

VOTER

LWVSJ Happenings

Membership Retreat – Saturday, November 18th, 2023
10.00am-2.30pm at Friday Harbor House
Lunch will be catered – RSVP by November 14th

Join Us for the 2023 Membership Retreat!

You may remember that last year we held a membership retreat to have broad conversation on what activities and directions the members wanted the League to focus on. Next Saturday we are going to get together again to socialize and reconnect with friends and to welcome new members. The retreat will involve structured discussions and plenty of time to catch up with each other. The program will start with a recap on what we decided on last year and what we have done since to carry out those priorities. The program will include the following topics:

- What we have done since last year's retreat to carry out the priorities identified including updates on our Voter Forums, the Observer Corps and Membership Outreach.
- We are excited to preview our new website and seek feedback from the membership.
- The meeting will include brainstorming sessions on building partnerships with other island groups and broadening our community engagement. We are also looking at engaging our members to make suggestions on how best to participate in advancing the League goals.
- Necia will give a short presentation to help understand gerrymandering and the importance of how it can determine representation.

Friday Harbor House promises to cater a delicious lunch for us and we will follow that with our annual Program Planning exercise where we decide on topics for next year's membership meetings. We will wrap up with a priority and To Do list for 2024.

***We had some great feedback after the last Retreat –
Join us to make this year's event just as successful!***

- ✓ "How many committed and knowledgeable League Members there are!"
- ✓ "(What) a wide range of things the League is involved with!"
- ✓ "I really enjoyed today!" "This retreat was great!"
- ✓ "Great group of people with ideas, senses of humor, kindness, and energy. Want to spend more time together!"

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Necia Quast collquas@aim.com by November 14th to RSVP and sign up for this exciting event. Let us know if you are vegetarian.

Meeting Dates Winter-Spring 2023/2024

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
December 4	December 11 <i>Holiday Luncheon – The Grange</i>
Jan 2	January 8
Feb 5	Feb 12
March 4	March 11
April 1	April 8
May 6	May 13
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.



Save The Date for our Annual Holiday Luncheon December 11th – The Grange, Friday Harbor

Our speaker will be Vince Dauciunas, Board Member at Opalco, District 1. Vince believes that the coming years are likely to be challenging because of the realities and politics of energy, global economic uncertainties, and climate change. It is vital that all organizations in the County responsible for the infrastructure be prepared to respond to these challenges.

OPALCO will continue to meet members' need for reliable electric power. Given the above concerns, a long-term plan should be put in place to ensure that the power supply remains secure and affordable. As a member of the Board, Vince believes OPALCO should actively support energy conservation and efficiency efforts and encourage member and community owned renewable energy generation systems. He will share some of these insights with us at our meeting.

Redistricting – Why is it so important?

The League of Women Voters WA is spearheading a statewide effort to reform the current legislative and congressional redistricting process. Washington's efforts are part of the People Powered Fair Maps initiative of the national League in its bid to protect democracy. Washington State is [one of only 9](#) states in the country that has a commission that draws district maps after the decennial census. Independent commissions are generally lauded as a way to reduce gerrymandering and base redistricting on a set of carefully considered criteria. Unfortunately, Washington's commission, which was created in 1983, no longer meets the needs of residents. There have been significant changes in demographics in WA that call for expanded representation on the Commission and our political climate demands stronger transparency and accountability methods for devising legislative and congressional maps.

Despite a legal commitment to be transparent, the 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission worked behind closed doors in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act and rushed to approve incomplete maps. In fact, they missed the constitutionally mandated deadline for releasing its maps of new districts. Incumbent protection and partisan interests biased district line decisions. The State Supreme Court let the maps stand despite the missed deadline. Since there was little time to perfect maps, even noncontroversial modifications were not made. The commission settled lawsuits for their lack of transparency and for illegally firing an employee. The situation worsened when, in August 2023, a federal court judge declared that Yakima Valley Legislative District 15 is discriminatory against Latino residents under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. District lines must be redrawn before the 2024 elections. To comply, changes will need to be made to LD15 and the surrounding districts in order to correct the maps. Washington State deserves better.

The LWVWA Redistricting Reform Campaign Taskforce is calling for People First Redistricting - a process that puts people's interests above partisan tradeoffs. People First Redistricting maximizes opportunities for people to engage, ensures the broadest possible representation, is transparent and accountable and produces maps the people of Washington can believe in. To achieve People First Redistricting, we will need a state constitutional amendment to change in the composition of the commission and bills to improve to the commission processes. At present, there are four voting members of the commission, all of whom represent their political parties, plus a non-voting chair. More than 40% of the people in Washington State do not identify with either major party and they are not represented in the current commission structure. People First Redistricting would have additional seats on the commission for those who are not tied to a political party.

The LWVWA RRC Taskforce has been meeting with experts in other states to learn more about their redistricting processes. The Taskforce has developed a campaign strategy and is currently convening local area action teams. To learn more, please listen to Taskforce Chair, Alison McCaffree, when she spoke at an LWVUS webinar entitled [Redistricting 2030: Laying the Groundwork Now](#)[\(click here\)](#). LWVUSJI hosted Alison at one of our monthly meetings. LWVUSJI is also represented on the steering committee for redistricting reform. If you are interested in learning more about People First Redistricting and joining our local action team, contact Susan Martin at pres.lwvsji@gmail.com.

*Susan Martin
President*



Help Wanted – Our nominating committee are hard at work reaching out to those in our community to consider becoming a member of our Board. There are many reasons why members choose to apply for a board position, including:

- Expanding their commitment and understanding of the League
- Sharing their League’s successes with other members
- Continuing to build leadership skills, and
- Helping set the future for the LWV of the San Juans.

If you are interested in learning more please contact any of our nominating committee members -*Leslie Veirs, Chair; Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella or Barbara Marrett*

Around the League – State & National Issues

[SEATTLE, WASHINGTON] – The League of Women Voters of Washington President Mary Coltrane released the following statement condemning the interference with state elections offices:

“Sending suspicious substances to an election’s office is an attack on democracy and could have put hard-working elections officials in danger. The League of Women Voters of Washington calls on candidates and political party leadership to issue statements condemning efforts to disrupt our elections. The League urges political party leadership to engage their constituencies in conversations that emphasize their sacred duty to protect our democracy by protecting our election workers and our ballots.

“Washington is a mail-in ballot state which provides voters with more accessibility to participate in elections. Voters need to trust that our elections will be secure and that those who seek to disrupt our democracy and risk the public health will face consequences. We stand in solidarity with all the election workers continuing to count ballots from Election Day and we remain committed to making democracy work.”

On November 18th, The Washington State Redistricting Task Force is presenting: Step Up! To Redistricting. This is a two-hour training session that will give you the basics of why redistricting reform is essential in Washington and how you can help. Be part of making truly independent line drawing a reality.

Step Up! To Redistricting

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023

Time: 10:00 – 12:00noon

Who’s invited: Anyone who wants to see Washington State put people over party.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluf-qurTIvHdKzZr8LJIM7hsjmkIccuhdG>



The Election's Over – Now What?

You've cast your vote – so now what?

There's much more you can do to defend the issues that matter most even after you've submitted your ballot.

Here are a few actions you can take.

Check State-Specific Results Timelines

Election Day isn't results day; election workers will be hard at work for a while to come counting every ballot. Find out when [your state elections](#) are estimated to be complete at VOTE411.org.

Make sure your mail or provisional ballot is counted

If you voted by mail, go to VOTE411 and click your state to find a link to your state's ballot tracking tool. Use the tool to look up your ballot and verify that it was counted. If it was not, call your local election official to figure out if you need to take action to verify your ballot.

If you voted a provisional ballot at your polling place due to a lack of ID, be sure to follow up with your local election official to provide the required ID and have your ballot counted.

Fight Post-Election Mis- and Disinformation

Mis- and disinformation are major threats to the democratic process. They're especially active after elections, with people sharing inaccurate stories about election results, the voting process, and who's casting their ballots.

Use these [tips to identify mis- and disinformation](#) across the media.

You can also [report mis- and disinformation here](#).

Demand Congressional Action

With newly elected people set to take office in 2023, it's important to let them know which actions you stand for.

You might demand that they:

- Enshrine [equality of the sexes](#) in the Constitution with the Equal Rights Amendment
- Prevent [voter discrimination](#) with the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*
- [Work across the aisle](#) to protect voting rights
- Create more [financial transparency](#) in elections

Get Involved

Find out actions you can take to defend democracy within your community by joining your local or state League. Leagues are constantly in action around issues like health care, the environment, voting rights, and more. We'd love to welcome you to our community!

LWV Lobby Team Gears Up for Action Workshop

Each year, the LWVWA Lobby Team participates in planning and conducting two events related to the Legislature:

- In December of each year, the Lobby Team conducts an **Action Workshop** at which League members and interested public learn about what issues are likely to come up in the ensuring legislative session and get tips about League positions to support.
- In January, the Lobby Team works with **Fix Democracy First** (FDF), a partner organization, on **Democracy Lobby Week**. During this week, League and FDF members can attend daytime or evening sessions. During evening sessions, attendees get more details about specific bills that we are supporting, and during the daytime sessions, they have an opportunity to meet with their local legislators in support of these bills.

Both of these events will continue to be virtual this year - please save the dates on your calendars! Detailed agendas with registration information will be posted in several weeks.



Annual League of Women Voters Action Workshop

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Meet with Lobby Team members to learn about the issues coming up in the 2024 legislative session

Save these Dates!

Get ready for League advocacy at the Legislature in 2024

Agenda and Registration Details for both virtual events coming soon!

League of Women Voters & Fix Democracy First Democracy Lobby Week

Monday, January 22 - Friday, January 26, 2024

6:00 – 8:00 pm nightly
plus

Opportunity to meet with Legislators during the week





Upcoming Events

11.15 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. The meeting is at 3PM. Learn more or register [here](#).

11.16 THUR | Book Event with Author Kimberly Hamlin

The LWV of the Spokane Area invites all League members and other interested folks to [join them for a virtual book club event](#) with LWVUS board member Kimberly A. Hamlin. Discussion will center on Hamlin's book *Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of the Fallen Woman Who Won the Vote*.

12.2 SAT | Annual LWVWA Action Workshop

SAVE THE DATE: Meet with Lobby Team members to learn about the issues coming up in Washington's 2024 legislative session

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	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
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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

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.

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 – jbelcovson@gmail.com

Contributing Editor - Susan Martin