

# VOTER

## LWVSJ Happenings

### Empowering Communities:

### A Vision for Health and Wellness

*Friday Harbor Library & via Zoom*

**Monthly Meeting – Monday, January 13th**

**12pm – 2pm – FH Library**



Mark Tompkins is currently the Director of San Juan County Health and Community Services and has been in public health for over 30 years. He moved to Friday Harbor with his family in 1998 and served as the Environmental Health Manager until being promoted to the Director position in May 2014. As Director, Mark has taken an active role in engaging the community on numerous public health issues. Activities have included participating in the COVID-19 response, leading the San Juan County Affordable Housing Workgroup, working with the Community Health Initiatives Consortium, collaborating with the Senior Services Council and participating in the Community Collaboration Committee. In addition to his work duties, Mark has been an active community

volunteer including a board member for the Opportunity Council, firefighter (retired) for San Juan Island Fire District #3, and coaching little league baseball, youth basketball, and high school football. In his leisure time, Mark enjoys being outdoors with his family hiking, camping, and kayaking.

Mark Tompkins, Director of Health and Community Services, will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the department and answer your questions on the future of health and community services, taking into account the mission to promote, protect and preserve, with dignity, the health and well-being of the people and communities of San Juan County. Their goal is to provide population-based services and assure access to preventive health services in the community. They provide extensive referral and coordination with other health and social service providers and have clinics conveniently located on Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan Islands.

Mark will share his expertise, discuss important initiatives, and offer insights into how we can build stronger, healthier communities. This talk is a must-attend for anyone passionate about healthcare, community well-being, and making a positive impact!

**Key Discussion Points:**

- The Role of Health Services in Community Development – food safety
- Innovative Approaches to Public Health and Human Services
- Strengthening Collaboration with Local Organizations
- Empowering Individuals for Better Health Outcomes – current status of covid and childhood vaccinations, replacement for Dr. James and our future arrangement with PP across the county and on our island
- How You Can Get Involved in Your Community
- 

***Together, We Can Build a Healthier Future***

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83364651803?pwd=OUhtWHJJK0FQQUduYU5aS3BUTONwUT09>

**Meeting ID: 833 6465 1803**

**Passcode: 498480**

**President's Greetings – *from* Susan Martin**

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

The League of Women Voters of the San Juans had a very productive 2024 and we are looking forward to an equally productive 2025. In the past six months, we sponsored meetings on Climate Action in our Islands and Disaster Preparedness; held a members' retreat, which included program planning for 2025; and held Candidate Forums on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands. All of the forums were live streamed and are available online.

The LWVSJ Observer Corp members continue to attend and take notes at city and county government meetings. Their observations are published by news outlets in the county and available on our website. The success of the program has been recognized by LWV of Washington, which has encouraged other Leagues to reach out to LWVSJI for advice in setting up their own Observer Corp. Local response to the published notes continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

Progress has also been made on the study entitled 'Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State', which LWVSJ recommended to the LWVWA. It focuses on what Washington can do to protect immigrants and help them integrate into our communities. LWVWA's board has approved the study report. Leagues around the state will be holding meetings in February and March to reach consensus on the study findings. We will then develop an LWVWA position on the issues identified in the report.

LWVSJ has also had an impact on the national League. LWVSJ is a member of the steering committee of the LWVUS discussion group on immigration policy. We co-sponsored a

workshop on immigration at the 2024 national convention. LWVSJ also wrote the initial drafts of two resolutions at the national convention, one on reproductive rights and the other on immigration. Both had overwhelming support at the convention.

We are looking forward to an equally productive year ahead - following up on work in progress and starting some new initiatives. Our league received a grant from the state league to help us increase efforts to reach out to the entire county as part of our civics education work. For example, we plan to engage students in civics activities across all of the islands. We will also continue our monthly meetings. This issue of the Voter highlights our January meeting on healthcare. In February, we will discuss elder care issues in the state and in March, we will discuss immigrant integration. Both of these meetings will review new league studies on these issues.

I hope to greet you in person at these meetings. In the meantime, be assured that the League of Women Voters nationally and at the state and local levels will be busy in the years ahead empowering voters and protecting our democracy.

*Susan Martin*

## Update on COP 29 and Climate Change

*Following Necia Quast's recent attendance at the COP29 meeting - the Annual Convention of Parties (COP) Meeting of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, she has organized her dispatches from the convention into a slideshow. Necia covered the meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan and her insights can be found at this link: [www.lwvwa.org/San-Juan](http://www.lwvwa.org/San-Juan). An interview that Necia gave with **SanJuans Today** is also available on our site.*

### **San Juans.Today Operating Fund**

*San Juans.Today is a local nonprofit streaming video and audio service focused on news and entertainment in San Juan County. Donations to this fund support the ongoing operational costs associated with reporting on issues and information relevant to San Juan County residents. So far in 2024, SanJuans.Today (formerly CNL2) has **televised 87 local events** and shows, **60 of them live!** More are scheduled for January. And in 2025, you can count on a level of coverage of the San Juan County Council the likes of which you've never seen! Please donate to their cause at [https://sjicf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\\_id=2980](https://sjicf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=2980)*

## New Dues Payment and Processing System for 2025

ChapterSpot: LWV is Changing its Dues Process\*

The League of Women Voters is switching to a new member portal, ChapterSpot, for all Leagues across the country. There is no action that members need to take right now, but we want to provide you with an overview of what these changes mean for you.

The new system launches in February 2025 and you will receive an email to log in to the portal. **You will not be asked to renew again until next fiscal year (June 1, 2025).** 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.

When it comes time to renew, you will receive an email reminder. Dues will no longer be a fixed rate but will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended dues amount for all members across the country will be \$75, but members can pay any amount (min. \$20), including the current dues rate. There will still be the option to renew by check for members who don't use the internet, but members who are able to access the portal and renew that way are encouraged to do so.

There will no longer be household membership. A joining or renewing member will still be able to sign up on behalf of themselves and a second member. The recommended dues rate for signing up for two people will be \$150 (the recommended rate per member x2), but a pair of members may choose to pay the current household rate, or any amount down to a minimum of \$40 (the minimum amount x2)

Under the current system, LWV of the San Juans pays a fixed rate per member to LWV of Washington State and to LWVUS. Under the new system, dues will be collected through ChapterSpot, which will distribute a percentage of each dues payment to the national (33%), state (47%) and local Leagues (20 %). (FYI: 20% is higher than we currently retain).

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 will 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.

LWV is making these changes in the hope they will make managing your membership easier. On a League level, this is expected to increase membership around the country and increase our ability to empower voters and defend democracy. We will keep you informed as we have new and relevant information.

\* Based on information provided by LWVUS

## Meeting Dates Winter-Spring 2025

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Monthly Meetings</b>
Jan 6	January 13
Feb 3	Feb 10
March 3	March 10
April 7	April 14
May 5	May 12
June 2	June 9
July 7	<i>Summer Picnic</i>
August 4 <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</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.*

## Around the League – State & National Issues

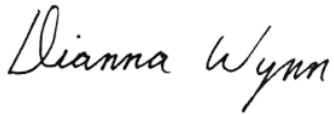
A message from Dianna Wynn:

Every day, Leagues across the country work tirelessly to empower voters and defend democracy — and this year was no exception! While there have been tough moments, as I look back and reflect on 2024, there is so much to celebrate. From unprecedented voter outreach and the launch of our moonshot campaign, [One Person One Vote](#), to the return of LWV of Nevada, together we accomplished powerful wins, both for our democracy and the League. This is just a fraction of all of our achievements this year. **Celebrate your success and learn more about the League’s 2024 impact in our recent blog at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).**

As your League gears up for the new year, **LWVUS has updated the [suggested messaging calendar](#)** to include important national dates, awareness months, and anniversaries for 2025. This calendar links to talking points, graphics, communication tools, and additional resources that Leagues can refer to when planning their content calendar for the upcoming year.

Finally, **I want to thank you.** Your dedication to the League, your communities, and one another is unwavering, and I am honored to serve our democracy with you all. Thank you for all that you do.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and fulfilling new year!  
In League



President, LWV of the US

### League in the News

Last week, LWV joined over 140 organizations to demand President Biden instruct the US Archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment. **Read our statement at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).**

A court in Kansas agreed to permanently stop enforcing a law that undermines the work of voter registration groups like the League. This decision comes after LWV Kansas filed a lawsuit in 2021 in partnership with organizations to challenge the law.

- . Read about the win: [Voting rights advocates tout major win and state’s voter suppression law knocked down](#)





## Program of Work Planning for 2025

The LWV “Program” is the educational and advocacy platform adopted biennially to advance the League’s mission of “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.” Program Planning is the grassroots process for identifying the work needed to achieve this mission. All League action, advocacy, and education are grounded in League Positions and Principles. Advocacy based on League Positions requires member understanding and agreement. Learn more about this process on our website. [Learn more about this process on our website.](#)

During the next few months, members of Local Leagues will have opportunities to participate in the consensus process for the current studies and plan the Programs of Work to be considered for adoption at the June 2025 LWVWA convention. Please make note of the dates and deadlines pertaining to these activities outlined below.

Read more at: <https://lwwa.org/Program-of-Work-and-Studies/?emci=f6082fb3-ccbb-ef11-88d0-000d3a9d5840&emdi=aa9c819f-3fbe-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&ceid=10166817>

### In 2024 the League of Women Voters of Washington:

- Trained 40 League leaders in 19 local Leagues across the state on how to reach out to young voters, new citizens, and those with previous felonies with accurate and encouraging messaging.
- Hosted seven programs on the presidential primary, ballot initiatives, new election laws, ballot signatures, misinformation and disinformation, and reaching voters with disabilities.
- Awarded five LWVWA grants to local Leagues doing outreach to Latino communities with translated voter registration material.
- Presented seven state-wide debates and forums in communities across Washington, including one in which we [partnered with Spokane Valley high school students for a forum](#) with the Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates.
- Published six versions of our civics textbooks, including [three new Spanish-language versions](#).
- Celebrated the 40th anniversary of [LWVWA civics education textbooks](#).
- Hosted our annual [student video contest](#) to foster civics engagement among students.
- Led the [successful adoption of the local news position](#) by the League of Women Voters of the U.S.
- Published two new studies: [Elder Caregiving in Washington State](#) and [Welcoming Immigrants to Washington State](#).
- Created a new education project on [Multi-Member Districts](#).
- Lobbied on 17 issues during Washington’s legislative session.
- Published a [weekly newsletter](#) breaking down Washington’s legislative session.
- Hosted an Action Workshop, Speak-Up School, and Democracy Lobby Week to educate and empower Washingtonians to lobby their legislators.

Democracy is a team effort. It thrives when we stand together, and every voice counts. Every day, the LWVWA is empowering voters, expanding access to the ballot, and inspiring civic engagement to help make that happen.

## WA's Legislative Session Starts in January—don't miss out on all of the Action!

Action Workshop is an annual event to help prepare League members for advocacy during the upcoming legislative session. Attendees will learn about the issues, relevant League positions and how to be involved.

Register Here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/94-zAauiqE6Opj57-Xtsnw2>

**SAVE THE DATE:** [Attend Speak-Up School](#) and learn how to effectively engage with legislators and use resources like the legislature's [website](#) and the League's [Legislative Action Newsletter](#).

**JAN 11:** This is a unique training opportunity aimed at empowering citizens to actively engage with the legislature and contribute to the democratic process. The 3-hour virtual session will focus on educating participants about the tools and skills needed to make their voices heard.

Speak Up School will cover essential topics to equip attendees with the knowledge and confidence to testify effectively in committee hearings, use our Legislative Newsletter and support legislation on [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov), as well as interact with legislators in small group settings. Learn how to speak up about issues you care about in this supportive and engaging session.

[Register Today](#)

### Follow Us on Facebook and on our Website!

Follow what local, state and national league are up to at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSanJuans>.  
<https://www.lwvwa.org/San-Juan>

### Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's

#### Officers

Susan Martin	President	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu">martinsf@georgetown.edu</a>
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Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	<a href="mailto:sjbutlerak@gmail.com">sjbutlerak@gmail.com</a>
Michael Martin	Treasurer & Roster	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinml@ieee.org">martinml@ieee.org</a>
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Jill Belcovson	The Voter	805-689-2260	<a href="mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com">jbelcovson@gmail.com</a>

**Members-at-Large**

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Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.com</a>
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	<a href="mailto:eberhard@rockisland.com">eberhard@rockisland.com</a>
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Necia Quast		360-370-5502	<a href="mailto:collquas@aim.com">collquas@aim.com</a>
Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus		360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>

*Nominating Committee: Leslie Veirs, Chair; Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Barbara Marrett*

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.

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan’s.

*A Note from the Treasurer:*

*A big thank you to members who have recently paid dues. We are well into our current fiscal year which started on June 1, 2024. If you have not yet made your dues payment please send it to our PO box below.*

*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.*

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Carrie Chapman Catt</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony</b>
<b>Individual</b>	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
<b>Family</b>	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
<b>Students</b>	Free		

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA–EF) 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)**