prior convention and council. Linda Hagedorn moved, John Olson seconded. Motion was carried by consensus.

Treasurer presented the 2025 budget.

- Error on the budget in the Lobbyist line; it is missing the last payment.
- Concern was expressed about whether we are complying with 501(c)(3) regulations, since we have discovered that we are not also a 501(c)(4).
- Questions on the Voter campaign line.
- Question on the member types and Transition budget

2026 was presented. Discussion clarified payments. Characterized as flat in expenditures and conservative in income.

- Question about whether we were receiving income from LWVUS. (We are.)
- Clarified that we are not budgeting for similar large gifts next year.

The budget was a committee report and so did not need someone to move or second it. It was adopted by consensus.

Bylaws presented by Polly Horton.

- Discussion about what to do about people under 16 years old. It was clarified that our understanding is that those under 16 are ineligible to become members, per the 2022 national convention.
- Jan Beren moved to accept changes. John Olson and Bea Hicks seconded.

- Nancy Porter offered an amendment to the proposal to “accept the changes to the bylaws as printed, pending the confirmation of Article III Section 2 on the issue of members under 16 years of age.” Jan Beren accepted the amendment. The motion carried by consensus.
 - Note that a full copy of the bylaws would be appreciated at the next convention.

UMRR presentation by Mary Ellen Miller. Reflected that Iowa’s leading export is manure and reported that Iowa has the most polluted rivers and streams of any state, and the Mississippi is one of the most endangered. Recognized Sue Wilson as an outgoing founding board member. They are looking for an Iowa board member. Des Moines waterworks manages the largest nitrate water removal system in the world. It cannot keep up and recently put a prohibition on lawn watering, car washes, etc. and closed down splash pads. Invited members to join their interest groups, read annual report, check their display, view/reuse their educational programming, and join their annual retreat in August.

Nominating Committee was presented by Jessica Tierney on behalf of Sue Johannsen.

- Paul Vaughan and Linda Serra-Hagedorn corrected the spelling of their names.
- There were no nominations from the floor.
- Nomination moved by Carolyn Stephenson, seconded by Nancy Porter.

Carrie Chapman-Catt award was presented by Terese Grant to Bonnie Pitz.

Holly Oppelt recognized Terese Grant for her six years of being LWVIA president and presented her with tokens of our members’ appreciation.

Holly Oppelt delivered the State of the League. Honored by Interfaith Alliance. Some key donations to LWVIA and LWVAS were noted, including a possible civic education program. Lobby Day happened; next one is scheduled for 2/26/26. Defending Democracy featured Caleb Raney and honored Rekah Basu.

Karen Person gave a presentation in honor of Deb Turner and spoke of Dr. Turner’s life and her many accomplishments. Karen had introduced Dr. Turner to the League. One message was, in difficult times, to look to those who came before you and those who will come after to you for inspiration.

Amy Campbell presented on the 2025 Iowa legislative session. Highlights include:

- She thanked their policy interns who contributed to the policy blog on the LWVIA website.
- A monthly LWVIA call-in is being considered for next legislative session.
- Slides are available at ialobby.com/billtracker/LWVIA. Also lwvia.org/news
 - 2300 bills introduced. 1 of every 13 came to the Governor's desk; that is a much lower ratio.
- The veto on eminent domain will have serious repercussions next year within her caucus.
- Themes: "freedom of speech", anti-DEI, anti-LGBTQIA+
 - Center for Public Policy, Center for Civic Education, citizenship test completion to graduate. School of Intellectual Freedom.
- Some things passed, e.g. "unconfirmed status", recount reforms, major party status, more teeth in open records laws. Including the "humanity of the unborn child" video, which need not be endorsed by a medical/scientific group.
- There were many anti-library bills that failed.
- Many bills, e.g. the one on accrediting agencies, were "messaging" bills.
- We anticipate a bigger budget crunch next year.
- A good human trafficking bill was realistic this year but failed because of budget issues. We are hopeful that it will come back next year.

2026 forecast:

- Property Tax TIFs. An update is needed, but it's complex, and it's challenging to do without impacting farmers.
- Medicaid, federal funding. There will be a lot of lame ducks next year.
- The budget will be challenging; we have under-collected relevant to spending.

Note: the bill tracker is now synced in effectively real-time to the legislative website.

Can people sign up for the website? TBD.

Announcements:

Next year's council will be June in Ames.

Convention will be in Des Moines.

July 17 will be the next national protest. Be aware and be safe.

Move to adjourn at [time not recorded, roughly 1:15-1:30] by Karen Person and seconded Christie Gerken. Meeting adjourned.

LWVIA Treasurer's Report: 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

LWVIA's financial narrative is that we spent less than we expected this year, took in far more revenue than projected, and will close the year with a net gain of almost a full year's expenses. That gain is windfall, not recurring income.

Revenue (180% of budgeted received)

- PMP: this year was the last year where we received payments from the PMP system.
 - \$585 remains outstanding from one league that pays in installments.
 - The board worked out a payment plan and forgave the remaining outstanding PMP (\$1,775) from another league whose PMP payments had been significantly inflated in prior years due to incorrect roster management.
- Membership from national: this line reflects payments from the new dues system. Due to uncertainty in forecasting it, we did not budget an amount here.
- Development: Defending Democracy revenues declined, but donations from IRAs and a significant gift supporting the get-out-the-vote campaign bolstered this budget.

Expenses (98% of budgeted spent)

- Outstanding expenses include ~\$1,600 in Defending Democracy payments and potential reimbursement for sending officers to LWVUS Convention.
- Most categories stayed under budget, and our communications budget was especially light.
- The voter campaign was unbudgeted and paid for by a generous donor.

Assets

- \$52,748- General Fund (\$32,632 cash + \$20,115 CD)
- \$31,645- Ed Fund (\$21,587 cash + \$10,058 CD)
- **\$84,392- Bank Total**
- Reserve total: \$34,119 (YTD gain of \$8,094 (+31%))
- **\$118,511 – Total Assets**

Additional Notes

- 501(c)(3) posting status: I have worked over the course of the year to get the IRS to accurately post our tax status. I have recently involved a Tax Advocate via Rep. Miller-Meeks' office and am awaiting confirmation that the matter has been corrected.
- 501(c)(4) status: direction was given at Convention that we should set up an advocacy organization to protect our (c)(3) designation. However, doing so was delayed to avoid further complicating the posting situation described above.
- Insurance: the board discovered that we lack directors and officers insurance. I am pursuing a quote, but this expense is not budgeted in FY26 or FY27.

League of Women Voters IOWA		
	FY 2025-26	FY 2025-26
	Actuals	Approved
	<u>6/4/2026</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenues		
A.	LOCAL LEAGUE PMP	
1	Single Member Dues @ \$30	\$ 21,425.99 \$ 21,300.00
3	2nd Household @15.00	\$ 1,151.33 \$ 1,380.00
3	Student @ \$15	\$ 182.68 \$ 165.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 22,760.00 \$ 22,845.00
B.	National Membership Payments	\$ 23,839.39 \$ -
	MEMBERSHIP GRAND TOTAL	\$ 46,599.39 \$ 22,845.00
C.	Development	
1	Member Contributions	\$ 1,129.34 \$ 2,000.00
2	Non-Member Contributions	\$ 9,325.00 \$ 2,000.00
3	Items for Sale/Merchandise	\$ 173.00 \$ 500.00
4	Birthday fundraiser	\$ - \$ 500.00
6	Defending Democracy	\$ 3,669.01 \$ 5,625.00
7	Donations - In Kind	\$ - \$ -
8	Memorial Donations	\$ - \$ -
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 14,296.35 \$ 10,625.00
D.	Other Income	
1	Grants	\$ -
2	State Council/Convention (rev.)	\$ 50.00 \$ 500.00
3	From Reserves	\$ - \$ -
4	Miscellaneous	\$ 221.97 \$ -
	Transfers from existing funds	
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 271.97 \$ 500.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 61,167.71 \$ 33,970.00
Expenditures		
A	OPERATING EXPENSES	
1	Insurance/Bonding	\$ 1,748.00 \$ 1,625.00
2	Communications Coordinator	\$ 3,515.86 \$ 8,800.00
3	Accounting Fees	\$ 1,260.00 \$ 1,410.00
4	Technology (Web Site)	\$ 600.00 \$ 650.00
5	Zoom	\$ 85.54 \$ 215.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 7,209.40 \$ 12,700.00
B	DELEGATES, WORKSHOPS COALITIONS	
1	National Convention for Pres & VP	\$ - \$ 1,250.00
2	Other Meetings/Officer Training	\$ 583.76 \$ 750.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 583.76 \$ 2,000.00
C	LOCAL LEAGUE SERVICES	
1	State Council/Convention (exp.)	\$ 420.31 \$ 500.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 420.31 \$ 500.00
D	PMP FOR MEMBERS AT LARGE	
		\$ - \$ -
E	DEVELOPMENT	
1	Defending Democracy (exp.)	\$ 2,068.27 \$ 4,500.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,068.27 \$ 4,500.00
F	POSITION SUPPORT	
1	Lobbyist	\$ 14,184.80 \$ 15,000.00
2	Voter Campaign	\$ 9,960.00 \$ -
3	Position Support - Other	\$ - \$ -
4	Study & Action Update	\$ - \$ -
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 24,144.80 \$ 15,000.00
G	MISCELLANEOUS	
1	Member Memorials	\$ - \$ 200.00
2	Other Expenses	\$ - \$ 200.00
3	Support to Organizations	\$ - \$ 25.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ - \$ 425.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 34,426.54 \$ 35,125.00
	REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSE	\$ 26,741.17 \$ (1,155.00)

LWVIA Proposed FY2026-2027 Budget		
	Revenue	
A. Membership		
1	Membership Payments	\$22,500.00
	MEMBERSHIP GRAND TOTAL	\$22,500.00
C. Development		
1	Contributions	\$ 4,000.00
2	Items for Sale/Merchandise	\$ 500.00
3	Defending Democracy	\$ 6,000.00
4	Donations - In Kind	\$ -
5	Memorial Donations	\$ -
	SUBTOTAL	\$10,500.00
D. Other Income		
1	Grants	
2	State Council/Convention (rev.)	\$ 500.00
3	From Reserves	\$ -
4	Miscellaneous	\$ -
	Transfers from existing funds	
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$33,500.00
	Expenditures	
A OPERATING EXPENSES		
1	Insurance/Bonding	\$ 1,625.00
2	Communications Coordinator	\$ 6,000.00
3	Accounting Fees	\$ 1,410.00
4	Technology (Web Site)	\$ 650.00
5	Zoom	\$ 215.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 9,900.00
B DELEGATES, WORKSHOPS COALITIONS		
1	National Convention for Pres & VP	\$ 1,250.00
2	Other Meetings/Officer Training	\$ 750.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,000.00
C LOCAL LEAGUE SERVICES		
1	State Council/Convention (exp.)	\$ 500.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 500.00
D DEVELOPMENT		
1	Defending Democracy (exp.)	\$ 5,000.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 5,000.00
E POSITION SUPPORT		
1	Lobbyist	\$15,000.00
2	Voter Campaign	\$ 6,000.00
3	Position Support - Other	\$ 250.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$21,250.00
F MISCELLANEOUS		
1	Member Memorials	\$ 200.00
2	Other Expenses	\$ 200.00
3	Support to Organizations	\$ 25.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 425.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,075.00
	REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSE	\$ (5,575.00)

LWVIA Nominating Report 2026

2025-2027

President Holly Oppelt, Muscatine

Past President Terese Grant, Jasper Grinnell

VP

Secretary Paula Vaughn, Johnson Co

Treasurer

Teresa Bomhoff, Metro Des Moines
Bree Oxley, Linn Co
Peg Lazio, Ottumwa
Sue Wilson, Dubuque
Martha Wolf, SE Iowa
Maureen White, Black Hawk-Bremer

Co

2026-2028

Susan Bangert, North Iowa
Courtney Kuenn, Sioux City
Linda Serra Hagedorn, Ames/Story

Nominating Committee 2027

1. Polly Horton, Johnson Co
2. Terese Grant, Grinnell-Jasper Co
3. Cherie Dargen, Blackhawk-Bremer



2026 Local League Voter Engagement Grant Program Application

Application Deadline: [Insert Date]

Grant Period: [Insert timeframe, e.g., April 2026 - November 2026]

Total Funding Available: \$7,000

Individual Grant Range: \$300 - \$1,000

Application Instructions

The League of Women Voters of Iowa is pleased to offer mini-grants to Iowa local leagues to support voter engagement activities in preparation for the 2026 election cycle. These grants are designed to fund projects that promote voting, facilitate voter registration, and provide nonpartisan voter education.

Please complete all sections of this application. The narrative portion should not exceed one page. Submit your completed application via email to [contact email] by [deadline date].

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Local League Name:

Primary Contact Person:

Title/Position:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ _____

Project Focus (check all that apply):

- Voter Registration
 - Voter Education
 - Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts
 - Candidate Forums/Debates
 - Ballot Issue Education
 - Other (please specify): _____
-

SECTION 3: PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please answer the following questions. Your total narrative response should not exceed one page. Please include the following information:

1. Project Description and Goals

Describe your proposed project. What specific activities will you undertake? What do you hope to accomplish?

2. Community Need and Impact

Why is this project important for your community? How many people do you expect to reach or impact?

3. Target Audience

Who is the primary audience for this project? (e.g., first-time voters, college students, specific neighborhoods, general community)

4. Project Activities and Methods

Describe the specific methods, strategies, or activities you will use to carry out this project.

5. Measurement of Success

How will you measure the success of your project? What outcomes will you track?

SECTION 4: PROJECT TIMELINE

Please provide a timeline showing when key activities will occur. Include both planning and implementation phases.

Activity or Milestone	Target Date or Timeframe

Table 1: Project Timeline

SECTION 5: PROJECT BUDGET

Please provide a detailed budget showing how grant funds will be spent. Include all anticipated expenses.

Budget Category	Description/Item	Amount
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
TOTAL REQUESTED		\$

Table 2: Project Budget

Budget Categories may include:

- Printing and copying (flyers, brochures, voter guides)
- Advertising and promotion (social media ads, newspaper ads, radio spots)
- Venue rental (for forums, debates, or events)

- Supplies and materials (tables, signage, registration materials)
- Technology needs (website hosting, online tools, software)
- Outreach materials (swag, informational items)
- Other expenses (please specify)

Budget Justification (if needed, provide additional explanation for any budget items):

SECTION 6: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Collaboration and Partnerships

Will you be partnering with other organizations or groups for this project? If yes, please list partners and describe their role.

Sustainability

If applicable, describe how this project might continue beyond the grant period or how it builds capacity for future voter engagement work.

SECTION 7: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients will be required to submit a brief final report within 30 days of project completion. The report should include:

- Summary of activities completed
- Number of people reached or impacted
- Outcomes and successes
- Challenges encountered and lessons learned
- Photos or other documentation of the project (optional but encouraged)
- Final accounting of how grant funds were spent

By submitting this application, I acknowledge that:

- All information provided is accurate and complete
- Grant funds will be used solely for the purposes described in this application
- Our local league will comply with LWV nonpartisan policies and guidelines
- We will submit a final report by the specified deadline
- Unused funds will be returned to LWVIA

SIGNATURE

Applicant Name (printed):

Signature:

Date:
