

VOTER

LWVSJ Happenings

A Discussion with Jessica Hudson, San Juan County Manager, on the 2026 Levy Lid Lift

Monthly Meeting – Monday, April 13th, 2026

12pm – 1.30pm

Friday Harbor Library & via Zoom



Jessica will be discussing the Levy Lid Lift that will be voted on on April 28th of this month. San Juan County is seeking a regular property tax levy lid lift to maintain public health, safety, and other community services. This levy would support ongoing programs and services funded by the County general budget such as public health and senior services, public safety and victim services, emergency management and the Islands' Oil Spill Association, County parks and Fair operations, 4-H and marine protection work, and other public services provided by San Juan County. The County's largest sources of revenue are sales and property taxes. The State limits property tax collection to a 1% increase annually. Inflation, insurance costs, and other operating expenses have outpaced those revenues every year since 2019 when the last County levy rate was set.

Jessica Hudson joined San Juan County as the County Manager in July of 2024. Hudson was formerly the Director at Fairfax County Public Library in Fairfax, Virginia where she oversaw a system of 23 public facilities, a budget of \$35 million, and 550 staff. In this role, she developed and administered strategic plans, initiated public service operation expansions, uplifted underrepresented communities through programs and services, and supported a capital renovation budget of more than \$90 million. The County Manager is responsible for serving as a staff liaison to Council, overseeing County department operations, managing the budget, and more. Hudson has a bachelor's degree in Finance, a master's in Library Science, and a master's in Public Administration, as well as a completed fellowship in County Senior Executive Leadership from the California State Association of Counties.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84256909056?pwd=gRz3S2H9ahZ7oyzDXFxZrHeOIwqHLu.1>

Meeting ID: 842 5690 9056

Passcode: 238029



May 11th – League Annual Meeting – 12pm

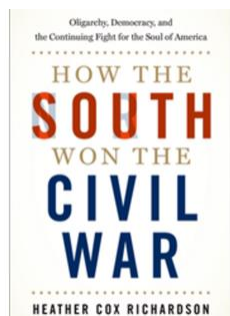
Our Annual Meeting and luncheon will be held on May 11th, 2026, noon at the Grange, catered by Market Chef. The keynote speaker is Liz Lovelett, our 40th District State Senator, who will discuss this year’s legislative session. More details and sign-ups to follow.

Join the **League of Women Voters** this **June** as we honor the spirit and promise of the **United States Declaration of Independence**. Together, we’ll reflect on the enduring principles of liberty, equality, and civic responsibility that continue to guide our work today.



OBSERVER CORPS UPDATE

Good news! Community members Steve Bernheim of Orcas, Elizabeth Landrum of Lopez, and Megan Bolitho of San Juan have stepped up to cover the San Juan County Council meetings. They have been regular readers of the Observer Corps reports and understand the importance of such reports of public meetings for the community. Big thanks to Steve, Elizabeth, and Megan. Meeting streaming and recordings enable them to do remote attendance. Also, welcome to Elizabeth, who has just joined the League.



Marking America250: A Members-only Conversation on “How the South Won the Civil War” with its Noted Author Heather Cox Richardson

Widely acclaimed historian and author Heather Cox Richardson will join the League live, via Zoom, at 12pm on July 29 to discuss “How the South Won the Civil War,” the League’s first selection in its statewide America250 book club event.

You might wonder what the Civil War has to do with today's politics and the nation’s history. Historian Richardson has spent her career answering that question. Members will have the opportunity to submit their own questions to her in advance to help shape the July 29 discussion. (Non-members may be able to watch via a YouTube stream. Stay tuned.)

Did you see our **Civics Trivia** in the Journal of the San Juan Islands in celebration of **Women’s History Month**?

<https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/2026/03/03/civics-trivia-28/?emci=3e0eac0a-b327-f111-9a48-000d3a14b640&emdi=2fda6264-b52e-f111-9a48-000d3a14b640&ceid=10166817>

LWV – SUPPORTING A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Journal of the San Juans

The League takes nonpartisanship seriously. It is essential that the public and its elected officials be convinced of the League’s genuine impartiality. Therefore, as an organization, the League does not support or oppose candidates for public office. At the same time, the League encourages its members as individuals to be active in political parties, in finding and supporting candidates for public office and in seeking election to public office.

<https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/2026/03/18/lwv-supporting-a-representative-democracy/>.

[Cantwell Joins State & King County Leaders to Warn of Proposed Barriers to Voting](#) // LWV Seattle King County // *San Juan Islander*

[SAVE America Act: Assault on Our Democracy](#) // LWV Seattle King County // *The Seattle Times*



The League of Women Voters of Washington, together with volunteers from Leagues across South Puget Sound will be holding the 2026 State Council meetings in beautiful Lacey, Washington. The 2026 LWVWA Biennial Council will be held on June 6 and 7 at the [South Puget Sound Community College's Lacey Campus](#), with optional activities on Friday, June 5.

Think of Council as an Innovation Lab—a place where members and leaders come together to learn, share, and shape the future of the League. The theme for this year's Council reflects the multiple layers of the League:

- Our power as individual members and leaders to influence change in our communities,
- Our power to innovate boldly, integrating new practices into our work to empower voters and defend democracy.
- Our power in unity, standing strong in coalition with the many partners who share our vision.

You can review details and schedules at <https://secure.ngpvan.com/gSgQth1teUaxC23u63RAKA2>

If you would like to be a delegate at the Council please contact Susan Martin - martinsf@georgetown.edu

Around the League – State and National Issues



Gov. Ferguson, with Lt. Gov. Heck at his side, shakes hands with Sen. Claudia Kauffman of Kent at bill-signing ceremonies in the state Capitol in Olympia on March 25. The governor signed four “democracy” bills for which the League of Women Voters of Washington vigorously advocated. Next to the senator is Alison McCaffree, the League’s Democracy Issue Chair.

With voting rights under assault across the country, democracy advocates in Washington state—including members of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) and other organizations—have reason to celebrate following two new developments.

The Legislature passed—and the governor signed—a suite of bills that offer added protection for voters. In addition, a new policy position from the LWVWA calling for better protection of the rights of immigrants might soon receive approval at the national League level, which would empower members in more than 800 local Leagues across the country to advocate for the well-being of newcomers. “We worked hard for the passage of these bills and are pleased that the League played a role in their successes,” said McCaffree. “We thank our members for their letters, emails and calls to lawmakers. We were proud to partner with the Washington Voting Justice Coalition on these efforts and look forward to many more successes in the future.”

Alison McCaffree, LWVWA's Democracy Issue Chair, said the Washington League identified [SB 5892](#), [SB 6035](#), [HB 1710](#) and [HB 1916](#) as priorities. Each bill strengthens a certain stage of the voting process: registering to vote, keeping personal information private, reviewing changes to election law, and suing because of discrimination. More [details are available](#) about the Washington League's progress to national adoption of its position on Welcoming Immigrants. The position itself is outlined [more fully on the LWVWA website](#) as well.

League members nationwide participated in [No Kings Day](#) protests against the current administration's abuses of power.



From Bellingham to Spokane, from the San Juan Islands to Yakima, League of Women Voter members across Washington State showed up at No Kings rallies on March 28 to defend democracy. Proudly wearing League T-shirts and displaying banners, members shared voter and civic education information, marched and chanted. League spirit was on display at small-town street corner gatherings and the massive 90,000-person rally in Seattle.

In Everett, several thousand people packed the Snohomish County Campus to hear a lineup of national, state and local speakers, including U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene and LWVWA President Karen Crowley.

Five Major Legislative Issues of 2025 and their impact on 2026

Throughout the first year of the 119th Congress, the League of Women Voters did advocacy work around legislation with significant implications for both our democracy and the people within it. This blog looks back at five of the most consequential legislative battles of 2025, as well as their implications for our country and the League's 2026 advocacy work.

The blog was written by Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager Kristen Kern and Justice Reform Legislative and Policy Manager Rebecca Goldman.

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/five-major-legislative-issues-2025-and-their-impact-2026>

This Month in the Legislature

Passage of the Millionaires' Tax Makes History

by Cynthia Stewart, Advocacy Chair emeritus, LWV of Washington

One of the final acts of the 2026 legislature was passage of [SB 6346](#), the Millionaires' Tax in the final hours of the 2026 legislative session. This was historic in that most states do not have such a tax, and because the adoption process was so challenging.

In a nutshell, the tax would apply a 9.9% tax on incomes exceeding \$1 million annually, with a number of exclusions from the tax. The proceeds would apply mostly to K-12 education, health care and the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC). It will also supplement funding for local public defender budgets. It will generate more than \$2 billion annually.

Read LWVWA Advocacy Chair emeritus Cynthia Stewart's insights about the landmark bill.

Read more

Voting Rights On the Line

- Congress continues to consider the suppressive SAVE Act suite of bills, which would require voters to present documentary proof of citizenship to register or vote. Reject the Anti-Voter SAVE Act suite of bills!
- Leagues and partners in Kentucky, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah took legal action to protect voters' data and privacy.
- A judge in North Carolina allowed a discriminatory law to stand, increasing the likelihood that ballots will be thrown out due to mail delivery issues and disproportionately harming young voters.
- Demand passage of the **Equal Rights Amendment!**
- <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/add-your-name-demand-equal-rights>

Same Bad Changes to Voter Registration - IL26-126 is now IP26-500. On Feb. 2, Representative Jim Walsh submitted the next version of an initiative that would add burdensome requirements to the voter registration rules. IP26-500 is an initiative to people that must get over 309K signatures by July 6 in order to be placed on the ballot in Nov. 2026.

⚠ The LWVWA and our partners urge you to decline to sign any petitions and vote 'No' if it comes to the ballot

The LWV Condemns President Trump's Calls to "Nationalize" Elections

President Trump called for elections to be "nationalized," demanding federal intervention in state and local election administration for all races. His rhetoric is "a calculated effort to dismantle the integrity of the election system." [Read the full LWV statement.](#)

SCOTUS Blocks Redrawing of New York Congressional Map

The US Supreme Court interfered in New York state's mid-decade redistricting case in a precedent setting emergency docket ruling. Justice Alito's concurrence shows how the federal VRA Section 2 doctrine might be struck down. [Learn more about this case from NPR.](#)

The LWV Releases Statement About the President's Unilateral Military Action in Iran

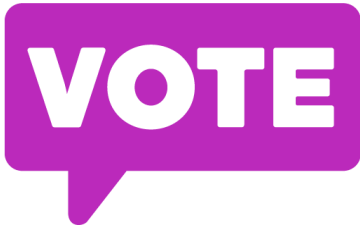
"The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned by the President's decision to initiate unprovoked military action against Iran without prior congressional authorization. This is not about the character of any individual involved. It is about constitutional authority and the dangerous subversion of our system of checks and balances." Read the full statement [HERE](#).

The League of Women Voters Statement on the Passing of Bernard Lafayette

"The League of Women Voters honors the life and legacy of Bernard Lafayette, Jr., a towering leader in the Civil Rights Movement whose life's work helped move this nation closer to its democratic ideals. The timing of his passing is a powerful reminder of the courage and conviction required to challenge injustice and bring about lasting change.

"As a Freedom Rider and organizer in the Selma voting rights campaign, Lafayette helped advance the movement that led to the passage of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*, a landmark law that transformed American democracy by protecting the fundamental right to vote for millions of Americans and dismantling barriers that had long denied Black voters full participation in our democracy.

"As we honor his legacy, we are reminded that the progress secured by that generation demands continued vigilance. The League remains committed to carrying forward the work of protecting and expanding the freedom to vote for every American."



VOTE 411

Vote 411 <https://www.vote411.org/washington>

To participate in our democracy, Americans deserve trustworthy, nonpartisan information about local and federal elections, including voter guides, candidate information, polling rules and locations, and more. We make this information easy to find with our

free, digital voter resource, [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org).

Apr Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – Special Election

Registration Deadlines:

By Mail - Monday, April 20, 2026

In Person - Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Online Get Registered! -Monday, April 20, 2026

Although There are no races currently listed for San Juan County, you can still prepare:

- Check your [registration status](#)
- [Register to vote](#)

<https://www.lwv.org/elections/vote411>

Meeting Dates 2026

Please note that our board meetings (open to all) are usually scheduled on the first Monday of the month and Membership Meetings are on the second Monday of the month.

Board Meetings	Monthly Meetings
January 5	January 12
February 2	February 9
March 2	March 9
April 6	April 13
May 4	May 11 (Annual Meeting)
June 1	June 8
July 6	July 13
August 3 <i>Board Retreat</i>	Summer Break <i>San Juan County Fair</i>

*All members are welcome to attend our board meetings –
in person or via our zoom link*

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan’s

Officers			
Susan Martin	Co-President	360-370-5205	martinsf@georgetown.edu
Barbara Sharp	Co-President	360-472-0148	b_gsharp@hotmail.com
Michael Martin	Treasurer	360-370-5205	martinml@ieee.org
Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	sjbutlerak@gmail.com

Steve Bowman	Voter Services	360-370-5814	steve.bowman52@gmail.com
	Observer Corps		
Robbie Lawson	Roster/Membership	360-378-5513	robbie@rockisland.com
XXXX	Secretary		
Members-at-Large			
Audra Adelberger		360-378-6322	audraeaba@gmail.com
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee	360-298-2823	marycampanella@icloud.com
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	eberhard@rockisland.com
Lenore Bayuk		360-472-0524	bayukll@rockisland.com
Pati Otley	MELD Representative	360-378-5632	pdotley@comcast.net
Jill Belcovson	The Voter/Observer Corps – Port of FH	805-689-2260	jbelcovson@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Clare Kelm, Mary Campanella, Sarah Crosby

LWVSJ welcomes new members who are concerned about the state of democracy today and what can be done to protect it. Please go to <https://portal.lwv.org/membership> join the League. 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.

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.

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters San Juans Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check 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