

VOTER

Membership Retreat – Monday, November 10th, 2025

10.00am-2.00pm at The Grange

Lunch will be catered

Join Us for the 2025 Membership Retreat!



You are warmly invited to attend the **League of Women Voters Member Retreat and Program Planning Meeting** on November 10th at the Grange. This annual gathering offers an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, reconnect with fellow members, and help set the direction for the year ahead. Your participation is vital to ensuring that our program reflects the interests and commitments of our membership. In reviewing the League's current priorities and initiatives we will discuss areas of focus for the coming year and how the League can meet the goal to empower voters and preserve democracy. One year after the 2024 election, meeting these goals is more important than ever before.

We will also be setting our program of work for 2026. We will determine what issues we should address in our monthly meetings and through other league activities. Additionally, we want to know what role you, as members, are interested in playing to achieve our goals and how the board can facilitate that process. It's also a chance to explore further questions you may have about the League's actions at the local, state and national levels. In addition, we want to hear your thoughts on how we can grow our presence throughout this county and increase the diversity of our membership.

We hope you will join us for a productive and inspiring day together.

A buffet lunch will be served. Please RSVP to jbelcovson@gmail.com by November 6.



Save The Date for our Annual Holiday Luncheon
Monday, December 10th
The Grange, Friday Harbor

RSVP: jbelcovson@gmail.com

A Recap of our October Meeting

Cultivating for the Future on San Juan Island

Sarah Pope Greene, Bruce Gregory and Zach Chan came together to talk about farming at the heart of island life, growing food, stewarding the land and the challenges that face the future of agriculture in the islands. The importance of soil management, working with volunteers and the ever-challenging balance of affordability and availability were all addressed in the discussions. A glimpse of how modern farming methods are helping small farmers survive whilst carrying on in a spirit of community and courage despite the setbacks of current funding freezes. We learned how cultivating the land today will help sustain our community, our economy, and our environment for generations to come.

SAN JUAN ISLAND AND LOPEZ ISLAND CANDIDATE FORUMS



Our first forum was held at Grace Episcopal Church on Lopez on Monday, October 6th and featured candidates for the newly formed Lopez Parks and Recreation committee. 4 candidates were running for 2 different positions on the board and then 4 candidates were running for 2 positions on the Hospital District board. A standing room only crowd of more than 90 Lopezians attended. Both races were filled with questions from the audience and each candidate seemed to be well qualified and very passionate about the positions they were running for. It was a fun evening but many challenges for the Voter Services Committee group of Jill, Susan, Diana and Robbie to overcome due to ferry cancellations. In the end they rode from Friday Harbor to Anacortes and then back to Lopez!! Way to go group!

On Thursday October 9th we held 2 different races at the Grange. First up was a race for a position on the San Juan Island school board with two candidates in that race, Melanie Hess and Levi Wolff. In the Friday Harbor mayoral race the final two contenders, Evan Perrollaz, owner of a coffee roasting company and deputy superintendent of the local hospital district; and Emilio Santiago, cultural resources program specialist at San Juan Island National Historical Park. It was a smaller crowd than on Lopez but questions were fielded from the audience by the candidates with great enthusiasm. Our Voter Services group handled the logistics and all went smoothly.

Steve Bowman

Recording of October 9 SJI Voter Forum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnfPiFqaCRk>

To access other recordings of LWVSJ events please visit our website at:

<https://www.lwvwa.org/san-juan>

Candidate information can be found at
<https://voter.votewa.gov/CandidateList.aspx?e=894&c=28>

Congratulations to Susan Martin!

Our San Juan League President, Susan Martin, has been approved to join the LWVWA board. She has two portfolios in this new position. One is to work towards concurrence of the **Welcoming Immigrants in Washington State** position. The other is as liaison between the **Redistricting Taskforce** and the State Board.

Our chapter of the League are preparing to apply for another **Civic Education Grant** which provides much needed funding for many of our existing programs and the opportunity to partner with other local organizations in new programs.

News from the Observer Corps

Necia Quast has implemented and overseen the highly successful **Observer Corps** program for the last year. It has been a true feather in her cap. Now the Corps is looking for member volunteers to cover several meetings that are vital to our community. This is an informative way for you to help - if you are interested please contact Necia at collquas@aim.com.

Necia will also be attending the **United Nations Climate Change (COP30)** conference in Brazil this month that will bring together world leaders, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to discuss priority actions to tackle climate change. Necia will be the speaker at our January meeting and we look forward to gaining insights into the complex issues surrounding this conference.

Around the League – State and National Issues

Nonpartisanship Does Not Mean Silence

By Barbara Tengtio, President, LWV of Seattle King County

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisanship organization whose purpose is to promote the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Our mission to empower voters and defend democracy doesn't mean we're silent.

<https://lwvwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter/13556652?emci=c5a62316-55b3-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&emdi=eff0e16d-95b6-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&ceid=10166817>

WA League Seeks National Adoption of its Position on Welcoming Immigrants in the US

With growing concerns about the well-being of immigrants in the United States, the League of Women Voters of Washington is looking to secure national adoption of a [new policy](#)

[position](#) affirming all residents—regardless of their immigration status or citizenship—should be treated with dignity and respect.

<https://lwwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter/13558057?emci=c5a62316-55b3-f011-8e61-6045bde8ba4&emdi=eff0e16d-95b6-f011-8e61-6045bde8ba4&ceid=10166817>

By Dee Anne Finken, Communications Portfolio Director, LWV of Washington

['No Kings' From Ellensburg to Washington, DC: Protests Pop-Up Around the World](#) // **LWV of Kittitas County** // *The Observer*

[Civics Triva](#) // **LWV San Juan Islands County** // *The Journal of the San Juan Islands*

[School board and mayoral candidate forums](#) // **LWV of the San Juan Islands** // *The Journal of the San Juan Islands*

[LWV Observer Corps notes on public meetings](#) // **LWV of the San Juan Islands** // *The Journal of the San Juan Islands*

Defending Democracy: Those Aren't Just Superhero Costumes

- LWV and plaintiffs [sought emergency relief](#) in a lawsuit to stop the Trump-Vance administration's unlawful creation of government databases containing legally protected personal information.
- Voters and civil rights groups sought to halt Department of Justice attempts to seize voter data in [CA](#), [ME](#), MI, [MN](#), [NY](#), and [PA](#).

LWV IN and partners [filed a lawsuit](#) challenging anti-voter laws that target naturalized citizens

Demand that Congress End the Shutdown

The federal government has been partially shut down since October 1, as Congress has failed to agree on an annual budget. The shutdown has imminent consequences for the health and well-being of millions of Americans whose paychecks are being withheld, and food access is being threatened.

While Congress continues to get paid, the American people, including some of our most vulnerable community members, don't have their most basic needs met. This is simply unacceptable.

⚠ Take Action: Tell Congress [HERE](#)  to set aside partisan politics and come together to end the shutdown now.

"Let us be clear: Democracy is strongest when every eligible voter can show up and take action," said **Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters Education Fund**. "Visit VOTE411 to lock in your voting plan—find your polling place, know what ID you need, get to know the candidates and issues—and show up ready to cast your ballot with purpose and conviction. Democracy thrives when people show up for their communities and refuse to sit on the sidelines. Make your mark. Your vote is your power, and it's needed more than ever now."

[VOTE411: The Essential Tool for Election Day](#)

VOTE411 currently has trusted information on an over 15,000 races and over 34,000 candidates appearing on ballots on November 4th. Today, it stands as the indispensable resource to ensure voters are prepared for Election Day.



Unite and Rise 8.5


Unite & Rise 8.5 aims to build a movement of 8.5 million individuals to fight back against the anti-democratic actions of the current administration.

According to research, 8.5 million people taking nonviolent action are all we need to make meaningful change in this critical time.

Join us as we defend democracy, from the courts to the streets and beyond!

[Learn More](#)






Last, and definitely not least, for local League coverage, listen to and read LWVWA President Karen Crowley's stirring speech, "We Are Being Tested," [HERE](#) , presented to an audience of 4,000. Gov. Ferguson also spoke at this Everett event.

[Watch the Speech](#)

Public “Decline to Sign” Campaign – IL26-126 Update on signature gathering

League members are encouraged to share posts from League accounts to promote our “Decline to Sign” campaign against IL26-126.

Members can get more information about I-126 and the "Decline to Sign" campaign [on the LWVWA website](#)  (under the advocacy tab on our homepage). See the Evergreen Voter article about I-126 [HERE](#) . Check out the LWVUS toolkit for proof of citizenship laws [HERE](#) .

Signature gatherers for the I-126 petitions are now being seen in public places. If you see I-126 signature gatherers, please let LWVWA know. Send information about location, date, and method of approach (circulating among the public; at a table; speaking to a group, etc.) to LWVWA at Info@lwvwa.org.

Do not object to signature gathering when you see it. The League is a strong supporter of free speech, including when we disagree. Our job in asking people to decline to sign is to be persuasive on our own position, but not to disrupt others who have different opinions.

What does the Initiative number mean? The formal number of this Initiative is IL26-126. “IL26” means Initiative to the Legislature for the 2026 legislative session. “126” is the number of said Initiative. For simplicity, we call it I-126.

5 Calls

Make your voice heard!

5 Calls is the easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact. Calling your congressperson is the most effective way to influence policy. Make calls in support of progressive issues. We update the list regularly as legislation develops and remove topics as soon as they're no longer relevant.

[Learn more about why calling works.](#)

[Read our guide to getting started.](#)

Visit 5calls.org – input your location (Friday Harbor) and select what is important to you.

<https://5calls.org/>

Dues Payment and Processing System

The League of Women Voters has switched to a new member portal, ChapterSpot, for all Leagues across the country. You can use this link to renew: <https://portal.lwv.org/membership>. You can pay online using a credit/debit card or by ACH. Once you have access to the portal, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.

If you would like to make an additional contribution directly to LWV of the San Juans, you need to separately submit dues and contributions. This can be done through the LWV Portal, which includes a separate donation button for local leagues, or by check to LWVSJ. We encourage our members to send a check to LWVSJ as it ensures that your contribution goes to our local league. **PLEASE DO NOT ADD YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR DUES PAYMENT OR WE WILL RECEIVE ONLY 20% OF YOUR PAYMENT.** The State and National League will receive the remainder.

Meeting Dates 2025

Board Meetings	Monthly Meetings
November 3	November 10 <i>Program Planning Meeting/Member Retreat</i>
December 1	December 8 <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.

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
Necia Quast	Observer Corps	360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
Robbie Lawson	Roster	360-378-5513	robbie@rockisland.com
Jill Belcovson	Publicity/Voter	805-689-2260	jbelcovson@gmail.com
XXXX	Secretary		
Members-at-Large			
Audra Adelberger		360-378-6322	audraaeaba@gmail.com
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee	360-298-2823	marycampanella@icloud.com
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	eberhard@rockisland.com
Lenore Bayuk		360-378-3636	bayukll@rockisland.com
Pati Otley		360-378-5632	pdotley@comcast.net
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	chita.miller@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Clare Kelm, Mary Campanella, Sarah Crosby

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