

# VOTER

**Annual Meeting & Luncheon – Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**The Grange and via Zoom**

**(Doors open at 11.30am)**

**Guest speaker: Todd Nicholson,  
Executive Director, Port of Friday Harbor**

Join us for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon at The Grange on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker will be Todd Nicholson, Executive Director of the Port of Friday Harbor. As always we will be covering our business activities and have news on our many upcoming events. The agenda will start after lunch and after our guest speaker.

**Agenda:** LWVSJ Business Meeting

- Welcome, Call to Order and Review of the Year
- Financial Report and Adoption of 2024-2025 Budget
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Officers, Chairpersons,
- Board Members-at-Large and the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee
- Bylaws Change
- Life Membership Proposed

*League members and their guests are welcome  
\$30 per person – pay at the door.  
Please make reservations by May 6th:  
jbelcovson@gmail.com or 805-689-2260 (text)  
Lunch by Green Beat Kitchen – vegetarian option available.*

This will be a hybrid meeting. To join via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 833 6465 1803

Passcode: 498480

Currently serving as the Executive Director at the Port of Friday Harbor, Todd Nicholson prioritizes financial stability and strategic growth at the county's primary economic development engine. For the past six years, Todd has overseen a diverse portfolio, including a regional commercial airport, business park, public marinas and parks, waterfront commercial properties, a shipyard, and a commercial barge landing. Under Todd's leadership, the Port's revenue has doubled and its capital construction costs were reduced by more than half.



Nicholson attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduating with honors and earning a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He served in the infantry of the United States Army as a platoon leader, executive officer and operations officer.

Upon returning home to the Northwest in 1991, Todd founded Nicholson Enterprises NW & Academy Surveying, an entrepreneurial venture that quickly evolved into a thriving land surveying and development company. In 2009 Todd joined the Bonneville Power Administration as the acquisition surveying supervisor and the manager of

the civil engineering department.

In 2017 Todd joined the Port of Friday Harbor bringing his diverse experiences to showcase his natural talent for cultivating strategic partnerships and fostering collaboration amongst diverse stakeholders. He is a passionate advocate for building effective community partnerships, economic development and empowering staff.

Todd's leadership extends beyond his executive duties; in the past several years, he has served on the Board of Directors for San Juan County's Council of Economic Development and the Island Oil Spill Association and also participated actively in the Washing Public Ports Association as a member, speaker, and presenter. Todd is an avid sailor and fisherman.

## LWVSJ Happenings

**Thank You to all who came out and helped with the Great Islands Clean Up!**



On a lovely spring day, 6 leaguers met at Necia's house, dividing the route up and headed off to pick up trash. We covered Beaverton Valley Road from Egg Lake to Ravena Road. Audra and Susie Dehlendorf covered the first stretch to Boyce Road. Susan Leff and her daughter Joanna did the second stretch from Boyce to Mt Grant and Necia and Steve did the last stretch up to Ravena Road. We were all powered by two delicious quiches made by Chita Miller and rewarded after picking up the trash with a dozen Roche Harbor donuts delivered by Susan and Michael. After some time to rest and enjoy a bit more food, Steve took our collection of trash bags and delivered them to the Brewery where they weighed-in at a total of 44lbs! This has been our stretch of road for many years and hopefully we can do it this fall and again in the spring of 2025.

*Steve Bowman*

## Meeting Dates 2024

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
May 6	May 13 <i>Annual Meeting</i> <i>Todd Nicholson, Port of Friday Harbor</i>
June 3	June 10
July 1	<i>Voter Forums</i>
August <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</i> <i>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.*

## Around the League – State & National Issues

### Get Ready for the LWVWA's 2024 Council!



Join us in picturesque Lacey for the 2024 LWVWA Biennial Council!

The weekend will be filled with engaging activities, the hallmark grassroots processes of the League, and opportunities to be among friends.

[Read more](#)

## LWVWA Council: Engaging Members in a Critical Year

The LWVWA Board and staff have been working hard putting together our 2024 LWVWA Council—and we can't wait to see you there!

Read on to get an overview of the workshops that will be available at Council this year.

[Read more](#)

The **LWVWA Biennial Council** will meet on May 31-June 2, 2024 at South Puget Sound Community College in Lacey to vote on the 2024-2025 Nominees to the Board of Directors: First Vice-President, Treasurer, and four director positions. There will also be opportunities to network with your fellow League members, participate in a variety of workshops and trainings, and hear from dynamic speakers. LWVWA's President, Susan Martin, will be speaking at a workshop on the immigration study that she is leading. If anyone is interested in attending in person or virtually, please contact Susan Martin, President of LWV of the San Juans ([pres.lwvsji@gmail.com](mailto:pres.lwvsji@gmail.com)).

Registration fees (subject to change)  
\$120—Early Bird In-Person (ends May 5)  
\$140—In-Person  
\$25—Early Bird Virtual\* (ends May 5)  
\$30—Virtual\*

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.

[Register for LWVWA's 2024 Council](#)

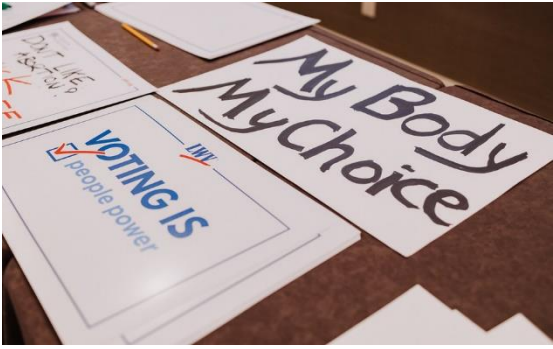
### MONDAYS | LWVUS & ATI Election Rumors Briefing Calls

Weekly virtual event on Mondays from 3:30 - 4:15 PM EST (12:30 - 1:15 PM PST). The LWVUS, in collaboration with the Algorithmic Transparency Institute, will host weekly briefings to address election rumors and mis/dis/mal-information. The briefings will provide an overview of the landscape and answer participant questions. [Join the meetings here.](#)

### 5.15 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. Learn more or [register here.](#)

## EMTALA at SCOTUS: Abortion will always be a federal issue



When the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022) overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the court wrote that the right to an abortion would be left to the people and their state-level representatives. However, as the case of *Moyle v. United States* (consolidated with Idaho v. United States) demonstrates, this is not — and should not be — true.

If decided unfavorably, *Moyle*, which is set for oral argument before the United States Supreme Court on April 24, would leave women and people who can become pregnant at risk of permanent bodily harm. It would create a patchwork in which some states provide reproductive freedom and equal citizenship for people who can become pregnant while others don't.

*Moyle v. United States* asks whether the *Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)*, a federal law, preempts — or overrides — *Idaho's Defense of Life Act*.

*The Defense of Life Act* forbids all abortions in the state except when necessary to save the life of the pregnant person or when the pregnant person self-reports as a victim of rape. Its exception to save the life of the pregnant person allows a physician to perform an abortion if they, in their good faith medical judgment, believe it is needed to prevent a pregnant patient's death.

Read more at <https://www.lwv.org/blog/emtala-scotus-abortion-will-always-be-federal-issue>

The League of Women Voters of WA has announced its opposition to three initiatives that will appear on the November ballot:

- Initiative 2109, Repeal Capital Gains Tax
- Initiative 2117, Prohibiting all state agencies, counties and cities from implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading (Repeal the Climate Commitment Act)
- Initiative 2124, Opting out of Long-term Services Insurance Program

“Our stance against these initiatives is a reflection of the League’s firm commitment to equitable education funding, climate resilience, and accessible long-term care.” Said *Mary Coltrane, president of the League of Women Voters of Washington*. “We are safeguarding our state’s future with each vote against these regressive measures.”

At its April board meeting, the Directors voted to contest these proposals for the following reasons, based on League positions adopted by member consensus following studies of the issues.

# 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! The agenda is now available if you click the link below:

## [LWV CONVENTION 2024 AGENDA](#)

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

*The League of Women Voters US has approved a workshop at the upcoming Convention in Washington DC on U.S. immigration policy. The workshop will provide an opportunity for LWV members interested in immigration to discuss the current situation and policy alternatives and to explore what advocacy, issues and partners they can engage with as LWV members. The League of Women Voters Discussion Group on Immigration is organizing the workshop, which will also give members of the League the opportunity to network with League members in other states while gaining a greater understanding of the range of opinions and concerns among members. I am on the steering committee of the LWV Discussion Group and actively involved in setting the agenda for the workshop. Among the topics likely to be discussed are access to asylum, particularly at the border; continuing use of executive action, in the absence of legislative solutions to immigration problems; economic arguments in favor of immigration as a way to address labor shortages; continuing threats to DACA; the large-scale use of humanitarian parole, which does not provide a pathway to citizenship; tensions between and among states and the federal government over immigration; new policies for the resettlement of refugees; and alternatives to detention of migrants.*

*Susan Martin  
President*

## Make Your Voice Heard!

Contact your elected officials to support legislation that stands up for your values.

**Take action on these crucial pieces of legislation.**

### **Urge Congress to Support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**

Every day, the freedom to vote is under attack. Since the 2012 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted the *Voting Rights Act* (VRA), at least twenty-nine states have passed ninety-four laws that make it harder to vote, with the burden falling hardest on Black voters and other voters of color.

We need a fully restored VRA to defend our democracy and protect the freedom to vote. That is why the League is proud to support the reintroduction of HR14 and S4, the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, vital legislation that is needed to fully restore and modernize the VRA and ensure that discriminatory voting policies are stopped in their tracks.

Tell your members of Congress to protect the freedom to vote and support the passage of the JLVRAA.

Equality — and our democracy — cannot wait.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/urge-your-members-congress-support-john-r-lewisvoting-rights-advancement-act>

The League of Women Voters is using advocacy, litigation, and resources like VOTE411.org to educate more voters, expand and protect voter access, and ensure that all elections — most importantly the upcoming Presidential election — remain fair and accessible.

Your donations to the League will go toward:

- Informing voters on ID requirements, registration deadlines, and any changes to local voting laws.
- Empowering voters with VOTE411 – a one-stop shop for nonpartisan election resources including registering to vote, finding your polling place, looking up your ballot, and more.
- Countering the mis- and disinformation through our Democracy Truth Project.

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.

### **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>
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	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>
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>
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*

### **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 Treasurer:*

*Fiscal Year 2024-25 begins on June 1. Please consider bringing a check for your dues to the Annual Meeting on May 13. Alternatively, you can send your check to PO Box 784. The earlier we receive your dues, the better we can plan our program for the coming year.*

***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

**Voter Editor:** Jill Belcovson – 805-689-2260 – [jbeltcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbeltcovson@gmail.com)  
**Contributing Editor – Susan Martin**