



VOTER

April 2022

LWVSJ Happenings

April Membership Meeting -

Monday, April 11, 2022

12pm – 2pm via Zoom

Protecting the Environment: From Local to Global

In anticipation of Earth Day (April 22), the League of Women Voters of the San Juans invite you to join us for a discussion on ways to protect the environment, mitigate climate change, and help people adapt to its negative impacts. We will hear about initiatives at the local, national and global levels. This membership meeting will be held on Tues, April 11 at 12:00 pm. The speakers include Laura Jo Severson, Susan Martin, and Cindy Wolf.

Please register in advance for this meeting at:

[https://georgetown.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcO2orDovH93hPtkeDSYDU7-QUpJQtyJE](https://georgetown.zoom.us/join/https://georgetown.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcO2orDovH93hPtkeDSYDU7-QUpJQtyJE)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Members are encouraged to invite guests.

Meeting Dates 2022

Board Meetings 1 – 3pm	Membership Meetings 12 – 2pm
April 5	April 11
May 3	May 9 - Annual Meeting
June 7	June 13
July 5	<i>Summer Break</i>

Board Retreat - TBD	<i>Summer Break</i>
September 6	September 12
October 4	October 10 <i>(Forums)</i>
November 1	November 14
December 6	December 12 <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.

Recap of our March meeting – Defending Democracy

This is the time of year when the work the State League does (and which our dues help to support) is particularly visible. As this year’s WA State Legislative Session drew to a close, 3 State level members gave us an update via Zoom on the League’s work, supporting legislation and preparing for the future: Cindy Madigan, Issue Chair for Money and Politics; Carol Sullivan, Snohomish County ACT; and Alison McCaffree, Issue Chair for Census and Redistricting.

The March 20 LWVWA Weekly Legislative Update, said Cindy, will include this year’s wrap-up for the work done by the Money and Politics group. They have been working on Voting Vouchers and supporting bills about campaign financing reporting and clarifying misinformation among others. For more info: cmadigan@lwwwa.org

Carol joined in with more information on the range of bills we support, those that passed and those that didn’t. She urged us to thank our legislators for those that have passed and also encourage Governor Inslee to sign them so they’ll become law. Among those passed: restriction of Open Carry weapons in government meetings and election offices; exempting sensitive voter info from public disclosure; stipends for low-income or underrepresented members on state boards, etc; budget provisions for data repository, registration and voting in jails. The Fiscal Impact of Ballot Measures also passed, important because it gives voters information on the financial impact of referendums and initiatives before voting, rather than waiting for Advisory Votes (on the ballot) after they’ve been passed.

The League also supports a number of bills that have yet to be passed: ones on ranked-choice voting, voters’ pamphlets, women’s suffrage day, conservation district elections, harassment of election workers, eliminating advisory votes, voting rights, automatic voter registration. For more info: carolosully@yahoo.com

“Voting power starts here” said Alison as she went into more detail about how good redistricting maps not only give us a better chance at electing *who* we want but also help move us toward *what* we want. As part of the League’s national effort in all 50 states, DC, and PR, 6400 presentations on redistricting have already been given in WA this past year. WA’s current Redistricting Commission has mostly completed its work for this decade, but not without serious criticism and a pending lawsuit. The League and others have begun working on ways to restructure and improve the next one (redistricting happens every 10 years). There will be many opportunities to join in on the League’s work, e.g. developing a

list of best practices, supporting relevant legislation, nonpartisan and DEI concerns. Some reforms—such as increasing the number of commissioners to better represent the interests of the public, not just the two political parties—would require a constitutional amendment. Alison encouraged us to volunteer, to get involved, forwarding our questions and concerns and suggestions, remembering that “No action is too small; everyone starts someplace”. [Politicsofthepossible.com/many-maps](https://www.politicsofthepossible.com/many-maps) has a video of how one Washington woman made a real difference. For more info on LWVWA redistricting efforts and possibilities to join in: amccaffree@lwvwa.org

Guest Column – San Juan Journal - by Necia Quast

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans

As we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, we should also remember his campaign for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1957, Dr. King told us voting rights were essential to freedom: “Give us the ballot, and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.” After the bloody march from Selma to Birmingham in March 1965, Dr. King returned to this theme: “Let us march on ballot boxes until race-baiters disappear from the political arena.” President Lyndon Baines Johnson sent the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to Congress which passed four months later.

Dr. King knew the country is strongest when all citizens can exercise their right to vote. Protecting voting rights is as important today. Dr. King’s family has called on voting rights groups to focus their work this year on action to commemorate his legacy, saying “No celebration without legislation!”

Over 440 bills were introduced to restrict voting access in 2021, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. Thirty-two restrictive laws passed in 19 states. More are being deliberated in 2022. Meanwhile, 25 states passed laws that expand voting access. This state-by-state process of restriction and expansion causes great disparities amongst states. Only federal law will level the playing field across the country.

This week, the Senate failed to act on two bills to remedy the assault on voting rights. The Freedom to Vote Act expands early voting and same-day and online registration; combats voter suppression; reforms redistricting processes; prevents election sabotage; modernizes voter registrations; reforms campaign finance; and promotes election security. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act restores the Voting Rights Act and ensures every voter—regardless of where they live—has equal access to the polls and protected from unfair laws and practices that make it harder to vote.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports these two bills. Don’t let the setback in Congress be the last word. Please take these steps:

- Contact your Senators—they need to know that passing federal voting rights legislation is a priority for their constituents and for the country. Two Senators stand in the way of reforming or ending the use of the filibuster to block voting rights bills from coming to a vote. Join the League board in expressing your support for ending the filibuster if it is the only way forward.

- Contact President Biden—thank him for supporting voting rights and ask him to use the powers of the Presidency to help pass The Freedom to Vote Act and The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- Talk to your friends and family about protecting voting rights—in this country, the voters decide the outcome of elections. All of-age citizens must be able to exercise this right. This fundamental fact of our democracy must be protected.
- Vote in each and every election. Your right to vote was won by those willing to put their lives at stake. The least we can do is to vote and be counted on election day.



Once again your League is looking for volunteers to participate in the April 23rd Great Island Clean Up. In past years we have cleaned up a stretch of Beaverton Valley Road starting at Egg Lake Rd and ending at Raven Hill. We hope to do that stretch again this year. Our plan is to meet at the corner of Beaverton Valley Road and Egg Lake Rd at 10 am on the 23rd and assign teams to walk the road, returning to our meeting spot with all bags of trash. Steve Bowman will be coordinating the teams and if you can participate please send him an email at steve.bowman52@gmail.com.

This is a great opportunity to spruce up our island before summer and the tourist rush hits so do your best to participate. Any questions email Steve and he will provide the necessary bags as

well as trash grabbers if you need them.



I grew up on the east coast, New York City to be specific, and graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo. I landed on the San Juan Islands in 2007 after spending most of my adult life in Northern California where I worked and retired from IBM after a very fulfilling career. Living on San Juan Island is a dream come true. I especially enjoy the outdoors, including hiking, traveling, and photography. The League of Women Voters is a wonderful organization for being enlightened about government-related matters. I am looking forward to being part of this organization.

Marcy Aschoff

Around the League – State & National Issues

Remembering Madeleine Albright

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans join with the national League in commemorating the life and death of Madeleine Albright, the first woman to hold the position of Secretary of State and a lifelong proponent of democracy and human rights. Virginia Kase Solomon, the League's CEO issued the following statement:

"Mother, author, secretary of state, professor -- Madeleine Albright held all of these titles and more, including defender of democracy. It is with deep sadness that the League of Women Voters today mourns the passing of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. When Albright served as secretary of state, she was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US government, smashing the political glass ceiling. Prior to her post as secretary of state, Albright served as US ambassador to the United Nations, defending America's values to protect human rights and democracy."

Dr. Albright was a tireless proponent of women's rights. As US ambassador to the UN, she chaired the US delegation to the Fourth UN Conference on Women that took place in Beijing. As Secretary of State, she established the first office on global women's issues and instructed her diplomatic staff to report on the condition of women. As one of the most admired professors at Georgetown University, she mentored scores of students interested in foreign policy. Dr. Albright never forgot her roots as a refugee. She served as honorary chair of the World Refugee and Immigration Council; at the time of her death, she co-chaired the Council's North and Central American Task Force on Migration, providing sage advice on ways to protect the rights of those who have been displaced by violence.

As Virginia Kase Solomon concluded, "One of the most powerful women of her time, we are forever indebted to Madeleine Albright for her fearless leadership in our domestic and foreign policy. A trailblazer for women in politics, Albright is the consummate example of the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. May she rest in peace."

Environmental and Climate Change: The LWV Position (from the national League's website)

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect our public health. The League believes that averting the damaging effects of climate change requires action from both individuals and governments at the local, state, national and international levels. By raising public awareness of the causes and likely impacts of climate change, helping citizens learn what they can do to protect the environment and building broad support for effective climate solutions, we can help put our country -- and our planet -- on the path to a sustainable future.

We believe that a path toward a clean energy future will strengthen our economy by opening up millions of jobs to Americans while also rescuing America from its dependence on fossil fuels, reducing threats to our health, protecting the natural resources that we depend upon for survival and creating millions of domestic jobs. The League's environmental work falls into the three categories:

Global Climate Change – Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. The League supports legislative solutions, including setting caps on greenhouse gas and carbon pollution, encouraging conservation and renewable energy and investing in a new clean energy economy. We also support strong executive branch action under the Clean

Air Act to cut industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, which are the largest source of industrial carbon pollution in the US. The League works to build grassroots support for action on climate change nationally and at the state and local levels in order to avoid irrevocable damage to our planet.

Clean Air Defense – We work to protect our air quality by advocating for federal air pollution controls on industrial processes, government installations, fuels and motor vehicles. League members across the country actively campaign to urge the President and Congress to lead the world in the fight against climate change by controlling carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The League presses for full implementation of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and for strengthening amendments, while fighting against attempts to weaken it.

Clean Energy – The League advocates for legislation to improve energy efficiency throughout the economy and improve pollution control, including shifting to renewable energy, establishing federal fuel-efficiency standards and opposing oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas. The League opposes the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which threatens to pollute huge drinking water reserves, increase the world’s dependence on dirty oil and increase the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Preservation of a healthy environment is a top priority, and state Leagues have taken the lead in working to block fracking and dangerous mining processes that threaten to pollute natural resources in their communities.

For more information on the League’s work on the environment and climate change, please visit [here](#).

Susan Martin

At our February membership meeting on February 14 we were joined by Jim McNairy from the Old Military Road Trail Project, who explained the history of the roads between English Camp and American Camp. He described the project to create a trail that links the two camps, mainly using the routes of the old military roads.

You can show your support of this project by visiting the website at:
<https://www.oldmilitaryroadtrail.org/>

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

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Beverly Zapalac		360-375-5302	zapalacbeverly@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Robbie Lawson, Susan Martin

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	\$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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