

VOTER

March Membership Meeting - March 11th
San Juan Island Library, 12 pm – 2pm

Water Availability & Quality in San Juan County



Kyle Dodd, Environmental Health Manager for San Juan County, and **Ethan Schmidt, Environmental Health Specialist**, will address this timely issue, particularly in light of population growth and climate changes that could have a significant impact on water availability and quality in our county. While many residents obtain their water from municipal sources, others get theirs from private wells, HOA systems and other sources. The importance of this issue was highlighted last year when health concerns were raised over well contamination along with the discussion around water rights and salt-water intrusion.

In addition to helping us all become more informed about water safety and availability, the March meeting will highlight legislative and other strategies to address these important issues.

Kyle Dodd has been the Environmental Health Manager for San Juan County Health & Community Services since 2014. In this capacity, he oversees program staff working in the areas of on-site sewage, drinking water, food protection and solid waste. He has over 25 years' experience working in local health jurisdictions in Washington. He spends time outside of work as a volunteer firefighter/EMT responding with both San Juan Island Fire & Rescue and San Juan Island EMS. Other interests include hiking and camping across the West.

Ethan Schmidt is an Environmental Health Specialist with eight years of experience working in the Drinking Water Program at San Juan County Health & Community Services. Originally hailing from northern Wisconsin, he studied Environmental Science and Economics at Northwestern University before making his way out to the San Juan Islands. Ethan enjoys working with the public and helping people navigate the challenges of water availability permitting in the islands. In his spare time, you can find him playing pickleball, skiing, or exploring the area.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83364651803?pwd=OUhtWHJJKOFQQUduYU5aS3BUT0NwUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 6465 1803
Passcode: 498480

This event is not sponsored by the San Juan Island Library

Meeting Dates 2024

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
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>
September 2	September 9

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 February Membership Meeting

Our February meeting was well attended both in person and via Zoom. We were honored to have **Secretary of State, Steve Hobbs** and **County Auditor, Natasha Warmenhoven** address the issue of election integrity and the steps that they take to ensure this in the upcoming primary and general elections. As the League continues to fight for the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible, it is important to have the capacity to rebut misinformation and address cyber and other threats that may impede smooth election outcomes.

Both speakers discussed the specific procedures in place at the state and local levels to protect elections from outside interference. The Secretary of State spoke about the

importance of using paper-based systems, including voter verifiable paper audit trails; independent testing; pre- and post-election audits; and the physical security of tabulation equipment. His office has worked to ensure that counties have state-of-the-art equipment and follow IT industry best practices. Before ballot tallying equipment can be used in Washington State, they must be certified by an independent testing lab. Our county auditor described how these provisions are implemented at the county level to ensure election integrity. She emphasized the importance of transparency and reminded the audience that voters have the right to observe the way in which votes are tallied. She also offered to brief other organizations and groups about the procedures used in San Juan County. The lively question and answer session that followed allowed participants to delve into more specific issues related to elections. See the [recording](#) of the meeting for more information about the event. The passcode is AT8ar%N.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

56th Biennial LWV National Convention

June 27 – 30, Washington DC and online



All members are invited to attend this fully hybrid convention with both combined and unique experiences for in-person and virtual attendees. All information related to National Convention, including registration and hotel bookings, **can be found here**. League members are invited to attend National Convention as voting delegates or as observers. Check out the registration tab [on the Convention website](#) 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!

[REGISTER FOR CONVENTION](#)

Countdown to Local News Concurrence at the National League Convention

by Lyn Whitley, LWVWA Local News and Democracy Committee and Delegate to the national League of Women Voters Convention

This June, delegates from state and local Leagues across the country will gather at the nation's capitol for the national convention of the League of Women Voters. At this convention, many delegates will work to gain national concurrence for the LWVWA's **Local News and Democracy position**.

The delegates from each League in our state can, and likely will, voice their own perspective. A delegate need not be in favor of concurrence to attend the national convention. The final number of delegates that can be sent from Washington Leagues to the national convention is determined by the official number of members in the state. This information will be available in a few weeks. Our goal is to send as many League members from Washington as possible—not just the members of the Local News and Democracy Committee.

In the meantime, work toward national concurrence of our Local News position is underway. Here's a brief update:

- Each state and local League across the country have been asked by LWVUS to respond to a Program Planning Survey by March 10. Part of this survey is to indicate if that League supports the LWVWA bid for national concurrence on our Local News position. At least 13 local Leagues in Washington have already indicated their support.
- At some point, likely in April, we will learn if the LWVUS Board of Directors will recommend the position for concurrence at the national League convention.
- To spread awareness on the importance of national concurrence on our Local News position, the members of the LWVWA Local News Committee have been available to present workshops on how national concurrence on our position would enable Leagues across the country—including LWVUS—to advocate for legislation or other efforts that support local news and media literacy. A number of states and communities have proposed such legislation, including New York and Colorado.

We recognize that attending convention is costly for individuals, which is why local Leagues are encouraged to host fundraising events to help offset a portion of the delegate costs. The LWVWA is also looking at possible grants from corporations and interested organizations to help offset a portion of the costs for delegates.

Updates on the LWVWA's bid to secure concurrence at the national League convention can be found on our [Local News and Democracy page](#). The updates will also be shared with local League presidents, so you can [contact your local League](#) to learn more.

Leagues in the News

- To celebrate their 104th birthday, Debra Cronmiller from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin wrote about the League's work to expand voting rights in state. [Read the opinion: 104 years and counting of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, expanding voting rights for all](#)
- League member and advocate Alex Newell Taylor shares what inspired her to join the League and their work in Maine. [A Woman, A Dad, and A League of Women Voters](#)
- The League of Women Voters of Collier County, FL, spoke about their commitment to empowering voters, the importance of community partnerships, and VOTE411.
- [Your vote is your voice: The League of Women Voters of Collier County is here to help](#)

Civics Ed with the League of Bellingham/Whatcom County



Recently, a team of volunteers for the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County embarked on a project to create an ongoing series of short educational videos about various election topics. These videos will be distributed on the LWVBWC's **Facebook** and **Instagram** accounts, as well as on their **YouTube channel** and **Civics Education page**.

The team members working on this project include a researcher, a script writer, a tech person who edits the videos and creates graphics, a presenter—who stars in the videos—and a social media advisor.

The first topic covered in these videos is the Electoral College. Currently, these videos can be viewed on the LWVBWC **Civics Education page**.

News from the San Juans

- ✓ [2024 Election Integrity Upcoming Topic for League of Women Voters](#) | **LWV San Juans** | *The Orcasonian*
- ✓ [San Juan Island PHD: Village at Harbor Fully Staffed](#) | **LWV San Juan** | *The San Juan Islander*
- ✓ [LWVSJ Observer Corps: County Council January 22-23, 2024](#) | **LWV San Juan** | *The Orcasonian*
- ✓ [LWV Observer Corps Notes on Public Meetings](#) | **LWV San Juans** | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- ✓ [LWV Observer Corps Notes on Town Council Meetings](#) | **LWV San Juans** | *The Journal of the San Juans*
- ✓ [LWVSJ Observer Corps Notes on County Council February 5-6](#) | **LWV San Juan** | *The Orcasonian*
- ✓ [LWV Observer Corps Notes on Fire District](#) | **LWV San Juan** | *The Journal of the San Juans*

Voter Services: Candidate Debates & Forums

Hearing and seeing candidates engage in healthy debates before an election is an important part of our democracy. Candidate debates and forums help us determine which candidates align with our values and which ones we want to support with our votes. Every year, state and local Leagues host candidate debates and forums for candidates running at all levels of government, from congressional races to statewide offices, city government, local school boards, and everything in between. Due to our deep roots and long history of

nonpartisanship, communities nationwide have put their trust in the League to host these events.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the League of Women Voters sponsored the televised presidential debates. In 1976, the League won an Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism.

The LWVWA Partners with KIRO TV for 2024 Debates

Recently, The League of Women Voters of Washington announced that they will be working with KIRO TV to present Senatorial and Gubernatorial debates for the 2024 Election. These debates will be held in October.



The LWVWA will be holding other statewide debates as well. Currently, there are also plans for primary forums for

Attorney General, Commissioner for Public Lands, and the Superintendent of Public Schools.

You can find more information in this [press release](#).



Volunteer Observers Bring Credibility to Elections

https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/Voter%20Services/YourVote2021/LWVWA3_VolunteerObservers.pdf



To Do List

This year is a CRITICAL election year, [get involved and make a difference](#) with the League! Volunteer with your local League.

- Talk to the [Future Voters](#) in your life. Make sure they know any eligible voter who will be 18 years old by Election Day in November CAN vote in the Presidential Primary in March.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit us on our website.



Breaking Down the Legislature

This is the final week of the 2024 Legislature. As noted in “This Week in the Legislature”, the agenda is quite limited. The legislators will be busy behind the scenes negotiating the final floor votes for the supplemental budgets and other matters that they have chosen to hear.

As a recap, here’s where we’ve been (weeks are rounded) in this 2nd session of the biennium:

- Weeks 1 to 3.5—Committee work for policy bills in the chamber of origin
- Weeks 3.5 to 4—Committee work continued for fiscal bills
- Week 4 to 5—Passage of bills in house of origin
- Week 5 to 6—Committee work for bills passed by the opposite chamber
- Week 6 to 7—Committee work for fiscal bills from the opposite chamber
- 4 days, Week 7—Passage of bills from the opposite chamber
- 4 days, Week 8—Final passage of final budgets and initiatives (if any)

This is a very time-limited, intense process. Legislators must work very hard to get their bills passed in any supplemental session, but this year there were more bills introduced than ever before, making the time constraints even harder.

If you have questions about the legislative process or would like a speaker for your organization, please contact [Cynthia Stewart](#), Lobby Team Chair.

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 if you are interested in learning more about this exciting position.

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.

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
Farhad Ghatan		360-378-0442	farhaddahlias@gmail.com
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	chita.miller@gmail.com
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
Kari McVeigh		310-678-1403	kmcveigh630@gmail.com
Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus		360-370-5814	steve.bowman52@gmail.com

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

Follow Us on Facebook!

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

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 President:

*A big thank you to all of our members who have paid their 2023-2024 dues. Many of you gave additional funds at the Carrie Chapman Catt and Susan B. Anthony levels. We truly appreciate your generosity. These funds allow us to host our monthly informational meetings, voter forums, holiday gatherings, retreats to discuss our program of work, and other events. Our members are more than just donors, though. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the willingness of members to commit their time and energy to carrying out the work of the League. This is truly a 'doing well by doing good' endeavor as our board, observer corps volunteers, committee members and other supporters have the satisfaction of knowing they play a crucial role in making democracy work.
Thank you for continuing to support the important work of the League.*

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

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