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**Humanities Nebraska speaker to appear at Gretna Public Library, talk voting rights**

GRETNA - Dr. Dianne Bystrom will present a program "Fight for the Right to Vote: It Still Matters" on Thursday, September 26th at 6pm at the Gretna Public Library. This presentation is made possible by Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Gretna Public Library, and the Three Rivers Library System as part of the HN Speakers Bureau.

Dr. Bystrom is director emerita of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. She directed the center for 22 years before retiring in August 2018. At Iowa State, she taught courses on women and politics, political campaigns, and women and leadership. Dr. Bystrom also serves as director of communications for the League of Women Voters of Nebraska. She is the co-author of *Gender and Politics: Changing the Face of Civic Life*, published this July.

Dr. Bystrom's "Fight for the Right to Vote" presentation describes how voting rights in the United States have expanded and contracted over time through the 15th, 19th and 26th amendments, which expanded voting rights to African American men, women and 18-20 year-olds; the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and recent actions by the U.S. Supreme Court, Congress and state legislatures. It includes statistics on who has voted in recent elections by age, sex and race/ethnicity as well as information on how to be a registered and informed voter.

"Fight for the Right to Vote" is one of approximately 300 programs offered through the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau. The more than 165 available speakers include acclaimed scholars, writers, musicians, storytellers and folklorists on topics ranging from pioneer heritage to ethics and law to international and multicultural issues, making it the largest humanities speakers bureau in the nation.

Speakers are available to any non-profit organization in Nebraska. Each program lasts 30 minutes to an hour, plus a question-and-answer period. The most frequent users of the HN Speakers Bureau are primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums and historical societies, agencies for the elderly, rural organizations, churches, arts organizations and ethnic organizations. Humanities Nebraska sponsors the largest Speakers Bureau program in the U.S. according to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For information detailing the available speakers and guidelines for booking them, please access [www.humanitiesnebraska.org](http://www.humanitiesnebraska.org) (Speakers section) or contact Humanities Nebraska at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508, phone (402) 474-2131, fax (402) 474-4852 or e-mail [info@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:info@humanitiesnebraska.org).