

# VOTER

## SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – 12pm**

**San Juan Island Library**



Please join our league for a conversation with **Karen Crowley, President of the League of Women Voters of Washington.** Karen assumed office on July 1, 2025 during what the national League calls a constitutional crisis. She is deeply committed to the dual mission of the League to empower voters and defend democracy, particularly during these challenging times. Karen will discuss new and ongoing efforts by the League at the national and state levels to fulfill these dual missions as well as what local Leagues can do to support these efforts.

*Karen Crowley, of Snohomish County, is the President of the League of Women Voters of Washington. She is joyfully retired after 35 years of management and non-profit experience, working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Snohomish County, United Way, and Edmonds Center for the Arts. She also has a background in theater and dance as the founding actor with Open Door Theatre, an applied theater group working in the classroom to bring awareness to the issue of child sexual abuse. She has also served on the board of Leadership Snohomish County and is past president of KSER Foundation (KSER/KXIR Independent Public Radio).*

*After joining the League in 2017, Karen has been Co-Chair of the statewide Redistricting Reform Task Force and team leader for local candidate forums. She helped develop Speak Up School training on how to testify effectively.*

*Karen has two amazing children. She lives in a 1906 home in Snohomish with her husband, Tom Merrill, who currently serves as president of the Snohomish City Council. She is deeply committed to the League's dual mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. When not creating 'good trouble' she delights in carving out time for her garden and the New York Times crossword puzzle.*

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

Meeting ID: 894 2667 4996

Passcode: 531651



## Non-Partisanship in the Face of Federal Actions

### "Everybody Counts in Applying Democracy"

The Journal of the San Juan Islands published this essay by our League president Susan Martin, who explains how the League stays true to its 105-year-old commitment to nonpartisanship while working to defend democracy. Please read Susan's piece published in the recent Evergreen Voter.

<https://lwvwa.org/The-Evergreen-Voter/13536372?nvp=&hmac=&emci=a77cd8ed-e881-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=ea000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000001&ceid=>

## Thank you!

A big shout-out to our hardy members who came out and helped run the League's booth at the County Fair.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the League continues to be a visible, trusted source for nonpartisan election information—building community connections and strengthening democracy, one fairgoer at a time!

Your time, energy, and welcoming spirit made our presence a real success. We couldn't have done it without you!



## UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

**OCTOBER 9th – SAN JUAN ISLAND**

**SJI Grange – Friday Harbor 5.30pm**

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.

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.

**OCTOBER 6th – LOPEZ ISLAND**

**Grace Episcopal Church – 5.30pm**

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

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

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

*Voter Forums are open, moderated events during which candidates will present introductory statements and respond to your questions, within time limits. The League of Women Voters requires civil discourse in forums, and all questions to candidates must meet that requirement. This event gives all community members a chance to hear directly from those running to lead our community.*

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](mailto:pres.lwvsji@gmail.com).

*The meetings will be recorded and available to view on the LWV Facebook and webpage.*

***We hope to see you at the Forums!***



One day, big impact. **National Voter Registration Day – September 16th** helps every voter be election-ready. National Voter Registration Day is more than a date on the calendar. It's a nationwide push to ensure every eligible voter is ready to make their voice heard. By spreading the word, we can help more of our neighbors get registered, stay registered, and show up at the polls.

### **Countdown to Election Day – November 4<sup>th</sup>**

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>

## **Around the League – State and National Issues**

### **LWV Thanks Gov. Ferguson for His Strong Support of Immigrant Families in WA State**

*On August 21, 2025, the LWVWA sent the following letter to the Governor.*

Dear Governor Ferguson:

Thank you for your response to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi's letter of August 13, 2025, regarding the federal administration's assertions about Washington State being a sanctuary jurisdiction. The League of Women Voters of Washington stands firmly with you.

Committed to empowering voters and defending democracy, the nonpartisan League believes that threats issued by the U.S. Justice Department against state officials—ostensibly in reaction to the protection of immigrants via adoption of the Keep Washington Working Act—are illegal; are violations of due process as well as state law; and finally, are immoral. Moreover, they represent a preeminent threat to democracy.

The League of Women Voters of the US has declared the United States now faces a constitutional crisis: "The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained threat. In this extraordinary moment, we cannot proceed with business as usual."

This crisis requires League leaders and members to speak out. This is not a Republican, Democratic or Independent issue. This is about our democracy and our need to defend and protect it.

I am proud to share with you the League of Women Voters of Washington's policy position on immigration, adopted earlier this year. This position states, in brief, that the League believes that all residents of Washington state, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect:

*"This means that all residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to essential state-funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety...The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders in Washington to continue to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders in Washington have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric."*

Again—thank you for your strong stand. Please let us know how we can support you. Sincerely,

Karen Crowley

President, 2025-2027



## To Do List

- Washington's elections and mail-in balloting are safe and secure. [Learn more about WA's mail-in voting processes and election security from WA Secretary of State.](#)
- This week the LWVUS launched the Unite and Rise 8.5 video series, which will feature the national organization's CEO Celina Stewart talking to democracy experts about how to speak out to defend democracy. [Watch the first episode with political scientist Dr. Erica Chenoweth.](#)
- Collective action is *critical* for defending democracy. Regardless of political affiliation, there is a place for you in the pro-democracy movement. [Commit to the League's Unite and Rise initiative and find ways to take action in Washington.](#)



## Want to know how to engage your System 2 Brain?

Register now for *The Power of Critical Thinking* zoom workshop on Sept. 9. Critical thinking helps us analyze information to make sound conclusions or informed choices. It helps us wade through the deluge of information we're flooded with every day.

But critical thinking takes effort. It requires us to engage our System 2 Brain and understand how our System 1 Brain affects us.

Learn more by attending **The Power of Critical Thinking from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept.**

**9.** This interactive, online workshop – presented by skilled League facilitators, each with more

than 20 years experience teaching media and news literacy – will help you become a savvy consumer of news and information.

[Register now for The Power of Critical Thinking.](#)

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

**Register now for the Sept. 16 letter-to-the-editor workshop**

Registration is now open for a hands-on, online workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, that will provide guidance to improve your letter-writing skills.

[Register at this link.](#)

State Advocacy Director Cynthia Stewart emphasized that letters to the editor are a smart way to help respond to the increased attacks on our democratic system of government.

Stewart emphasized that the privilege of speaking – or writing – and identifying oneself as a representative of the League is limited to the state president, Local League presidents or their specified representatives.

“But that doesn’t mean every member can’t take pen to paper or boot up her computer and express her thoughts about the importance of voting rights, reproductive rights, being a nation of immigrants and ethical behavior,” she said.

**Democracy Power-Up!**

The letter-to-the-editor workshop and The Power of Critical Thinking are part of LWVWA’s “Democracy Power-Up!” series. These learning opportunities are designed to help League members across the state respond to the constitutional crisis and defend democracy.

## **LWV Calls for Redistricting Standards that Protect Voters and Communities**

With activities by legislators in Texas and the governor in California, League members across the nation are wrestling with the question of mid-cycle redistricting. Redistricting should only happen every 10 years based on the population and should always put communities of interest before partisan advantage.

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes this ‘gerrymandering arms race’. **These tactics disenfranchise voters – especially Black and brown voters.** However, the reality is it's happening now in states across the country. LWVUS has clarified our [national response](#) to clearly define what we want to see in any redistricting process.

### **Transparency:**

All states undertaking mid-cycle redistricting must adhere to transparent, nonpartisan standards that protect voters and communities.

Legislators and commissions must hold public hearings, release draft maps and provide clear explanations for any proposed map changes.

All redistricting deliberations must occur in open forums, subject to state open meeting laws. Members of the public must have access to draft maps, data and decision-making processes at every stage. Public hearings and opportunities for feedback must be guaranteed in all affected communities. States should hold hearings in the evenings and weekends to increase access.



## Communities:

Legislators implementing new maps must protect people over political interests.

States must avoid practices that dilute or divide communities that have been historically and continuously targeted by manipulative map-drawing.

- Majority-minority districts
- Native American reservations
- Young voters in colleges and universities
- Rural and agricultural communities

If you harm our communities, the League of Women Voters will fight back in court and at the ballot box.

We reiterate that Washington state is very unlikely to redistrict at this time. A federal lawsuit forced the redrawing of Washington legislative maps in 2024. And state lawmakers are unlikely to call a special session to call the Redistricting Commission back into session to redo Congressional maps.

*If you are interested in learning more about the redistricting process in Washington state and the League's efforts to improve the process, **join the Redistricting Reform Task Force**. Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2pm. Find links on the LWVWA [event calendar](#).*

## 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.](#)

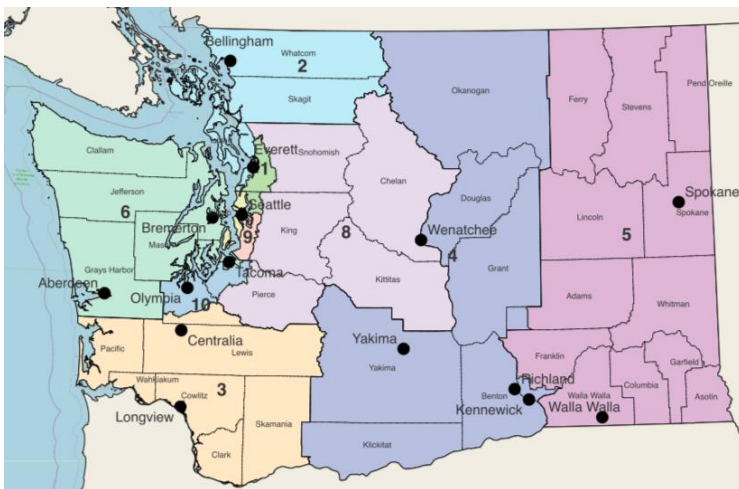
[Read our guide to getting started.](#)

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

<https://5calls.org/>

## New Dues Payment and Processing System for 2025

### Chapter Spot, the New LWV Payment System, Update



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
	September 8 Karen Crowley – WA League President
October 6	October 13
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

<b>Officers</b>			
Susan Martin	Co-President	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu">martinsf@georgetown.edu</a>
Barbara Sharp	Co-President	360-472-0148	<a href="mailto:b_gsharp@hotmail.com">b_gsharp@hotmail.com</a>
Michael Martin	Treasurer	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinml@ieee.org">martinml@ieee.org</a>
Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	<a href="mailto:sjbutlerak@gmail.com">sjbutlerak@gmail.com</a>
Steve Bowman	Voter Services	360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>
Necia Quast	Observer Corps	360-370-5502	<a href="mailto:collquas@aim.com">collquas@aim.com</a>
Robbie Lawson	Roster	360-378-5513	<a href="mailto:robbie@rockisland.com">robbie@rockisland.com</a>
Jill Belcovson	Publicity/Voter	805-689-2260	<a href="mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com">jbelcovson@gmail.com</a>
XXXX	Secretary		
<b>Members-at-Large</b>			
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Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee	360-298-2823	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.com</a>
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Chita Miller		360-378-2153	<a href="mailto:chita.miller@gmail.com">chita.miller@gmail.com</a>
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*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](mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com)**