

VOTER

LWVSJ Happenings

Immigration Policy in a Divided Country

Friday Harbor Library & via Zoom

**Monthly Meeting – Monday, February 9th, 2026
12pm – 2pm**



This month's speaker is Natalie Hansen from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. Natalie is a Staff Attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) in Seattle, where she specializes in complex citizenship and naturalization cases. Prior to her time with NWIRP, she founded an immigration law private practice and was the Director of Pro Bono Programs at American Gateways, an Austin, Texas based immigration law non-profit. She graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2009 with honors and has been practicing immigration law for over fifteen years. NWIRP's legal services are critical to helping thousands of immigrants in Washington State navigate the complexities of the United States immigration system so they can apply for asylum, naturalization and other forms of

immigrant protection. Natalie works in the citizenship and naturalization unit in Seattle. She is also the author of *Supporting Asylum Seekers in Detention: An Immigration Attorney's Guide*.

Immigration has become one of the most controversial issues on the U.S. policy agenda. Almost every day, we wait for the proverbial other shoe to drop as there is a new assault on immigrants and those who support their rights. Also weighing in on this discussion is Susan Martin, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans, who will provide an overview of what is happening in immigration enforcement. Susan served as the Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform and has published a dozen books and numerous articles and book chapters on immigration policy. This is your chance to ask questions about these very important issues.

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

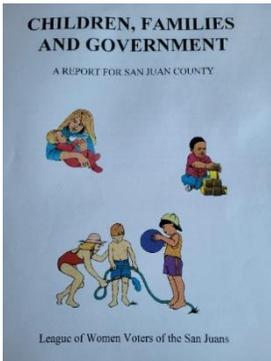
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89426674996?pwd=raJanbV21arhNDJGwPMHtCYzaaeUTQ.1>

Meeting ID: 894 2667 4996

Passcode: 531651

Susan Martin has an opinion piece in the latest Journal titled **“An Assault on Pathways to Legal Immigration”** Read the full column at <https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/opinion/an-assault-on-pathways-to-legal-immigration-guest-column/>

Local Advocacy: A Piece of LWVSJ History by Necia Quast



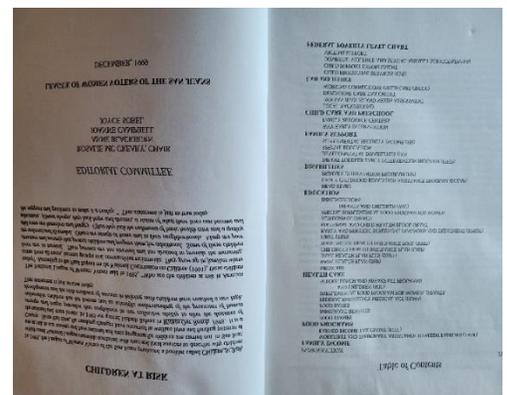
In the last few years, we have discussed whether or not the LWV of the San Juans should consider doing local advocacy. There has been no consensus on the issue with advocates for both sides of the debate. Initially, most thought that our local League had never engaged in local advocacy, but then at one discussion a member reminded us that in the 1990s, we had advocated for the establishment of the **SJI Family Resource Center**.

Recently going through some old files, I found a copy of the study that our local League did as part of the standard League process for getting consensus on policies and positions to use as the basis of advocacy. As you can see from the photo below this report was produced by a committee Chaired by Rosalie McCreary and including Anne Blackburn, Joanne Campbell, and of course, Joyce Sobel. The

Frontispiece references an earlier LWVSJ report from 1995 titled **Children at Risk**. It notes that this new report incorporates changes in laws and funding since the earlier report. The introduction reports these changes have laid the foundation for the creation of Family Resource Centers.

Today the Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource is one of the most respected institutions on our island and one which makes a positive difference in the lives of so many Islanders. Orcas and Lopez islands also have robust family resource centers that are part of the fabric of services to families and children in our county. The LWSJ can look back proudly at the role we played in bringing this about.

Submitted by Necia Quast



This year's mid-term elections will be the most critical in modern memory. Your voice *must* be heard — the future of democracy is on the line.

Support the League of Women Voters now to help ensure that every voter can make their voice heard with safety and equity in the coming midterm elections. Your passion for advancing change through fair elections will turn into action that makes democracy work for everyone!

Your support for the League at this critical time will help to:

- ✓ Organize voter registration drives to mobilize the American electorate
- ✓ Raise awareness of this year's midterms and why they are especially important
- ✓ Fight misinformation and keep candidates accountable with non-partisan voter education
- ✓ Engage local communities passionate about reclaiming our democratic institutions and courts through informed, active citizens
- ✓ Mobilize America before it's too late to save our elections and legal system from the runaway train of oppression

Around the League – State and National Issues

LWV Statement in Response to Continued Escalation of Federal Military Activity in Minnesota

The LWVUS issued the following statement in response to the continued escalation of federal military activity in Minnesota from federal immigration officials:

“The League of Women Voters condemns the escalating actions by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that put people at risk, deny individuals their constitutional rights, and undermine the democratic values meant to protect us all.”

For full text visit <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/statement-league-women-voters-federal-immigration-enforcement-and-erosion?emci=9f2134c0-04ff-f011-832f-000d3a1f0e4c&emdi=4c28c820-caff-f011-832f-000d3a1f0e4c&ceid=25187569>

Tell Congress that Federal Immigration Enforcement has Gone Too Far

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-federal-immigration-enforcement-has-gone-too-far>

Get information on contacting your representatives on issues that LWVUS is prioritizing and to sign the petition on Equal Rights. <https://www.lwv.org/>



I-126 Campaign Which Misled the Public About Voting, Fails

The misleading I-126 Campaign failed to qualify after falling short on signatures. The League welcomes the outcome – and stands ready to oppose future efforts that threaten eligible voters’ access to the ballot.

[Read more](#)



Ballot Boxes Are Best!

Ahead of February special elections, USPS clarified postmark rules that may affect mailed ballots. The League urges voters to plan ahead, mind deadlines, and use ballot drop boxes to ensure votes are counted.

[Read more](#)



Action Alerts

Support Local News

[SSB 5400](#), Supporting local news journalism, helps rebuild Washington's local news environment, where outlets have experienced devastating decline as search engines and social media platforms scrape those outlets' content and dominate advertising. Importantly, the bill is revenue generating. Proceeds from a nominal surcharge on big-tech social media platforms and search engines cover the costs of the program. The money collected would be distributed as grants to for-profit and nonprofit news organizations. A limited carve-out of dollars would support an expansion of the Murrow News Fellowship at Washington State University to allow placement of a fellow in each of Washington's 39 counties. *SB 5400 is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means on Feb. 5 at 1:30 pm.*

⚠ Sign in PRO on SB 5400 [HERE](#) by Thurs. Feb. 5 by 12:30 pm.

This Week in the Legislature

As the fourth week of the 2026 Legislative session begins, on Feb 4th any bill that has not passed the policy committee in its house of origin effectively dies for this legislative session. The next cutoff date is for bills with fiscal implications to pass their respective fiscal committees—House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means—and the transportation committees. That is the following Monday, Feb. 9. After this coming week, the House and Senate will be processing bills that have been referred to their respective Rules Committees. The Rules Committees pick which bills will get to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote by members.

The last day for bills to pass their house of origin is Feb. 17. If a bill does not move to the opposite chamber, it is considered dead for the session—except for bills that are deemed “necessary to implement the budget (NTIB).”

At about that time, the House and Senate will be finalizing their respective budget proposals.



The 2026 Legislative Issues

LWVWA Legislative Issues From the 2026 Washington State Legislative Session
Click on an issue overview to learn more about the bills the League is following and "This Week's Updates" to read the issue chair's report on this past week. When a "⚠" appears next to an overview, it indicates there are actions to take for this week. Click on the "⚠" to be taken to the action alert page.

Democracy

Democracy Issues | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) ⚠ (Elections)

Local News and Democracy | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) ⚠

Environment

Agriculture | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)

Climate Crisis & Energy | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) ⚠

Forests | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) ⚠

Waste Diversion | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) ⚠

Social and Economic Policy

Behavioral Health | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) 
Children's Issues | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)
Criminal Justice | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) 
Early Care and Education | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)
Elder Caregiving | [Weekly Update](#)
Healthcare | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#) 
Housing & Homelessness | [Issue Overview](#)
Immigrants | [Issue Overview](#) | [Weekly Update](#)
K-12 Education | [Weekly Update](#)
Revenue | [Issue Overview](#)

Resources to Engage and Stay Informed:

- Keep up with all of the action in the Legislature—bills, meetings, laws, rules, legislators, and even history of the Legislature—at **the Legislature's website**.
- Watch committee meetings live or recorded: Go to **Legislative Review - TVW** for daily and special reviews (like the Governor's addresses and more!). You can [access TVW online](#) or check out the listings with your local TV/cable networks.



Local Lowdown, Friday Harbor Library, March 11th, 7pm. The co-presidents of our League, Susan Martin and Barbara Sharp will be at the library to share what we do, why it matters, and how you can get involved. Learn about our work to empower voters, strengthen democracy, and serve our community—and bring your questions!

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
Necia Quast	Observer Corps	360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
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		360-378-3636	bayukll@rockisland.com
Pati Otley		360-378-5632	pdotley@comcast.net
Jill Belcovson	The Voter/Observer Corps	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