



# VOTER

**July 2023**

**Get to Know Your Port and Fire Commissioner Candidates – Orcas Island**

**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm - Public Meeting Room, Eastsound Fire Station  
& via Zoom**

**Get to Know Your Port Commissioner Candidates – Friday Harbor  
Port of Friday Harbor District 3 – Port Commissioner 3**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm - The Grange, Friday Harbor & via Zoom**

*Doors will open at 5.45pm*

This is a local election year and many decisions that affect our day-to-day lives are the result of actions taken by our local elected representatives. The League forums for the primary election are a moderated event, designed to introduce voters to the candidates and during which they will present introductory statements and respond to your questions. The League of Women Voters of the San Juans is sponsoring two forums this week. The first will be on Orcas Island at the Eastsound Fire District Public Meeting Room at 6 PM on **Wednesday, July 12**. The Forum focuses on the candidates for the Port Commissioner and Fire Commissioner positions that will be considered in the August primary election.

*Candidates on the August primary ballot for San Juan County Fire Protection District No. 2 – Fire Commissioner 1 are Toni Knudson, Kate Hansen, and Leith Templin.  
Candidates for Port of Orcas – Port Commissioner 3 are Rick Fant, Mia Kartiganer, and Bob Phalan.*

The second forum will be on San Juan Island at the Grange Hall at 6 PM on **Thursday, July 13**. The Forum focuses on the candidates for the San Juan Island Port Commissioner position.

*Candidates for Port Commissioner on San Juan Island are Rich Goodhart, Randy Cowley and Greg Hertel.*

Join the Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86831238496?pwd=aU5qT0IwM2J2THNFOWlwOWZoRVVvdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 3123 8496

Passcode: 340496

## Your Vote Matters:



It determines your access to affordable health care

It lifts up the voices of those most impacted by climate change

It ensures that we're all represented in in our government, not just those of us with greater wealth or systemic advantages.

It promotes immigration reform, including family reunification and political asylum.

## Recap of our June Monthly Meeting – Homeless Teens: A Hidden Problem, A Community Solution



There was a solid turnout for our June meeting featuring Melanie Kaegi from SJC Superior Court Juvenile Services and Ashley Strutz from the Joyce Sobel Family Resource Center addressing the pressing need to provide stable places to live for homeless teens in our county. Their direct experiences and ideas on how we, as a community can support them, were supported by a presentation from Necia Quast on a five-year homelessness plan that has the goal of starting a Host Home Program in our county.

Building on the fact that many such teens find refuge with other community members, the programs seek to create a safe, stable alternate home by providing support and structure for the child and host household. This is a local solution that works with existing efforts to help teens not living in their own homes. Such a program would recruit host homes, match teens with a place to stay, and provide host households with training, crisis support, respite care, and perhaps financial or material aid.

*The Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center has started a fund to support the creation of a Host Home Program and to provide help to unhoused teens. Donations can be sent with the note Help Teens on the memo line.*



## It's A Summer Picnic!

*Please join us on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sculpture Garden in Roche Harbor 12pm – 2pm.*

*Bring a dish to share and commune with fellow members amongst the artworks and beautiful gardens.*

## Meeting Dates 2023

Board Meetings	Monthly Meetings
July 3	July 19 <i>Summer Picnic</i>
Aug 7 <sup>th</sup> - Board meeting - Library Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> -Board Retreat <i>148 Channel Heights Way</i>	<i>Summer Break</i>
<i>No Board Meeting</i>	September 11 <i>Immigration and Immigrant Integration in San Juan County and Beyond</i>
October 2	October 9 <i>Forums</i>
November 6	November 13
December 4	December 11 <b>Holiday Luncheon</b>

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

## The 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Affirmative Action

*Editorial published in the Journal of the San Juans*

*By Susan Martin, President of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans*

The Fourth of July celebrates American independence and the core principles that hold our republic together: that all persons are created equal, “endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The creators of the Declaration, including its principal author, Thomas Jefferson, did not fully understand the ramifications of this compelling dictum. It took almost a century to end slavery, still longer to recognize the rights of those who were freed, grant women the right to vote, and recognize that separate was not equal when it came to racial discrimination. But, to quote Martin Luther King, “The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice” and progress has been made in righting injustice.

Whether it will continue is not as clear. The Supreme Court issued decisions in the past year overturning longstanding precedents. Last year’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned the country to state-by-state policies on access to abortion. It has caused chaos as doctors struggle to understand what is acceptable under state law and the patients they fail to treat have died or experienced significant harm as politicians debate how draconian the law should be. The decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College and University*

of North Carolina et al. is likely to create chaos as well, as universities struggle to determine what can be done to ensure equitable access to higher education now that the Supreme Court has ended affirmative action.

The League of Women Voters is a staunch supporter of affirmative action to achieve greater diversity in higher education and a more equitable society by providing access to those who are often excluded. When the Court's ruling was released the National League's President warned that: "Today's Supreme Court ruling reverses the decades-long precedent that upholds the constitutionality of higher education institutions considering the whole person, including race, in admission decisions. She went on to say: "For far too long, Black students and other students of color have been excluded and underrepresented within our higher education system.... A student body that is reflective of our society — one that includes more representation of people of color within systems, structures, and institutions — benefits all students and society as a whole. Today's devastating ruling will lead to less racially diverse student bodies, further disenfranchise people of color, and harm our democracy."

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans adheres to the principles established in the Declaration of Independence and codified in the 14th Amendment that all citizens have a right to "equal protection under the laws." Although one tool to obtain equal protection appears to be gone, we will work to ensure that everyone has access to full rights under the law, regardless of their race, religion, gender, disabilities or other characteristics used to marginalize groups of people.

## **Around the League – State & National Issues**

### **Participate in the New LWVWA Study of Caregiving in Washington State: What exists and what is needed to support seniors and other vulnerable adults and their caregivers?**

This newly approved study responds to recent media headlines and the experiences of League members who have faced nearly insurmountable challenges caring for elderly parents and other family members. With an aging population, an increased proportion of Washingtonians need long-term care. This care falls disproportionately on family caregivers who provide the bulk of care for vulnerable adults. When care outside the home becomes necessary, it relies on low-paid women caregivers (often women of color) and is limited, of variable quality, and extremely costly.

We are looking for League members from across the state who are concerned about this issue and want to study it in an accurate, balanced and credited manner hopefully leading to consensus and positions that support League advocacy efforts. This summer, study committee members will refine the scope of the study and establish a work plan and timeline for state Board review and approval. Please contact Karen Tvedt at [tvedtkl@msn.com](mailto:tvedtkl@msn.com) if you are interested in serving on the study committee or have questions about the study.

### **Immigration and Immigrant Integration in Washington State**

The Study on Immigration and Immigrant Integration in WA addresses an important aspect of immigration policy—that is, what happens to immigrants after they come to the United States. More than 1.1 million people, accounting for 15 percent of Washington State

residents, are immigrants while another 14 percent is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent. This study will provide an opportunity for the League to delve more deeply into legislative options at the state level for enhancing the lives of immigrants and the role the League could be playing in ensuring immigrants have pathways to economic, social, and civic integration into the communities in which they live.

We seek interested League members from throughout the state to serve on the study committee. It is particularly important to get representation from both urban and rural counties with significant immigrant populations. For more information, please contact Susan Martin, President, LWV of the San Juans, at [martinsf@georgetown.edu](mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu) for more information.

## **Member Rights & Responsibilities**

The League of Women Voters of the United States recently posted its newly developed [Member Rights and Responsibilities](#) on its website.

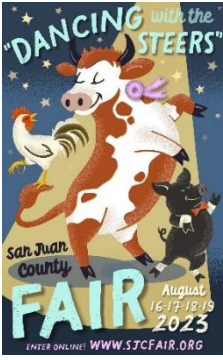
### ***What does it mean to be a League member?***

National League has done a lot to ensure that all those across the United States who are members of their Local, State and National League have a path to become active members and League leaders - to the extent that our lives and interest allows. But what does it mean to be a League member? The League of Women Voters is exceptional in member organizations because it is members who power the organization. This means members have a lot of responsibility in how the League is perceived in communities across America. The Member Rights and Responsibilities points to maximizing this impressive association of our Leagues of Women Voters.

Member rights include membership at all levels of League. Members can join any League they wish. They can participate in League events and activities such as annual meetings and state and national conventions. They elect their local, state, and national leaders according to their bylaws, and they can run for League leadership. Perhaps most importantly members are entitled to full participation in the League of Women Voters without barriers—as stated in local and state diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies or [national League's DEI policy](#). This is democracy in action.

Members also have a responsibility to ensure a safe environment for collaboration. They are called to do this by abiding by the rules of their local and state Leagues, and the national League. This includes respectful discourse for online activity as well as in-person events. League is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all, particularly for members of historically marginalized groups. And League's [nonpartisan policy](#) is a key area of interest and a strength in partisan times that members should take note of.

*Mary Coltrane  
President LWVWA*



## We will be at the County Fair August 16 – 19!

Come and visit our booth and say hello or, better yet, sign up to help us staff the booth.

We'll be working in shifts and would love to have you join us. Email Jill at [jbelcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

## The League had a Robust Presence at the FH 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade!



*A big thank you to all who came out in support of the LWVSJ!*



**COMING SOON!** Our new website is under construction. We are updating the design and expanding the content. Once launched, we hope you will visit the site to stay up to date on all our local activities.


## Observer Corps Update

Everyone who signs up to attend meetings and take notes will get guidance on how to do notes and Necia will prepare a monthly calendar of meetings. Please contact Necia at [collquas@netscape.net](mailto:collquas@netscape.net) or 360-370-5502, if you are interested in learning more or in taking part. A complete archive of all Observer Corps notes can be found on our webpage.

Organization	Frequency	When	Time	Where	Virtual	Volunteer
SJI School Board	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5pm	HS Library	No	S. Bowman
SJI Public Hospital District	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5.30pm	535 Market St #E	Yes	B. Sharp
Port of FH	2 x Month	2 & 4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	12pm	Yacht Club	No	J. Belcovson
SJI Fire District 3	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	3pm	Mullis Firehouse	No	M. Martin
FH Town Council	2 x Month	1 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	12pm	Council Chambers	Yes	
County Council	2-4 x Month	Tues/some Mon/Weds	9am	County Office	Yes	

 **To Do List**

- [Register to Vote](#) (or verify and/or update your voter registration) for the upcoming Primary. The deadline for online and mail registrations is July 24<sup>th</sup>.

 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!

Are you passionate about democracy and looking for a community of like-minded people? 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. When you join a local League, you automatically become a member of the state and national Leagues, as well.

## Follow Us on Facebook!

Follow what local, state and national league are up to at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSanJuans>. We are working on our website – stay tuned for updates and check it out at <https://www.lwvwa.org/San-Juan>

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

### Officers

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

### Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	<a href="mailto:audraaeaba@gmail.com">audraaeaba@gmail.com</a>
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.com</a>
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	<a href="mailto:eberhard@rockisland.com">eberhard@rockisland.com</a>
Farhad Ghatan		360-378-0442	<a href="mailto:farhaddahlias@gmail.com">farhaddahlias@gmail.com</a>
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	<a href="mailto:chita.miller@gmail.com">chita.miller@gmail.com</a>
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	<a href="mailto:collquas@aim.com">collquas@aim.com</a>
Kari McVeigh		310-678-1403	<a href="mailto:kmcveigh630@gmail.com">kmcveigh630@gmail.com</a>
Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus		360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>

*Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Leslie Veirs and 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!

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:

	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Carrie Chapman Catt</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony</b>
<b>Individual</b>	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
<b>Family</b>	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
<b>Student</b>	\$35		

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 – [jbeltcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbeltcovson@gmail.com)**  
**Contributing Editor - Susan Martin**