

# GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Did you know the LWVJoCo offers a foreign policy study group called *Great Decisions* that was established approximately 20 years ago. Surprised?**

Read on to learn more about the group's interesting and important activities.

The ***Great Decisions*** (GD) Program is produced by the Foreign Policy Association (fpa.org). Coordinated locally by the International Relations Council of KC (irckc.org), the LWVJoCo chapter was established approximately 20 years ago and is one of several chapters in the KC metro region. The LWVJoCo chapter consists of 22 current members who meet bi-weekly February through May on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Led by League member Rebecca James, the virtual bi-weekly sessions are facilitated by group participants. Rebecca notes that she joined the group in 2018 because "I felt that I was not receiving adequate global news from my usual news sources. With my increasing realization that global effects on our local everyday lives are broad and deep, I went looking for learning opportunities".

## **What does the group study? Who defines the issues? What is the curriculum?**

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) who produces the program nationally provides an annual "Briefing Book" which serves as the focal text for each season of Great Discussion with an article and suggested additional resources for each topic. The LWVJoCo group operates as a discussion group without a presented program. Questions included with each article serve as a starting point for each topic discussion. Each discussion is facilitated by an individual participant who has chosen a topic of interest to them.

## **What are examples of issues the group has studied?**

Examples of covered topics from the last five years include refugees & global migration, the rise of populism in Europe, modern slavery & human trafficking, supply chains & US security, the WHO response to COVID, Putin's Russia, and the potential end of globalization.

## **When does the group meet and What is the schedule of topics for 2023?**

The group meets virtually biweekly starting in February 2023 on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

MONTH	DATE	TOPIC
February	06	Energy Geopolitics
	20	War Crimes
March	06	China & the US
	20	Economic Warfare
April	03	Politics in Latin America
	17	Global Famine
May	01	Iran at a Crossroads
	15	Climate Migration

If you are interested in participating in the program, contact Rebecca James ([rebecca@abovokc.com](mailto:rebecca@abovokc.com)).