

VOTER



DONT MISS THE
OCTOBER CANDIDATE
FORUMS -
OCTOBER 11 AND 12

LWVSJ HAPPENINGS

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Orcas Island - October 11th

San Juan Island - October 12th

The League will be hosting Candidate Forums on the following islands:

Orcas Island – October 11th - Eastsound Fire Hall

San Juan Island – October 12th –The Grange in Friday Harbor

The **General Election** date is November 7 and ballots will be mailed out on October 17th.

We will be covering contested races on the above islands as well as presenting pro and con statements on any Propositions on the ballot.

Come out to get to know your candidates!

You can access the full voter information booklet at

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/28771/2023-Generel-Election-Voters-Guide?bidId=>

Orcas Forum:

Wednesday, October 11, 5 PM at the Firehall.

Candidates confirmed to attend are:

Brian Ehrmantraut and Alan Stameisen,

Randall Gaylord and Nicholas Negulescu (Fire Commissioners #2 and #3).

Candidates Toni Knudson and Kate Hansen (Fire Commissioner #1) will also make brief statements.

SJI Forum: Thursday, October 12, 5:30 PM at the Grange.

Candidates confirmed to attend are:

Jerry Henderson and Warren Appleton (Fire Commissioner #3).

The meetings will also be available via Zoom at:

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

Meeting ID: 868 3123 8496

Passcode: 340496

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 across the country have put their trust in the League to host these events.

Fun Fact: *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.*



Tuesday, November 7 | Election Day

Your vote is your voice! Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m

Another part of election accessibility is the availability of information about political candidates. Our candidate voting guides are now live, offering information on your local races. Find your options and **make a voting plan at VOTE411.org**

Meeting Dates 2023

Board Meetings	Monthly Meetings
October 2	October 11 and 12 <i>Forums _ Orcas & San Juan</i>
November 6	November 18 Membership Retreat
December 4	December 11 Holiday Luncheon

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

Immigration and Immigrant Integration in San Juan County – A Recap of our September Meeting

The National League has endorsed immigration policies that promote the reunification of immediate families, meet economic, business and employment needs and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.

LWVSJ held its September civics education meeting on the situation of immigrants in Washington state and San Juan County. The meeting was part of an LWVWA study on immigrant integration in the state. The study committee is chaired by Susan Martin, President of LWVSJ. At the start of the meeting, Susan described the study and presented statistics on immigration to WA. She noted that more than 1.1 million people, accounting for 15 percent of Washington State residents, are immigrants. Another 14 percent are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. Most immigrants in the state have legal status in this country but a significant minority (about 25%) are without authorization to reside or work in this country. Almost half of immigrants in Washington are naturalized citizens. She explained that immigration and the civic, social and economic integration of newcomers is important to WA state, which has been a pioneer in introducing immigrant-friendly programs. The study provides an opportunity to examine how well immigrants are doing in WA state and asks questions about whether the laws and policies work in practice, if not, what are the barriers to making them work, and what more can be done to help immigrants integrate and communities welcome them?

After Susan's introduction, she moderated a discussion of the situation, needs and barriers faced by immigrants in San Juan County. The speakers were Yubi Schollmeyer, the Family Resource Center; Andrea Hillman, Friday Harbor High School; and Sergeant Zac Reimer, the Sheriff's Department. Several speakers noted that the fear of apprehension and deportation of undocumented migrants was a barrier to integration, as was the fear of using services that might make it harder to get permanent residence or citizenship. These particularly affect children, including those who have citizenship, who worry that their parents are at risk of removal or do not get services for which they are entitled. All speakers indicated that language barriers and a lack of certified interpreters was a problem although one that service agencies and county programs acknowledge and seek to solve. Food insecurity, paucity of affordable housing, and lack of health insurance were other barriers. On the positive side, speakers and participants emphasized that SJ County is a supportive community, is fortunate to have the services that the Family Resource Center offers to immigrants and their families and has county officials and ordinances that help protect the rights of immigrants in our community.

Susan Martin

Upcoming Events Around the League



WE ARE HOLDING A MEMBERSHIP RETREAT - NOVEMBER 18TH FRIDAY HARBOR *Lunch will be catered*

Last year's retreat was a success and the feedback that we received from our members was truly valuable. We talked about what we wanted our local League to do and amongst other things they said "Let's have this kind of discussion again." And we are. We will report on what we are doing with Voter Forums, outreach, the Observer Corps, and state-level issues. We will talk about how to maintain and build on these programs and what role members are interested in playing in the community. We will talk more about whether we want to engage in local advocacy. We will do our annual program planning exercise to set topics for next year's membership meetings. We will have both structured and free form discussion and plenty of time to socialize. We will host a buffet lunch for all attendees. It's a chance to explore further questions you may have – we want to hear your thoughts on how you would like to see the League take action and how this would convey up to the LWVWA and LWVUS.

- How have the recent Voter forums been attended on each island?
- How can we expand membership and get more involved on other islands?
- Are there particular issues we should be addressing?

Please bring yourselves and your ideas to our meeting on November 11th. More details will follow on location.

Observer Corps Update

The Observer Corps has been busy again this month – you can read some of the highlights here:

- [LWVSJ Observer Corps*: summary of the San Juan County Board of Health September 2023 meeting](#) | LWV of the San Juans | *San Juan Islander*
- [LWVSJ Observer Corps: Summary of San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 August 2023 meeting](#) | LWV of the San Juans | *San Juan Islander*

- [League of Women Voters Observer Corps notes- Hospital District Commission](#) | **LWV of the San Juans** | *The Journal of the San Juans*

The Observer Corps consists of League of Women Voters members who regularly attend the meetings of a specific public body, such as a city council, school board, or any other board or commission in the region. They then report back to the League any significant policy discussions or issues of transparency, civility, and process that they observe.

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

Around the League – State & National Issues

The LWV of Washington at Work

10.18 WED | Redistricting Taskforce Meeting

All individuals and organizational representatives are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of each month for the Redistricting Reform Task Force meeting. Each month we strategize and implement the actions needed to achieve reform. The meeting is at 3PM. Learn more or register [here](#).

10.19 THUR | Redistricting 2031: Laying to Groundwork Now (LWVUS)

The reforms to ensure a transparent and fair redistricting process takes an entire decade to build out. This meeting is to showcase to other Leagues how it's possible to remain active in the interim years between redistricting processes, and how to begin planning and laying the groundwork for successful redistricting advocacy in 2031. The meeting is at 12 PM. You can [register here](#).

October | Local League Candidate Forums

Local Leagues throughout Washington are hosting candidate forums for a lot of different races. Make sure you check them out to hear directly for the candidates running for office this year. You can find a schedule of forums [here](#).

WHAT THE LEAGUE IS DOING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As citizens of the world, we must protect our planet from the physical, economic, and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.

The preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the earth's ecosystem is essential for the maximum protection of public health and the environment. The interrelationships of air, water, and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The federal government should have a major role in setting standards for environmental protection and pollution control.

Since the 1960s, The League of Women Voters have been at the forefront of efforts to protect air, land, and water resources. Our approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem-solving. The League's environmental goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill. We support vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards as well as substantial fines for noncompliance.

In 2023, we [endorsed the Children's Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery Resolution](#), which recognizes the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on the health, economic opportunities, and fundamental rights of children and the need for a national, science-based climate recovery plan to meet necessary emissions reduction targets and stabilize the climate system.

On September 29th, The League submitted comments to the Council on Environmental Quality regarding its proposed revisions to its regulations for implementing the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA). The League advised on modifications to the proposed revisions to ensure that they achieve: consideration of climate change and environmental justice and their effects; full and fair public involvement; and better decision-making.

<https://www.lwv.org/environment/lwvus-submits-comments-national-environmental-policy-act-nepa-implementation>

LWVUS Submits Comments on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementation

The League submitted comments to the Council on Environmental Quality regarding its proposed revisions to its regulations for implementing the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA). The League advised on modifications to the proposed revisions to ensure that they achieve: consideration of climate change and environmental justice and their effects; full and fair public involvement; and better decision-making.



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. The League has many active volunteers and not everyone can be active at different points in their life; but if this is a time that works for you, check out your [local League](#) or [contact the state League](#) office to find out how to plug in. Democracy thanks you!

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>

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.

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	audraaeaba@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; Barbara Marrett, Mary Campanella & Audra Adelberger

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:

	Regular	Carrie Chapman Catt	Susan B. Anthony
Individual	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
Family	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
Student	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 – jbeltcovson@gmail.com
Contributing Editor - Susan Martin