Defending Democracy Award

Since 2019, the Defending Democracy Award is given annually to honor an individual or organization in Iowa that promotes the spirit of democracy in Iowa. We seek nominees who, by their positive action, have furthered the democratic process in tangible ways, thus keeping democracy working for residents in Iowa. "Democracy" is defined as "a form of government, where a constitution guarantees basic personal and political rights, fair and free elections, and independent courts of law."

The Award will recognize a non-member or organization, preferably who is representative of the LWVIA target demographic. It is not meant to honor a current member as it is designed to be an outreach and recruitment tool. It has been designed to both highlight the value of membership, as well as to increase the visibility of the League's contribution to Iowa.

The recognition is to be based upon the following:

1) The recipient shall possess a personal and professional reputation characterized by outstanding integrity and ethical standards.
2) Demonstrate excellence in creating a stronger, safer, more inclusive community/state through their actions.
3) Inspire others to improve their Iowa communities.
4) Possess a reputation of excellence, creativity, and initiative in their professional life.
5) Made a lasting positive impact on their community/state through their civic and/or volunteer efforts.
6) By their example, encourage all Iowans to be active participants in the democratic process.

To nominate an individual or organization for this honor, please send the completed nomination form, answering questions as to why you think a specific person or organization exemplifies democracy in action.

Questions? Call Martha Wolf at (319) 371-4590 or email her at wolfgang245@msn.com.
Please submit the completed application to:
LWVIA Defending Democracy Award
Linda Hagedon Co President, LWVIA
prez.lwv@gmail.com
Nominations should be submitted no later than October 31, 2026

2026 Defending Democracy Award
Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____
Address of Nominee: _____
_____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
Profession/Work: _____

Application may be completed by the nominee or by another nominator.

1. Please explain how the individual /organization you are nominating exemplifies leadership as described above and why the nominee should be considered for the Defending Democracy Award.

2. How does the Nominee exemplify leadership?

3. Please describe in detail what impact this individual/organization has had on our community/state. What population/organization/event has benefited from her/his efforts?

4. How does this individual/organization stand out from other leaders in the state?