

Branching Out

Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

Some Important Election Dates and Information

Oct. 5. First day for early voting at County Election Office

Oct.19. Designated worry-free postmark date for voter pre-registration forms

Oct. 24. Voter pre-registration deadline by 5:00 p.m. Same day voter registration is available.

Oct. 31. Early voting at County Election Office, 8am-5pm

Nov. 2. Last day for early voting at County Election Office, 8am-5pm.

Nov. 3. Election Day, 7am-9pm. Absentee ballots may be delivered to election office until 9pm.

Polk County Election Office, 120 2nd Ave, Des Moines, IA

Polk County election info: <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/county-auditor/election/faq/>

There are 3 options for absentee voting:

1. A voter may request and cast an absentee ballot in person at the election office. (Iowa code §53.10)

2. A voter may request and cast an absentee ballot at a satellite location. (Iowa code §53.11)

3. A voter may request and cast an absentee ballot via mail. (Iowa code §53.8)

You can track your absentee ballot here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search>

Iowa law requires that absentee ballots are counted in every election.

To vote in person, find your polling location here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx>

Iowa voters will be required to show a valid ID.

Acceptable ID's include Iowa driver's license, non-operator ID, passport, military ID, veterans ID, voter ID PIN, or tribal ID.

Check AAUW voter guides (next page) to see how candidates stand on issues of importance to members.

Book Group Will Meet Online

This is a great time to visit the book group. Meetings will be held online using zoom until it is possible to meet in person safely, so you can visit without leaving your home. Most of the meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. We would love to have you visit us. Check with Joanne Page at page@dwx.com for a link. See our schedule on the right for the books and dates.



Date	Book	Reviewer
Oct. 28	<i>The Spies of Shilling Lane</i> , by Jennifer Ryan	Carol
Nov. 18	<i>The New Jim Crow: Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</i> , by Michelle Alexander	Ann
Dec. 9	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> , by Celeste Ng	Leora
Jan. 27	<i>The Hate U Give</i> , by Angie Thomas	Jan
Feb. 24	<i>The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek</i> , by Kim Michelle Richardson	Sharon
Mar. 24	<i>American Dirt</i> , by Jeanine Cummins	Barb
Apr. 28	<i>Miss Austen</i> , by Gill Hornby	Joanne
May 26	<i>The Guest List</i> , by Lucy Foley	Amy
June 9	Planning Meeting	

AAUW Issue Voter Guides

Do you know where the two major candidates for President and for Vice President and the candidates seeking to represent us in Congress stand on issues of interest to AAUW? AAUW's Voter Guides can help.

Issue Vote Guides can be found at <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>

There you can find Voter Guides for:

President: <https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-Presidential-Election-Head-to-Head-Voter-Guide.pdf>

Vice President: <https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-VP-Election-Head-to-Head-Voter-Guide.pdf>

Senate, Iowa: <https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IA-03-House-Race-AAUW-Federal-Head-to-Head-Guide.pdf>

For more information about each of the selected issues, see the Voter Issue Guide at <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>

International Relations Group

The International Relations interest group will meet in person in a safe, socially distanced way. Check with Joanne Page for more information. page@dwx.com, (515) 243-5740.

Post-Election Wrap-up

Please join us for a discussion about election results on November 17, 2020 using Zoom. Celebrations? Drowning our sorrows? You may use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcllOZlNQMUtmZjlCU0RQQT09>

School Discipline Study

AAUW branches in Iowa are considering participating in a project that examines differences in school discipline for members of minority groups and the impact on their education. Contact Ann Gale if you are interested in being involved. 515-302-4404, ann.gale9@gmail.com

Annual Meeting June 27

Our annual meeting was held online this past June 27 using Zoom. In previous years, that meeting was held in person. However, this year we met using Zoom due to concerns about safety due to COVID-19. The following officers were elected: Ann Gale, president, Joanne Page, membership vice president, Treasurer, Barb Zimany. Current president Ann Gale, membership vice president Janet Pickrell was added to the agreed to the leadership team. Bylaws were approved without change.

Socially Distanced Picnics

Members of the Des Moines branch of AAUW met at socially distanced picnics in July and September. On July 10, we met at Beaverdale Park. We arrived wearing masks, and we seated with enough space between us that we were able to enjoy our lunch safely.

We met again for a second picnic and meeting September 21st at 5:00 at McHenry Park. We exercised the same precautions. One of the shelterhouses at McHenry Park features a nice view of the Des Moines River, the new amphitheater at Riverview Park, and the capitol dome in the distance.

