



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. Box 784, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0784

January 2011

Calendar

January 11, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Membership Meeting

The primary focus for this meeting will be the annual state program planning process. If time allows, Sarah Crosby will discuss some interesting tidbits about the wretched excess of campaign spending in the last election.

A summary of the current State Program Positions in Brief are reprinted below. You can find detailed information on each of them in [Program In Action](#) on the LWVWA web site www.lwvwa.org.

Please be sure to read and digest this material before you come to the membership meeting.

2009 – 2011 State Program: Positions in Brief

– Government –

Education Action to support in principle the Basic Education Act (1977) and the Levy Lid Act. Action to obtain a balanced tax structure and to maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing. Action to support adequate and stable state funding of common schools in Washington including the costs of in-service training. Action to increase visibility, accessibility and accountability of the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Action to support closer links between schools and social services, so that every child is ready to learn. Action to support greater involvement of parents, an increased role in decision making for teachers, and more flexible state education requirements. Action to provide greater access to

public higher education to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial. Action to expand the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years.

Port Districts Action to encourage cooperation among port districts, but with local options for voter control over major policy and expenditure decisions.

Representative Government Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to promote an informed electorate. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the election process. Action to support the initiative and referendum process, adopt improvements to the

process and require additional information for voters. Action to protect the interests of all affected parties in considering the formation of new counties. Action to clarify in legislation the processes in county formation and to require that the entire county have the ability to vote on separation. Action to support election methods that promote "representative-ness," citizen participation and accountability and that produce proportional representation. Action to support a majority vote requirement if achieved through a mechanism such as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Action to support a primary that is "open" and encourages minor party participation if a primary continues to be used.

State Tax Policy Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.

Washington State and Indian Treaty Rights Action to enhance salmon resources, establish a procedure for retrocession of jurisdiction to the tribes and support tribal land use planning of trust lands.

– Transportation –

Transportation The League supports a balanced state transportation policy that defines the role of the state and supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue and flexibility for a multi-modal system of transportation.

– Natural Resources –

Energy Action to support an energy policy within Washington State. Action to educate the public on energy conservation. Action to establish incentives for efficient use of current energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources.

Global Climate Change See LWVUS *Impact on Issues*.

Resource Management Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.

Waste Management Action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste. Action to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in Washington and action to promote safe management of that waste which is produced, including toxics in the home.

– Social Policy –

Administration of Justice Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel. Action to maintain a separate court system and facilities for youths that will balance the procedural rights of the adversary system with the protection of youth's basic rights. Action to realize

equity in sentencing standards. Action to obtain alternatives to incarceration is of prime importance.

Children's Programs

Child Support and Custody: The League of Women Voters supports vigorous, efficient and innovative child support enforcement methods and broad education regarding the responsibilities and consequences of parenthood. The best interest of the child should be the overriding consideration in determining custody, visitation and an appropriate level of child support. The physical and emotional security of the child should be paramount. Children are entitled to support adequate to meet basic needs commensurate with the parents' income, resources, and standard of living. Courts should have the discretion to order post secondary educational support in appropriate circumstances.

Children's Services: Action to support stable and adequate funding for children at risk, with priority given to prevention, early identification and intervention services, community based treatment programs, day treatment programs and residential care.

Day Care for Children: Action to provide for the general welfare of children in day care centers. Action to ensure that the state enforce minimum standards that include provision for a safe, healthy, clean environment. Action to support sufficient staff with emphasis on competence and ability to provide a creative, challenging and caring environment.

Early Care and Education of Children: Action to support the quality of early care and education, birth – 5, to maximize the child's future development. Action to support parents so all children develop to their full potential. Action to support improvements to child care programs, quality child care programs for children birth to five, increased access to preschool programs, programs for special needs children, home visiting and encouraging public-private partnerships.

Economic Diversification Action to ensure a balanced state economy with a strong mixture of large and small businesses. Measures to contribute to long-range planning and cooperation between all levels of government with local initiatives wherever possible.

Gun Control Action to provide governmental regulation of ownership and possession of firearms, and measures to limit their accessibility.

Health Care Action to provide universal access to affordable health services for all residents of the state of Washington and to control total system expenditures with seamless coverage regardless of ones health status.

Human Resources Action to achieve equal rights for all. Action to achieve equality of opportunity for

education, employment and housing regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves. Action to ensure that there are emergency

support services for those involved in physical and/or mental violence.

**February 7, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

February Membership Meeting

In lieu of a regular membership meeting, members are encouraged to attend *Lobby Day* which is on February 24th in Olympia. More information on this event will be included in the February *Voter*

LWVSJ Happenings

November 8, 2010 – Membership Meeting

LWVSJ conducted an informative panel discussion on energy alternatives at the November general meeting. Topics included speakers on alternative energies, energy efficiency and conservation, and nuclear energy. There were over thirty people attending and a DVD recording was made and is available in island libraries. The panelist representing OPALCO explained that energy audits are a complimentary service performed by OPALCO for their members. It was interesting to note that OPALCO received an increase in requests for energy audits in the month following the presentation. Although there is no way to say with certainty that this was indeed a result of our energy panel, it is probable that in so small a community that the information put out by our League program had an impact. The following is an article we submitted to the *San Juan Islander* to let the public know of other League endeavors such as this excellent and informative panel discussion.

League of Women Voters Engage in Energy Discussions

Ordinarily you might not think of mentioning the League of Women Voters (LWV) and renewable energy sources in the same sentence. In fact, the League has long made a priority of pressing for legislation which encourages the use of energy sources other than fossil fuels, and for conservation of energy as a means of reducing greenhouse gases. As far back as 1975, League members at the national level formulated an energy advocacy statement and since then have worked at every level of the organization to increase public awareness of science behind the technologies, how energy sources relate to climate change and of legislation which has sought to address climate change issues. A Washington State LWV Legislative Priority for 2011 is

Board meetings are generally on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday. Annual Membership meetings are in May of each year. If you are coming from another island, call any board member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

to encourage the state to pursue clean energy and transition away from burning coal. Included in the League's efforts is the refit or shutdown of the last coal fired electric utility plant in Washington, the aging TransAlta plant in Centralia.

Continuing the League's ongoing effort to engage the public in energy dialogue, the San Juan Island League chapter offered an energy survey panel discussion as part of their regular meeting schedule last week. Participants were Chris Greacen of Lopez Island, who spoke on renewable energies, such as wind, solar and tidal power; Don Jarrell of San Juan Island spoke on nuclear power; Randy Cornelius, General Manager of OPALCO, spoke about hydropower, and Suzanne Olson, Communication Specialist at OPALCO, spoke about energy conservation and efficiency. After the panel's presentations, the audience of nearly 30 people questioned the panel about the many directions energy technologies may take as we approach solutions for a clean environment and sufficient energy availability without reliance on foreign sources.

December 6, 2010 – Holiday Party

A good time and good meal was had by all at the LWVSJ holiday party held at the Orcas Hotel. Linnea Hirst, President of LWVWA, was the featured speaker. We felt so honored to have Linnea come all the way from Seattle to join us! Funds were raised by a lively auction of baked goods made and donated by members with Jill Johnson and Carol Baylis acting the part of accomplished auctioneers! Over \$250 was raised for our operating budget. A surprise visitor, Libby Blackwell, dropped in and joined us for lunch! It was great to see Libby again and catch up with her comings and goings. Libby was one of the organizers of the League in the islands. What fun! A huge thank-you to the organizers, Jill, Carol and Beverly Zapalac and all the cookie bakers for doing a great job of boosting the holiday spirit! We missed those of you who could not join us and we wish everyone a Happy New Year.



Lee Sturdivant, Beverly Zapalac, Amalia Driscoll, Doris Van Alen, and Gay Wilmerding enjoying the luncheon and the company.

January 5, 2011 – Board Meeting

After approval of the November 2010 minutes and treasurer's report, it was announced that our member, Sarah Crosby, has been asked to serve on the State Board of the League of Women Voters. This is a well-deserved honor for Sarah.

Our next general meeting will be Monday, January 10 at the San Juan Island Library. The programs for the next six meetings are as follows:

January	State Program Planning, followed by a report on money spent on the national election.
February	Lobby Day, February 24 th
March	San Juan County Charter Review Panel Discussion
April	Report from our representatives after the end of the current legislative session
May	Annual Meeting
Late May/ Early June	Report from May 19-22 State Convention and Civil Discourse Panel Discussion

LWV of Washington

This section and the section on LWVUS will be included in Part II of this month's *Voter*. It will follow shortly.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Goal of the League of Women Voters

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Membership is open to any citizen over the age of 18 who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies. All LWVWSJ meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans

Co-Presidents:	Ann Jarrell	378-4939	anndon66@hotmail.com
	Liz Illg	370-5743	lizillg@rockisland.com
Vice President:	Susan Dehlendorf	378-1082	dehlenda@rockisland.com
Treasurer:	Pat Curtin	370-5531	pcurtin@rockisland.com
Secretary:	Beverly Zapalac	468-9040	beverlykz@centurytel.net
Membership Chair:	Marj Stanley	378-5769	stanley@rockisland.com
Members-at-Large	Joyce Harrell	378-6146	
	Louisa Nishitani	378-8638	louisan@rockisland.com
Voter Services Chair	Jill Johnson	370-5104	jilljohnson888@hotmail.com

JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one: (Individual Membership-renewal: \$50) (Two members at same address \$75) (Student Membership \$25)

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 98250I

Voter Editor: Marty Huleatte 378-2894 marty@rockisland.com