

# VOTER

## February Membership Meeting

San Juan Island Library,  
February 12<sup>th</sup> 12 pm – 2pm

### 2024 Election Integrity

*Featured Speakers:*

**Steve Hobbs, Secretary of State**  
**& Natasha Warmenhoven, County Auditor**

In the national League's program of action for 2022-24, the League committed to fight for "the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible". In support of our democracy, we must have the capacity to rebut misinformation and address cyber and other threats that may impede smooth election outcomes. We are honored to host two excellent speakers to talk about election integrity: Washington Secretary of State **Steve Hobbs** and SJ County Auditor **Natasha Warmenhoven**. They will be discussing the steps that the State and County are taking to ensure election integrity in the context of the upcoming primary and general elections.



Steve Hobbs is Washington's 16th Secretary of State. He began his tenure in 2021 and was elected by the people of Washington in 2022. He is the first person of color to serve as Secretary of State and only the second in state history who was born in Washington. Secretary Hobbs leads one of Washington's most diverse state-government offices, which is responsible for managing state and local elections, corporation and charity filings, Washington State Library, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, and Washington State Archives. When Secretary Hobbs assumed office, he prioritized greater election security, countering misleading and harmful election disinformation, and expanded voter education and outreach.



Natasha Warmenhoven started her first 4-year term of office on January 1, 2023. Prior to serving as Auditor, Natasha was the San Juan County Chief Deputy Auditor for three years. She moved to the county in 2019 and enjoys everything the islands have to offer. The county auditor’s office is as complex in its duties as the Secretary of State. In addition to overseeing elections, the auditor is responsible for the county’s financials, accounts payables, payroll, grant disbursements, the budget, and the general ledger of expenses and receivables.

It also provides a variety of licenses, including for vehicle and vessels, marriages and dogs. Please join us for a timely and important discussion of the integrity of state and county elections as well as steps that the League as an organization and we as citizens can take to help ensure that our elections run as smoothly and fairly as possible.

**This meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Our speakers will be joining via Zoom. You may join us in person at the Library or join via the Zoom link below:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83364651803?pwd=OUhtWHJJK0FQQUduYU5aS3BUT0NwUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 6465 1803  
Passcode: 498480

**Meeting Dates 2024**

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Membership Meetings</b>
Feb 5	Feb 12
March 4	March 11
April 1	April 8
May 6	May 13 <i>Annual Meeting</i>
June 3	June 10
July 1	<i>Summer Picnic</i>
August <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</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

At their January Board meeting, the LWVUS Board of Directors adopted the 2024 Lobbying Priorities as:

- **Campaign for Making Democracy Work** which includes advocating for voting rights, money in politics, protecting DC autonomy, and the 2030 Census.
- Work to finalize publication of the **Equal Rights Amendment** in the US constitution.
- Approve strategic engagement, as needed, for watchlist issues: **Climate change, gun safety, immigration, and reproductive justice.**

In advance of the LWVUS National Convention in June, local Leagues will respond to a survey on National's Program and will make recommendations for additions to the National Program. Our Board will recommend to our membership that LWVSJ continue to lobby for National to add reproductive rights as a distinct part of the National Program of Work. Susan Martin notes that our previous work on this issue puts us in a good position to bring it to the forefront. Reproductive rights extend to justice and human rights and making democracy work, as there is a move to prohibit ballot initiatives to address the will of the people on this issue. In recent days Susan received the news that the national board has adopted lobbying priorities that specifically mention immigration and reproductive justice, two of the issues that we have been advocating for. Susan and Necia will draft language on these two topics for the national Program Planning Survey.

Our board will bring up these issues in several forums and Susan will address it at the WA state presidents' meeting. As the survey is due back on March 10, we will be discussing these topics at our next meeting.

*Justification for our request to add Reproductive Rights to the LWVUS Program at the 2024 convention:*

Reproductive rights need to be a LWVUS program priority. With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, women were stripped of a long standing right. With the abortion bans implemented in many states, women are legally second-class citizens, not allowed to make decisions about their own reproductive and health choices, often to the peril of their lives. The LWVUS should be among the strongest and most public voices on this issue.

Further, women's reproductive rights have become central to the function of our democracy. In state after state, as voters have pushed back on abortion bans, legislators have responded by trying to reduce citizens voices and ability to impact the law directly, for example by limiting voting rights making it more difficult or impossible to launch ballot initiatives and referendums, or requiring supermajorities.

The League needs a specific position on reproductive rights separate from the larger healthcare position and an updated position on women's rights. We need a program that centers these positions with a plan to advance them.

*Justification for our request to add Immigration and Refugee Issues to the LWVUS Program at the 2024 convention:*

LWV's position on immigration policy has not been updated since 2008. In the intervening years, immigration issues have arisen or become more prominent that are not addressed in the position adopted by the board. These include issues related to access to asylum, particularly at the border; actions needed to reinvigorate the resettlement of refugees; the large-scale use of humanitarian parole to admit people fleeing their countries, which do not provide a pathway to citizenship; growing detention of migrants in private prisons and county jails; tensions between states and the federal government over which has responsibility for immigration policy; the growing use of executive action, in lieu of legislative solutions to immigration problems; the impact of new instruments aimed at increasing cooperation among countries in managing migration (e.g., the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees); and others. It is time for a new study that could lead to an updated and more expansive position on immigration and refugee/asylum issues.

Humane and effective immigration policies are at the heart of LWV's commitment to making democracy work. Immigrants and, especially, refugees leave their countries because they are denied rights and opportunities. Refugees and immigrants have long seen the United States as a beacon of democracy and liberty for all. They often seek protection within our borders because of our democratic form of governance and reverence for the Constitution of the United States. Even when they are also driven by economic needs, immigrants contribute to our democracy through their civic engagement. Unlike those born in the United States, naturalized citizens choose to be part of our democracy. The League can play a special role in bringing this connection between democracy and immigration to the attention of lawmakers and the general public.

*Necia Quast and Susan Martin*

## **Notes from An Observer: Our Public Officials**

*By Necia Quast*

In the 2022 pilot phase of the League of Women the San Juans (LWVSJ) Observer Corps, I covered the public meeting of seven government bodies and commissions ranging from the County Council to the San Juan Island School Board. In 2023 four of the those were taken on by other observers. I still cover three and occasionally some of the others as back up. Over two years, I have covered over a hundred meetings and seen dozens of local elected officials carry out their work.

People ask me how this affected my views of local government and often assume that the officials are less than thrilled to have me there, potentially cramping their style. My experience has been the opposite; every group has welcomed us from the start and their members often thank the League for the Observer Corps. They tend to feel that one of their biggest challenges is keeping constituents informed of the range and complexity of the issues on their agendas. Indeed, they seem thrilled that someone is paying attention and grateful for the help in keeping the public informed.

What has become clear is that these are demanding jobs that are a lot of work. Council members and commissioners need to master and stay current with large amounts of

information—budgets and finances, laws and regulations, policies and procedures, legislative action at the state and federal level, community sentiment and specialized subjects. There is a lot of reading. They also serve on internal committees and represent their organizations on a variety of state and local boards, commissions, and associations. For most, much of the work is unpaid aside from modest payment for official meetings.

We are fortunate in San Juan County that most of our officials have professional and courteous relationships with each other, something that is not always the case in many places these days where some bodies have become deeply divided. Here, though members may have different views, they focus on getting things done and once a decision is made generally everyone supports moving forward.

People ask how watching local government so closely has changed my views of local government, sometimes expecting it has made me more cynical. Seeing them at work has increased my confidence in local government. Mostly I have been impressed by the professionalism of our local officials and how seriously they take their responsibility to represent their constituents. They seek public comment and input and take criticism gracefully. Steve Bowman who observes the San Juan Island School Board meetings said, "My attendance at the School Board meetings has increased my understanding of how much they work to get things done and how it impacts the delivery of education to our kids across all grades." We have public officials who work hard, and I encourage citizens to attend a meeting or two not just for public comment, but to watch our officials at work.

" The only thing I would add is that being an Observer is really fulfilling both professionally and personally. My attendance at the School Board meetings has increased my understand of how hard they all work, how much they work to get things done and how it impacts the delivery of education to our kids across all grades. I REALLY like doing this and the board and staff comment that what I write and we get published is read by many and commented back to the board and staff. Thank you for getting this going and keeping it well delivered. We should have more league members signing up to do it."

*Steve Bowman*

### **Fun Fact:**

Did you know that our local League started on Orcas Island in 1984, later becoming LWV of San Juan County in 1995. As this year is the 40th anniversary of our start on Orcas, and next year will be the 30th anniversary of becoming SJ County, we want to mark these occasions in some way over the course of the next two-year period. Watch this space for more news and updates on how we will be celebrating these milestones.

The position of **Action Committee Chair** is opening up and we are looking for a person from our membership who could step into this role. The Chair and other members of Action Committees speak with individual lawmakers, lawmaking bodies and partners to gain support for a League position, initiative, issue or specific legislation pending in Olympia or San Juan County. LWVWA provides training and information for members of the committee. During each legislative session, members of the league work to establish personal relationships with legislators to gain credibility and serve as a resource with lawmakers and with the community at large.

Contact [pres@lwvsj.com](mailto:pres@lwvsj.com) if you are interested in learning more about this exciting position!

## **AROUND THE LEAGUE**

### **Dr. Deborah Turner – In Memoriam**

Deborah Turner, MD, JD, served as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She was elected board president at the 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters in June of 2022 and served until her passing in January 2024.



Dr. Turner joined the Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010 and became president in 2011 when the League was at risk of disbanding. She served in that role until 2015 helping revitalize membership and focus the board leadership. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in

2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has provided leadership to strengthen relationships between local leagues and the state Board.

Turner was elected to the League's national board of directors in 2016, where she served on the Finance committee, Governance Committee, and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. As chair of the DEI Committee, Deborah and her colleagues focused on organizational culture changes to the League's mission work, emphasizing not only racial equity but also intergenerational dynamics, socioeconomic differences, gender identity, and interpersonal engagement.

Dr. Turner received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from the University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. She completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston Texas. She practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, enhancing university programs at the University of Nebraska, the University of Iowa, and the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching residents and students. She also served the private sector, bringing her specialty to Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City, IA, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. In July 2015, she left active practice to become Vice President of International Programs Medical Programs of The Outreach Program. She participated in twelve medical missions to Tanzania since 2011 and worked with Singida's Medical Center, Outreach's Children's Feeding Centers, and Rotary International. She received her JD from Drake University in 2007. She has served as Associate Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States since 2016.

Turner was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Gertrude Rush Award from the National Bar Association in 2015. She was awarded the Louise Noun Visionary Women of the Year award from the Young Women's Resource Center Des Moines in

2018. Her most treasured award is a certificate from the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care. In 2022, Fortune Magazine named her a "Marquis Who's Who" top professional for her work with LWV.

Dr. Turner lived in Iowa and had two grown children – a son and a niece. If you would like to read some inspirational stories from Dr. Turner please use this link:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/inspiration-late-lwv-president-dr-deborah-ann-turner>

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



San Juan Island School District is asking voters to [renew the existing capital projects and technology levy](#) for the next four years. This levy provides essential funding to stay current with educational technology and for safety improvements, major repairs, and maintenance.

The school district regularly applies for competitive grant funding but is still reliant on local levy support to maintain facilities and fund technology systems.

The district has been very intentional in the levy process. The committee included community representatives, parents, school board directors and staff. A capital and technology implementation plan guides this process ensuring students and teachers have a safe, healthy environment and tools necessary for teaching and learning.

The whole community benefits as district facilities are used by many groups for recreation, meetings, and events, on evenings and weekends, year-round. This levy preserves, protects, and improves these community-owned assets for future generations.



### The 2024 Legislative Issues

#### LWWA Legislative Issues From the 2024 Washington State Legislative Session

Click on an issue overview to learn more about the bills the League is following and "This Week's Updates" to read the issue chair's report on this past week.

##### Democracy

Elections | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)

Money in Politics | [Issue overview](#) |

Education | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Local News and Democracy | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Redistricting | [Issue overview](#)

##### Environment

Climate Crisis and Energy | [Issue overview](#) |

Forests [▲](#) | [Issue overview](#)

Growth Management | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Waste Diversion | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Transportation | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

### **[Social and Economic Policy](#)**

Housing and Homelessness | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Health Care [▲](#) | [Issue overview](#)

Behavioral Health | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Children's Issues | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Early Care and Education of Young Children [▲](#) | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly update](#)

Criminal Justice | [Issue overview](#)

Revenue | [Issue overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)

## **Priority Actions – use the links below to learn more about bills currently being reviewed in the legislature.**

### **Address Threats to Election Workers**

Threatening election workers who are entrusted by the public to carry out elections has become a significant problem over the last few years. [HB 1241](#), Addressing Harassment, makes threats to election workers a class C felony regardless of how the threat is delivered and allows for those election workers who are harassed to apply to the Address Confidentiality Program to protect their home addresses. HB 1241 passed the House with bipartisan support and has been referred to the Senate Law & Justice Committee.

### **Improve Emergency Response to Inclement Weather Events**

The legislature recognizes the increasing risks and threats to socially vulnerable people (including pets) from extreme weather events such as heat, cold, smoke, and flooding. [HB 1012](#), Creating an Extreme Weather Response Grant Program, will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs during such periods. This is for cities, counties, towns, and tribes that have emergency management organizations.

### **Support Funding for Natural Lands**

Conservation advocates are again asking for help to protect special places around Washington state. DNR's trust land transfer (TLT) program has conserved nearly 130,000 acres of unique landscapes during its first 30 years of its existence. However, TLT needed to be revitalized after public support for the program dwindled and legislative appropriations dried up. In 2023, Washingtonians spoke up and successfully urged legislators to revitalize TLT as a conservation tool.

Now there is a unique opportunity to secure additional funding in the 2024 legislative session for [more TLT projects](#) using higher-than-expected carbon auction revenues from the state's Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) account. NCS funding makes perfect sense for TLT because forests sequester carbon!

### **End Foreign Influence in our Elections**

This important bill was heard by the House State Government and Tribal Relations committee on January 9 but has not yet been scheduled for a vote to move it out of committee for further action. [HB 1885](#), Strengthens campaign finance disclosure by prohibiting campaign contributions and expenditures by foreign-influenced corporations would protect the basic principle of democratic self-government, and improve trust in our



elections. We need you to encourage committee members to vote this out of committee before January 31, 2024. Please help get this bill passed this year.

*Many of these issues are going to be covered at our membership meetings during this year so come out and enjoy time at our monthly meetings with other League members.*



Once again the LWVWA has partnered with **The Spokesman-Review** to produce a tabloid filled with everything you need to know about voting in Washington state

**Thank you to *The Columbian* for reprinting *Your Vote*. Learn more in "From the Newsroom: The Truth About Voter Fraud."**

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

#### **Members-at-Large**

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	<a href="mailto:audraeaba@gmail.com"><u>audraeaba@gmail.com</u></a>
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com"><u>marycampanella@icloud.com</u></a>
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	<a href="mailto:eberhard@rockisland.com"><u>eberhard@rockisland.com</u></a>
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Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus	360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>

*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:*

*A big thank you to members who have recently paid dues.*

*We are well into our current fiscal year which started on June 1, 2023. 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:

	<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>Students</b>	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

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