

# VOTER

May 2023

## 2023 Annual Meeting – Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**Brickworks, Friday Harbor & via Zoom**

**11:30am – 2pm (Meeting starts at 12:00)**



Join us for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Brickworks. Our speakers will be *Sheriff Eric Peter* and Prosecuting Attorney, *Amy Vira*. Both recently elected, they are excited to share their plans now that they are in office.

As always we will be covering our business activities and have news on our robust line up of events for the upcoming year. Our new slate of officers will be announced and we will have a very special addition to the program when we honor some of our very own hardworking board members.

*League members and their guests are welcome  
\$25 per person. Lunch by Stacey's Catering.*

*Please make reservations by May 10th:  
jbelcovson@gmail.com or 805-689-2260 (text)*

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

*This event is not sponsored by the San Juan Island Library*

## Meeting Dates 2023

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
May 1	May 15 <b>Annual Meeting</b>
June 5	June 12 <i>Teen Homelessness</i>
July 3	<i>Members Summer Picnic – July 10</i>
August 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</i>
September 5 (Tuesday)	September 11
October 2	October 9 <i>Forums</i>
November 6	November 13
December 4	December 11 <b>Holiday Luncheon</b>

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

## Observer Corps Update

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](mailto:collquas@netscape.net) or 360-370-5502, if you are interested in learning more or in taking part.

Organization	Frequency	When	Time	Where	Virtual	Volunteer
SJI School Board	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5pm	HS Library	No	S. Bowman
SJI Public Hospital District	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5.30pm	849 Spring St	Yes	B. Sharp
Port of FH	2 x Month	2 & 4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	12pm	Yacht Club	No	J. Belcovson
SJI Fire District 3	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	3pm	Mullis Firehouse	No	M. Martin
FH Town Council	2 x Month	1 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 League of Women Voters of Washington is holding its biennial Convention this weekend, Thursday, May 4, 2023 until Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the [Pasco Holiday Inn Express and Suites](#). Our League is being represented by 4 delegates and Necia Quast will be hosting a caucus in which she will be getting a sense of whether there is broad general interest or support among local leagues within our state to become more engaged in reproductive health issues.

Susan Martin will also be presenting a caucus on *Immigration and Integration in Washington State*. The focus will be on the more than 1.1 million people, accounting for 15% of our state residents, who are immigrants. Another 14% are native-born US 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. The caucus provides an opportunity to discuss what is happening in Washington State with regard to immigration and immigrant integration and the role the League could be playing in ensuring the rights of immigrants and their pathways to economic, social, and civic integration. In particular, the caucus will provide information about a proposed study on this subject that has been recommended by the LWVWA board for adoption at the conference. Both Barbara Sharp and Stephanie Butler from our local league are participating in the caucus.

*More on Reproductive Health and Immigration issues further down in this issue.*

## Convention Business

- [Recommended Program Report](#)
- [Nominating Committee Report](#)
- [Delegate Count](#)
- [Proposed 2023-2025 Biennial Budget](#)

The [LWVWA Education Fund 501\(c\)3 budget](#) was passed by the LWVWA Board of Directors on March 24, 2023. The [LWVWA 501\(c\)4 budget](#) should be considered in the context of the Education Fund budget having been adopted. *There are no proposed bylaws amendments.*

But the convention is not just about business – this year’s meeting will feature fantastic speakers including the chance to hear from two local judges, Judge Norma Rodriguez and Judge Trinity Orosco. Judge Rodriguez is the first Latina judge serving Benton and Franklin Counties, and Judge Orosco started as a paralegal student at Columbia Basin College. We're excited to hear from Judges Rodriguez and Orosco, given recent events demonstrating the far reaching impacts of judicial elections. We'll also be hearing from Pasco's first Latina mayor, Blanche Barajas.

Learn about LWVUS' past, present, and future from [Dr. Kimberly Hamlin](#), LWVUS board liaison to Washington, and a historian, educator, and author.

Nerd out with Amber Strunk from [LIGO-Hanford Observatory](#) and learn about space, without having to leave the comfort of this planet.

<https://lwvwa.org/event-5160637>

## The LWVWA Continues the Fight for Reproductive Freedom

The League of Women Voters has supported the rights of individuals to make their own reproductive choices for over forty years. Lunell Haught, LWVWA President, joined Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho, and the Washington Attorney General's office on March 28, 2023 at the Thomas S. Foley Federal Courthouse to argue on behalf of [a multistate federal lawsuit \(view PDF\)](#) against the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) accusing it of singling out one of the two drugs used for medication abortions for excessively burdensome regulation, despite ample evidence that the drug is safer than Tylenol. The FDA's restrictions on mifepristone create unnecessary risk for Washington state medical providers, patients and people who travel to the state to receive abortion care.

**TWO+**  
years of research

**TWO HUNDRED+**  
pages of dissertation-quality writing

**TWENTY+**  
consensus discussions

**TWO**  
new positions

**SHORELINE  
MANAGEMENT**

**truth**  
LOCAL NEWS

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WASHINGTON

The infographic features a purple background with white and yellow text. It lists achievements: 'TWO+ years of research', 'TWO HUNDRED+ pages of dissertation-quality writing', 'TWENTY+ consensus discussions', and 'TWO new positions'. Two images are shown: a landscape photo labeled 'SHORELINE MANAGEMENT' and a newspaper clipping labeled 'truth LOCAL NEWS'. The LWV logo is at the bottom left.

## The LWVWA Adopts Two New Positions

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors adopted two new positions on April 10, 2023, after League members throughout the state spent over two years researching, publishing studies, and reaching consensus. The two positions are the [Local News \(view PDF\)](#) and [Shoreline Management \(view PDF\)](#) positions.

Our SJ County League was instrumental in adding content and perspective to both of these studies.

## Why Voting Rights Matter

The right to vote is one of the most basic promises of our democracy. In a democratic government, every person is considered equal and is empowered to both participate in their government and speak on the issues that impact their daily lives. Through our votes, we're able to express our values around concerns like health care, climate change, criminal justice, taxes, and so much more.

And yet our voting rights are under attack. Bills that make voting harder for women and Black and brown Americans, wealthy special interest groups that influence elections, and district maps that don't reflect our communities – these obstacles threaten our democracy. That's where the League's work comes in.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

*19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution*

## **Immigration – Why It Matters**

All people should receive fair treatment under the law, and it is critical for the US to encourage immigrant participation in our democracy. Immigration policies should promote the reunification of immediate families, meet economic, business and employment needs, and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.

**What the League is doing** - We support federal immigration laws that provide efficient, expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States. Seeking asylum at points of entry into the United States is part of our legal immigration process and assaults on asylum seekers are unAmerican. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community. The 116th Congress must take immediate action to pass common-sense, fair immigration policies that end the crisis at our border, ends the separation of families, and provides a path to citizenship.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the LWVUS submitted public comment to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the proposed rule to adjust certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees. The League opposed increases in immigration application fees, articulating the impact it will have on immigrants' ability to reunite and stay with family members abroad, live and work permanently in the US, and attain US citizenship. Virginia Kase Solomon drafted a letter to the Office of Policy and Strategy, clearly stating the League's position and concern that increasing fees for family-sponsored and employment-based visas will have severe negative consequences. The League believes that immigration policies should promote the reunification of immediate families while meeting the economic and employment needs of the United States. In transition to a reformed immigration system, the League supports provisions for individuals already living in the country to earn legal status, as well as a path to citizenship. Additionally, the League believes that one of the goals of US social policy should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families, and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.



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](#)

## Help Wanted!

The League is looking for a tech savvy person who can help us navigate our hybrid monthly meetings both with in-the-room technology and via the zoom feed. Please contact Susan Martin at [martinsf@georgetown.edu](mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu) if you or someone you know may be able to assist us on an ongoing, one time a month basis.

## We Heard You!

At the member retreat in November, there was a lot of praise and enthusiasm for our candidate forums. Now we need your help, we need volunteers for this next cycle of voter forums. Would you like to try it out? We also would like to hear about other areas of the League business or projects you might be interested in. Please let us know by emailing us at [pres.lwvsji@gmail.com](mailto:pres.lwvsji@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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>

## 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>
Steve Bowman	Voter Services	360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>
Michael Martin	Treasurer	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinml@ieee.org">martinml@ieee.org</a>
Jill Belcovson	Secretary	805-689-2260	<a href="mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com">jbelcovson@gmail.com</a>
Clare Kelm	Roster	360-378-3373	<a href="mailto:twopilots@interisland.net">twopilots@interisland.net</a>

### Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	<a href="mailto:audraeaba@gmail.com">audraeaba@gmail.com</a>
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.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>
Kari McVeigh		310-678-1403	<a href="mailto:kmcveigh630@gmail.com">kmcveigh630@gmail.com</a>
Stephanie Butler		907-209-5885	<a href="mailto:sjbutlerak@gmail.com">sjbutlerak@gmail.com</a>
Diana Sibert		360-370-5269	<a href="mailto:dianasibert@gmail.com">dianasibert@gmail.com</a>

*Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Robbie Lawson, Leslie Veirs*

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:

	<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>Student</b>	\$35		

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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