



VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. Box 784, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0784**

October 2019

Calendar

**October 1, 2019 – Tuesday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at
the San Juan Island Library: Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

October 14 to 16, 2019 – Candidates Forums

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans has been providing non-partisan voter forums for over 20 years. This year, the forums on Orcas, and San Juan Islands will include the Legislative District 40 State Senate special election. In addition, the forum on Orcas will include contested races for Port Commissioner, Sewer and Water District, and School Board Director 5 seats. There will be no forum on Lopez.

Following is the schedule for these forums;

Orcas Island: Monday, October 14th, 5:00-7:15 pm at the Fire Hall

San Juan Island: Wednesday, October 16th, 5:30-7:00 pm at the San Juan Grange


Board meetings are generally on the 1st Tuesday of each month and membership meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday. Annual Membership Meetings are usually in May of each year. If you are coming from another island, call any board member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

LWV
League of Women voters

Candidate Forum

State Senate 40th District

**Daniel Miller (R)
Liz Lovelett (D)**



Wednesday, October 16th
5:30pm-7:00pm
San Juan Grange

LWV
League of Women voters

Candidate Forum

**State Senate
Port of Orcas
Orcas School District**



Monday, October 14th
5:00pm-7:15pm
Orcas Fire Hall

Save the Date! The Holiday Luncheon will be on December 11th at the Grange, 11:30am to 2:00pm. Our speaker will be Representative Debra Lekanoff, our 40th district state representative.

We're Having a Party!

In February 2020, we will be having a celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League in the wake of the passage of the 19th Amendment. We will be having an evening reception, most likely at the Grange on February 13th or 14th (the 14th is the actual anniversary). We hope to put together a fun and entertaining evening, in which our guests can both learn a little about League history and about the way the League is fighting to protect voter rights today. Board members Necia Quast and Jill Belcovson are forming a party planning committee and looking for members who want to brainstorm ideas and work on bringing this event to life. If you are interested contact Necia and Jill at collquas@netscape.net and jillbelcovson@earthlink.net.

Meeting Dates 2019

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
November 5	11
December 3	Holiday Luncheon, 11

We're on YouTube!!

Missed a meeting? Wish you had been able to be there? Our educational programs and candidate forums are recorded and put on YouTube for your convenience. You can access the video links in three ways. First and best, is to be a member of the LWVSJ and simply click on the link in this section of the monthly *Voter*.

Second, go to [YouTube](#) and search for LWVFH (we had to use FH rather than SJ because the YouTube search engine would take LWVSJ to a New Jersey League!).

Third, go to <http://www.mindspring.com/~sjmedia/default.htm>.

March 2019 Help!! We Need Somebody, Not
Just Anybody, to Save Our Orcas

April 2018 Redistricting and the Electoral
College

October 2018 San Juan Island Candidate
Forum

March 2018 Salish Sea Threats and
Opportunities

September 2018 Housing and the Proposed
Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

November 2017 Island Service Organizations

September 2017 Our County Comp Plan:
Preparing for the Future

LWVSJ Happenings

September 9, 2019 – Membership Meeting

Healthcare: Two Options

Our speakers were John Geyman M.D., Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine-University of Washington and Linda McCarthy, Executive Director of the Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood (MBPP). Also present was Jennie Noskoff, Development Manager at MBPP.

The meeting was opened to a full house by President Barbara Sharp. Steve Bowman introduced the speakers and served as moderator for the ensuing questions for each speaker. Dr. Geyman and Ms. McCarthy were both asked to address the current issues regarding healthcare options in today's political climate and how it affects residents of San Juan County.

Ms. McCarthy spoke first and gave the audience some background information on MBPP since its inception in 1969 and its extension of services to San Juan County in 1995. She outlined the services provided: medical services, education and advocacy. Of over 15,000 visits to Planned Parenthood facilities in 2018, 96% of services were attributed to cancer screenings, contraception, STD screening and treatment, pregnancy testing and gender affirming hormone therapies. These

statistics underscore the overall value of the wide range of medical services provided by the PP offices. That same year, the MBPP educators and Teen Council provided 318 community programs and taught 4040 participants in their education program for that year. The age range of those taking part was 6 -60 years old.

Linda also brought to our attention the state of the Title X Family Planning program that provides affordable birth control and reproductive healthcare to people struggling to make ends meet. Every year four million people access critical health care services through Title X, including birth control and breast cancer screenings. PP operates 56% of the Title X health centers in Washington. Unfortunately, the current administration's Title X "Gag Rule" imposes new restrictions designed to make it impossible for patients to get birth control or preventive care from health care providers like PP as long as the PP clinics refer patients for abortion services. These restrictions violate Washington's informed consent law (requiring physicians to inform patients of all medical options) and are a direct attack on health centers that provide services in low-income communities. Effectively, PP has been forced out of the program and it has become harder and harder for them to access any of the available funding. A court case will be heard in late September to decide if Washington will officially withdraw from Title X. It is imperative that our legislative representatives secure our Title X protections. Linda used the Colorado Family Planning Initiative, offering free long-acting, reversible contraceptives (LARC) as an example of success and cited the avoided costs in the period 2010 – 2014 to be over \$66 million dollars. She then gave the membership different ways in which each of us could fight back, vote and make a difference.

Linda McCarthy's presentation is attached to this issue's transmission email.

Dr. John Geyman then took the podium. He shared with everyone at the meeting his latest publication, *Common Sense: The Case for and Against Medicare for All*. His comments centered around the obvious need, yet still controversial topic surrounding a National Health Insurance program. (NHI) or "Medicare For All" as it is popularly known. Dr. Geyman quoted statistics surrounding reproductive healthcare – the fact that 47% of hospital beds in Washington state are in Roman Catholic hospitals where contraception is not supported. Stakeholders in both the private hospitals and insurance companies want to keep things the way they are. Insurance policies are not affordable and are unsustainable. A family with an income of \$50k per year could be expected to spend \$28k on health insurance. John stated that the three apparent options on the table are to build up the Affordable Care Act, to develop a NHI plan (Medicare for All) or the plan from the Republicans, still to be released. The public option for Washington is very much still a work in progress and he thinks that it will not work due to pressure from hospitals over rate settings and many will refuse to operate it and hand it off to

private insurers. This will ensure the failure of the program and not address the problems of universal access.

Dr. Geyman spoke in detail about the importance of the current bill in the House, HR1383 (health insurance for all with equity for all US residents). It currently has 80% Democratic and 52% Republican support. Employer based insurance cannot be depended upon, last year alone 66 million people left jobs. Government policy has always been to be very friendly with the insurance industry and without fundamental change in our financing system we will not be able to effect the necessary transformations.

He concluded his talk by bringing to the audience's attention that there are currently four new candidates running for the hospital district and they need our support to bring about necessary reforms.

Jill Belcovsen

Our member, Sandra Kersten "Sandy" Chalk, 81, died at her home in Friday Harbor on September 6th after a sudden and brief struggle with cancer

August 28, 2019 – Annual Board Retreat



In addition to good food and laughing conversation, board members talked mostly about plans for September 2019 through June 2020. A lively evening event in February will celebrate the League of Women Voters' 100th birthday (and remind Washingtonians that women here got the vote in 1910, before much of the rest of the country). Election forums will be held in October, and the usual luncheon meetings will be enjoyed in December and May. Other membership programs will focus on healthcare, taxes and tourism development, the April 2020 census count and affordable housing. Ongoing plans include voter registration projects and assistance to local schools with their curricula on voting (e.g. what voting is all about, pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds).

Vision Statement: *We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.*

Mission Statement: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans

Officers

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JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans.

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
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