



VOTER

**Monthly Meeting – Monday, April 8
The Village at the Harbor – 5.30pm**

Meet the Observer Corps! Protecting Your Right to Know

The right to know what our government is doing is integral to our democracy. Join us for light refreshments, a chance to socialize with other members, and hear from the team of League members who cover our governmental meetings. Integral to the health of our democracy is protecting our right to know. Decisions that determine how our schools are run, at what level community safety programs will be funded, and how land in our towns will be used to impact our lives, are vital to our well-being. These kinds of decisions need to be made with public input and oversight. One

important way to ensure that is to observe government meetings. The League has been a champion of government transparency since our founding in 1920. It is one of our core principles and a vital part of our mission. Our efforts in this area reinforce our reputation of fairness, nonpartisanship, and trust. League members attend governmental meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. Experience has shown the importance of the League being present to watch—and to take action when necessary.



“An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, (city councils, school boards, hospital commission, etc.) notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and the community. By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. They learn about the issues facing their community and are empowered to take action if warranted. They also learn how issues are being addressed. Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice; they let them

know that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are being made. They are neutral observers and do not participate in the meeting. Observers take notes and submit a brief report summarizing key issues discussed at the meeting.

Join our in-person meeting at The Village at the Harbor and hear from our local League Observers.

There will not be a Zoom option for this meeting

Meeting Dates 2024

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
April 1	April 8
May 6	May 13 <i>Annual Meeting</i>
June 3	June 10
July 1	<i>Voter Forums</i>
August <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break Booth at SJ County Fair</i>
September TBD	September 9
October 7	October - TBD <i>Voter Forums</i>
November 4	November 11
December 2	December 10 <i>Holiday Luncheon</i>

All members are welcome to attend our board meetings – please send any board member an email and we will send you the zoom link.

LWVSJ Happenings

Recap of the March Membership Meeting

Our March meeting was both interesting and enlightening. Kyle Dodd, Environmental Health Manager for the county and Ethan Schmidt addressed the availability of water in the county and some of the challenges that have a direct impact on both availability and water quality. Climate change and salt-water intrusion are just two of the hurdles that need to be overcome. Water availability is the amount of water available for human purposes without harming the ecosystem. The county has been designated a critical aquifer recharge area because its aquifers are highly susceptible to contamination, particularly from seawater intrusion. Accurately measuring the amount of groundwater reserves in the islands generates controversy since most of the 5,400 wells in the county are private exempt wells that do not require meters. While much of the county population is served by private wells, surface water reservoirs and lakes supply drinking water to Friday Harbor and Eastsound. Since precipitation is the only source of recharge for surface and groundwater supplies, understanding the rate of recharge and withdrawal becomes critical in future growth. The meeting was followed by a question and answer period.

Join your fellow islanders for the 2024 Spring Great Islands Clean-up on Saturday, April 20!



YES! the Great Island Clean-up is coming April 20th and our league will be picking up trash on Beaverton Valley Road starting at Egg Lake Road and finishing at Trevethan Hollow Road. This year Necia has offered her home as a staging point and place to park our cars. She lives at 4144 Beaverton Valley Road. Based on how many volunteers we have, I will map out who does which portion of the road. You should have a bright orange vest, a tool to pick up trash and good walking shoes and gloves. We will meet at Necia's at 10 am on the 20th.

If you need a vest or grabber contact me, Steve Bowman at steve.bowman52@gmail.com or call my cell 360 622-6291. I will bring bags to Necia's and

will assign specific portions of the road for you to use your excellent pick up skills. You can either leave the bags at the side of the road for me to pick up or bring them to Necia's. I will collect all the bags and take them to Brewery San Juan for weighing and acknowledgement.

This is always a fun day to clean up all the winter trash. See you on the 20th!



2023 Annual Meeting – May 13th

Join us on May 13th for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon at The Grange. Our speaker will be *Todd Nicholson, Executive Director at the Port of Friday Harbor*. He will share with us news from the Port and their plans for the properties that they oversee.

As always we will be covering our business activities and have news on our line up of events for the upcoming year.

Around the League – State & National Issues

With more primary elections just around the corner, the League will continue to remain one of the most trusted organizations for voters. As Leagues gear up for November, LWVUS has created a series of election rapid response resources, from [fighting voter intimidation](#) and [building a rapid response network](#) to [guidance on how to publicly respond](#) on election issues. Do not forget, you can always find more election resources [on the League Management Site](#).

Additionally, a few weeks ago, the US Senate reintroduced the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA)*, which would restore provisions stripped from the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* and prevent voter discrimination. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, **but we cannot do it alone: we need Congress to support the passage of the JLVRAA**. We recently created a template for your local and state League to use to

contact your members of Congress and ask them to support the JLVRAA. [Access the template and review guidance on the League Management Site.](#)

In carrying out our mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, the League of Women Voters continues to be a key sponsor of candidate debates and forums. With election season underway, LWVUS has created a timeline outlining guidance on how to successfully organize and execute candidate debates and forums. [Access our debate and forum timeline on the League Management Site.](#)

Sania Irwin

National League Convention



What happens at a national convention is extraordinary. League delegates have the final word on bylaws, budget, nominations, and program. League delegates set the direction for how the League of Women Voters will navigate the next crucial years in the ongoing experiment we call democracy.

League members are invited to attend National Convention as voting delegates or as observers. [Check out the registration information](#) to learn more. Registration is open until June 10.

National Convention is a League experience unlike any other, where League members come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium. We hope you will join us in DC or online in June!

Washington State Biennial Council

Exciting news! The [2024 LWVWA Biennial Council](#) is just around the corner, set to take place on June 1 and 2 at South Puget Sound Community College's Lacey Campus. Optional fun (and mostly social) activities kick off on Friday, May 31. Virtual participation (including voting) will also be available, although we will not be able to ensure that it will be a comparable interactive experience.

This year's council is focused on gearing up for the 2024 elections. Get ready for insightful presentations and discussions on nonpartisanship, candidate forums, advocacy vs. voter education, and understanding the new ballot measures. There's a packed agenda with workshops covering diverse topics. We will announce the details of the different workshops and featured speakers in the coming weeks.

April is home to **National Volunteer Appreciation Week**, which starts on April 21st this year! According to data collected in our Annual League Survey, over 50,000 volunteers devoted 500k+ hours towards League activities in 2023! We are most grateful for all of those who contributed to this amazing statistic.



Every election year, LWV publishes nonpartisan voter guides on **VOTE411** to help voters understand where candidates stand on the issues voters care most about. Leagues across the country work tirelessly to demand candidates answer questions for our VOTE411 voter guides, which are shared unedited on the platform. **We are proud to share that VOTE411 has been nominated for the best government and civil innovation website at the 28th Annual Webby People’s Voice Awards!** VOTE411 would not be the comprehensive nonpartisan election resource it is without the hard work and dedication of our Leagues: **thank YOU for your commitment to empowering voters in your community!** VOTE411 won this award back in 2020, and I know we can win again in 2024! Public voting is open now and closes on Thursday, April 18: **[you can cast your vote for VOTE411 here.](http://www.vote411.org/)** Make sure to share within your League and community.

<http://www.vote411.org/>

Tell the high schoolers in your life about the **[LWVWA video contest!](#)** Open to all high school students in Washington, the contest provides students with the opportunity to dig in and gather knowledge about election credibility.

High School Video Contest

The League of Women Voters of Washington has launched a video creation contest that is now open to all high school students in Washington. The competition theme is “Election Credibility” to promote awareness about the safety and security of voting in Washington state.

The submission deadline is May 1, 2024. Video length must be between 30 and 60 seconds and formatted for upload to social and broadcast media.

Accepted videos will be uploaded to social media prior to the upcoming primary election on Aug. 6, 2024.

Media students — or teams of students — can display their abilities with creative direction, videography and content development with an opportunity to win money, build college application credentials and garner recognition for their contributions to the democratic process.

Students are invited to email info@lwvsc.org with questions, or to request support during video development.

Complete competition details, and a look at last year’s winning entry, are available at:

LWVWAPSACONTEST.WPCOMSTAGING.COM
lwvwapcontest.wpcomstaging.com

WED – April 10: | Washington's New Legislative Maps—How Did We Get Here? Where Do We Go Next?

Virtual event from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Join the LWVWA Redistricting Reform Task Force for a briefing on Washington State's new legislative maps. [Click here](#) to register to attend the event. Explore the repercussions of a federal court's intervention in Washington's electoral map, affecting over half a million voters. Join the dialogue on reforming the redistricting process and advocate for a more equitable People First Commission

<https://lwvwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter/13336179?emci=403e7ace-94eb-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=61c1dfc7-eded-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=10166817>

The LWV of the US Immigration Discussion Group will have a Zoom meeting on **LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR MIGRANTS** with three national experts on Monday, April 8th, 4:00 pm PST. The discussion will focus on representation of immigrants going through the court system. Our own Susan Martin has lined up speakers for the meeting and will be the moderator. A zoom link is listed below so anyone interested may attend. The Immigration Steering Group has requested to do a workshop at the upcoming National Convention and is waiting to hear back with approval.

Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88343960142>

Last Month in the State Legislature

The 2024 Legislature Ended *Sine Die*, March 7

The final day of the 2024 legislative session was Thursday, March 7. After 60 days in session, *sine die* was called. *Sine die* is a Latin term that references the closing of a session “without day” set for reconvening. This concluded the legislative biennium, as well as the 2024 session. The new biennium begins January 13, 2025, after the 2024 elections.

There were many successes and some disappointments during the biennium, and particularly this year, after which three-fourths of the legislators face reelection. A number of those have decided to retire from the legislature, but most will try to retain their seats. That means that many controversial bills did not get considered or did not pass.

The three supplemental budgets—operating, capital and transportation—were passed in the final days of the session.

Legislators chose to adopt three of the six Initiatives that were signed by the statutorily required number of voters and submitted before the session began. Those included:

- I-2081—Parental Rights;
- I-2111—Prohibiting Income Tax; and
- I-2113—Vehicle Pursuits.

The other three initiatives will go to the November ballot for a vote of the people:

- I-2109—Repeal the Capital Gains Tax;
- I-2124—Long-Term Care; and
- I-2117—Repeal the Climate Commitment Act.

A Woman, A Dad & A League of Women Voters

This story was originally in Bar Harbor Story

Many might not think that the gift of voting is a gift of love or that the ability to vote is an act of love, too. Alex Newell Taylor is not one of those people.

That's what Newell Taylor explained at the Jesup Memorial Library when she told her story about her family, voting, and advocacy. The Southwest Harbor woman was growing up in Florida when she heard about the League of Women Voters trying to get people who were convicted of felonies a right to vote. When she talked to them, she was all in.

Read more here: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/news-clips/woman-dad-and-league-women-voters>

A great way to stay current and involved is to sign up for the Legislative Newsletter from the WA League. This provides a weekly update on key issues in the legislature, including Action Alerts for upcoming votes and information on current activity on major bills. Newsletters come out every Sunday during the Legislative Session. Click here: [sign up for the Legislative Newsletter](#)

Join Your Local League!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 and older may become a voting member of the League.

Follow Us on Facebook!

Follow what local, state and national league are up to at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSanJuans>

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's

Officers

Susan Martin	President	360-370-5205	martinsf@georgetown.edu
Barbara Sharp	Vice-President	360-472-0148	b_gsharp@hotmail.com
Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	sjbutlerak@gmail.com
Michael Martin	Treasurer & Roster	360-370-5205	martinml@ieee.org
Diana Sibert	Secretary	360-370-5269	dianasibert@gmail.com
Jill Belcovson	The Voter	805-689-2260	jbelcovson@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	audraacaba@gmail.com
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	marycampanella@icloud.com
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	eberhard@rockisland.com
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	chita.miller@gmail.com
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus		360-370-5814	steve.bowman52@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Leslie Veirs, Chair; Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Barbara Marrett

When you join the League, your dues go to three different places: to National League to help support voting rights advocacy efforts, to State League for voter education as well as advocacy for state issues that League supports; and then there are a few dollars left to support our local forums and programs. Below are the different levels of dues payments and the PO Box number. If you choose to give at a higher level than the "Regular" level, the extra money stays with our local League to support our important work here. Thanks for supporting LWV at all levels!

A Note from the Treasurer:

When you receive an updated roster in your email inbox please look at the column (labeled "Paid thru") near the far-right-hand side to see if you are paid through 5/31/2024. If not, please consider sending your check to our PO Box.

Also please let us know of any changes that need to be made to your contact information.

Thank you for continuing to support the important work that we do.

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's.

Name(s) _____ **Address** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one:

	Regular	Carrie Chapman Catt	Susan B. Anthony
Individual	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
Family	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
Students	Free		

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA–EF) in the amount of \$_____.

PLEASE RETURN TO: League of Women Voters of the San Juans
PO Box 784
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Voter Editor: Jill Belcovson – 805-689-2260 – jbelcovson@gmail.com