

VOTER

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, October 13th – 12pm

Friday Harbor Library

Farmers Rooted in Community: Cultivating for the Future on San Juan Island



Farming is at the heart of island life. Join us as local farmers Sarah Pope Greene, Zach Chan and Bruce Gregory share how they're growing food, stewarding the land, and planting seeds for a thriving future in the San Juans. They will share stories, challenges, and hopes for the future of agriculture in the islands. Learn how cultivating the land today helps sustain our community, our economy, and our environment for generations to come.

Sarah Pope Greene, Oak Knoll Farm

Sarah and her husband Adam Greene raise sheep and Sarah's company, San Juan Woolworks, makes knitting yarns and spinning fiber from the Oak Knoll flock. She is also the manager of the San Juan Islands Food Hub, an interisland farmers' market.

Bruce Gregory, Mitchell Bay Farm

In addition to his local farm raising sheep, Asian pears, plums, apples and kiwis, Bruce is an Agricultural Resource Conservation Planner for the San Juan Islands Conservation District. He has volunteered with the USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Program, traveling as far as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Zach Chan, New Hannah Farm

Zach thinks about the connections between food production, economics, climate change and social justice, and experiments with better farming methods, for example, using "no till" to help with carbon sequestration. He provides online ordering and convenient pickup for customers.

We'd love to see you in person for this community conversation!

If you can't make it, you're welcome to join us on Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 894 2667 4996

Passcode: 531651

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS!



OCTOBER 6th – LOPEZ ISLAND

Grace Episcopal Church – 5.30pm

Lopez Hospital District 2 candidates:
Corey Casper and **Steve Greenstein**

Parks and Recreation
Bridie Spreine & Chuenchom Greacen

Lopez Hospital District 5 candidates:
Albert Berger and **Heather Arps**

Kit Ledbetter & Dan Post

OCTOBER 9th – SAN JUAN ISLAND

SJI Grange – Friday Harbor 5.00pm

In the Friday Harbor mayoral race the final two contenders are **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. Friday Harbor has a population of 2,747 and is the county seat, the only incorporated community in San Juan County and the economic center of San Juan Island.

Both **Melanie Hess** and **Levi Wolff** will be appearing to support their positions in running for School Board positions.

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

The primary election is November 4, and the San Juan County Elections Office will be mailing ballots to Friday Harbor voters who live within town limits on October 16.

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, is sponsoring these forums ahead of the November election. Community members who wish to ask questions of candidates but cannot attend in person may email their questions in advance of the forums to the League at pres.lwvsji@gmail.com.

Countdown to Election Day – November 4th

Protect your vote – don't wait - **mail your ballot at least 1 week before Election Day** to beat postal delays and make sure it's counted! If you vote on Election Day please do **NOT** mail your ballot but bring it to the voting box.

Delays in the postal service handling of our ballots have created an issue with ballots not being postmarked or delivered on time.

<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1226/Ballot-Drop-Boxes>

We hope to see you at the Forums!

Island Connections: A Meet & Greet Success



This past Sunday, five of our local service organizations — Rotary, Soroptimists, Lions, Kiwanis, and the League of Women Voters — joined together for a community meet and greet. The afternoon was filled with lively conversations, good food, and plenty of laughter as neighbors learned more about the many ways these groups contribute to island life.

It was a wonderful reminder of what makes our community strong: people coming together, sharing ideas, and supporting one



another. A big thank you to everyone who attended, brought a dish to share, and helped make the event such a success!

We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate and continue building connections that strengthen our island community.

Around the League – State and National Issues

The Supreme Court Allows Racial Profiling

By Susan Martin

On Sept. 15, the Supreme Court validated the use of racial and ethnic profiling in the United States. Using what is known as the emergency (or shadow) docket, the majority reversed a district court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals holding that law enforcement agents could not detain people solely based on their race, the language they speak, their place of employment or where they gathered. The majority did not explain their decision, as happens often on the shadow docket. The three dissenting justices, on the other hand, issued a stinging indictment of the majority's position as well as Justice Brett Kavanaugh's feeble concurrence.

Read more at:

<https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/opinion/the-supreme-court-allows-racial-profiling/> and in the attached PDF copy of the article.

Our Heritage, Our Future: the Journey of a Latino Ballot

One in 10 eligible voters in the US is a naturalized citizen. In recent years, Hispanic adults have made up the largest share (34%) of that population. More than half of naturalized citizen voters live in four states: California, Florida, New York, and Texas. Together, these states hold roughly a third of the US electorate. These facts show where many Latino families live, work, organize, and vote. But each household has its own story: a bus driver, a teacher, a small-business owner, or a college student. Each ballot represents those daily lives. <https://www.lww.org/blog/our-heritage-our-future-journey-latino-ballot>

CALL FOR POETRY SUBMISSIONS

BY OCTOBER 15, 2025

ACTIVIST ARTIST ARIK JOHNSON'S PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY

We invite original poems that reflect on the *guiding principles of democracy*—such as justice, equality, freedom, civic engagement, and the common good.

We welcome a wide range of voices, styles, and perspectives. Surprise us with something fresh—insightful, musical, memorable. We're looking for poems that move us: make us laugh, cry, reflect, or see the world in a new way.

DEMOCRACY'S URGENT CALL
A POETRY ANTHOLOGY BY MEMBERS OF

THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTER'S

100 POEMS
BY LEAGUE MEMBERS
FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Join us as we express our love of country and Democracy by lifting our voices together to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Please submit your poem here:
<https://bit.ly/4pkWCzK>

Two Wisconsin Leagues are gathering poems to include in a 2026 anthology to celebrate the 250th birthday of the Declaration of Independence. We hope to have LWV poets from every state represented in our anthology and we are getting the message out to as many LWV members as possible. We believe that immigration has strengthened our democracy throughout the decades and hope that some of you will be inspired to submit a poem.

As poets, writers, and members of the League of Women Voters, we recognize the power of language to connect people—to stir hearts and minds, and to reaffirm the enduring promise of Democracy. Through poetry, we aim to illuminate its beauty, its fragility, and its strength - especially at a time when we can no longer afford to take its core principles for granted.

The direct submission link is <https://bit.ly/4pkWCzK>. Please contact Christy Schwan if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this unique project!

Christy Schwan
 Co-President LWV Ozaukee & Washington Counties
 Treasurer & Board of Directors LWV Wisconsin
 Eloisa Gómez
 Comité por el Voto Latino, LWV Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Closed Door for League Members Registering & Welcoming Newly Naturalized Citizens Prompts Concerns

by Dee Anne Finken, Local News & Democracy and Communications Portfolio Director, LWVWA

Washington state and U.S. League leadership adamantly opposes the new federal ban announced last month that prohibits nonprofit organizations from registering naturalized citizens to vote under certain circumstances. The prohibition shuts the door for League members and raises questions about whether new citizens are being provided the tools they need to register to vote.

<https://lwvwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter>

- Ballots for the Nov. 4 General Election will be mailed by Oct. 17. **Is your registration up to date?** Find out at VoteWA.gov. Print a replacement from VoteWA.gov if you don't receive your ballot by the following week. Or reach out to your local elections office.
- **Show up for democracy!** Another national No Kings Day of Action is Oct. 18. Find an event near you and learn about your rights and protest safety.
- Lots of rumors and false information surround elections these days. **Separate rumor from reality with help from the WA Office of the Secretary of State.** Dispel the rumors and learn how WA keeps our elections secure.



The League Joins as a National Partner for Second No Kings – Saturday, October 18

League members from throughout Washington will turn out again for a No Kings mobilization day, this time with the League of Women Voters of the United States having joined as a national partner for the Oct. 18 event. The League believes that to protect and defend democracy, **we must show up persistently - attending rallies and protests over and over again.** In an email to all members last month, **LWVUS President Dianna Wynn** said the decision to join the sponsoring coalition for the second nationwide event was

intentionally made “to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism.”


[Read More](#)


"Decline to Sign" Seeks to Stop Unneeded, Burdensome Law

Cynthia Stewart, LWVWA first vice president and Advocacy chair, calls IL26-126 an effort “to promote the lie that noncitizens are voting.”



US Department of Justice wants WA Voter Records

In response to the US Department of Justice request to WA Secretary of State Hobbs to access a complete WA state voter database—including full names, addresses, birthdates and driver's license or partial Social Security numbers—LWVWA President Karen Crowley sent the Secretary of State a letter strongly opposing any release of personal voter information. See the letter [HERE](#) .

Secretary Hobbs announced his response today, a resounding NO. You can read his clear reasoning [HERE](#) .

⚠ TAKE ACTION: Please call Secretary of State Hobbs at 630-902-4151 and thank him for his protection of sensitive voter information.



Making Sense of Information

Register now for Making Sense of Information, a zoom workshop on Oct. 28

Information bombards us every day through every kind of media. How do you make sense of it all?

Media &
News Literacy
Educational Workshops



Making Sense of Information can help. This interactive, online workshop on October 28 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. is designed to help you better understand what's happening in the information ecosystem and build the skills you need to be a savvy media and news consumer.

Making Sense of Information will present key definitions, current research, and individual skill development to help you discern the kind of information you receive. Is it true or false? Is it misleading? Is it something else?

Making Sense of Information is the second of four educational workshops on Media & News Literacy presented by the LWVWA Local News and Democracy Advocacy and Education Committee.

This workshop is also part of the state League's new "Democracy Power-Up!" series of learning opportunities created to help members respond to the constitutional crisis and defend democracy.

[Register now for Making Sense of Information.](#)

[Get more information](#) about Media & News Literacy: Educational Workshops, including what you need to do before attending.

Act Now: Access to Health Care at Risk




This week Seattle Children's Hospital announced that it may need to lay off as many as 154 workers this fall, due to the loss of federal funding from the budget cuts passed over the summer by Congress. In addition, 350 open positions will be eliminated effective Nov. 15. While most of the reductions are considered administrative positions, this could reduce timeliness of communications such as confirming coverage and answering the questions of patients and

their families. While this is a big impact for Seattle Children's Hospital, other hospitals around the state have been affected even more adversely. They do not have the vast

resources of Children's that can withstand some reductions. Fourteen rural hospitals across the state and 28 community clinics that provide a range of services from behavioral health care to dentistry are currently at risk of closure because of these federal budget reductions. And there will likely be more over time. When those hospitals are not available, Washingtonians must travel exorbitant distances to get critical care.

As has been widely reported, Congress is currently addressing a continuing resolution for the federal budget, and reductions in Medicaid and other health care funding have been pivotal in the Congressional budget debate. As of today, the US government is at risk of a shutdown with the current full-year continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal year (FY) 2025 set to expire on September 30.

⚠ TAKE ACTION: Contact Washington's senators and your congressional representative and ask them to hold firm on demanding that funding for health care be restored in the federal budget. [Get the contact information](#) .

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. By now, all members should have received an email to log in to the portal. If you haven't received an email, you can use this link to renew: <https://portal.lwv.org/membership>. You can pay online using a credit/debit card or by ACH (an electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of a check). 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, as some members choose to do when they renew as Carrie Chapman Catt or Susan B. Anthony supporters, 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
October 6	October 13 <i>Farmers Rooted in Community</i>
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	Nominating committee	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