



VOTER

January 2022

LWVSJ Happenings
Program Planning Meeting
January 10th, 2022
12pm – 2pm via Zoom

Join us for our important Program Planning meeting on Monday, January 10th, 12:00pm to 2:00pm via Zoom. Members can suggest and discuss future programs for 2022, particularly programs of local interest and/or importance.

In order for voters to make informed decisions we sponsor meetings around topics that affect our community and to fulfill the mission to educate, advocate and take action. The LWVUS Board is recommending that programs relating to the *Campaign for Making Democracy Work* would be particularly relevant at this time.

Bring your great ideas to the meeting, email them to any of us on the Board or forward them with a member who plans to attend.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://georgetown.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvc-mhqDMtEtNQSQ40bltj2BTjroHZ6dw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Members are encouraged to invite guests to join us. Please forward the e-mail addresses of any invited guests to Necia at collquas@aim.com so that we can register them and send the Zoom link.

Meeting Dates 2022

Board Meetings 1 – 3pm	Membership Meetings 12 – 2pm
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January 4 (via Zoom)	January 10 <i>(Program Planning Meeting)</i>
February 1	February 14
March 1	March 14
April 5	April 11
May 3	May 9 - Annual Meeting
June 7	June 13
July 5	<i>Summer Break</i>
Board Retreat - TBD	<i>Summer Break</i>
September 6	September 12
October 4	October 10 <i>(Forums)</i>
November 1	November 14
December 6	December 12 <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.

Recap of our December meeting with Attorney General Bob Ferguson

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson spoke at the holiday meeting of the League of Women Voters on December 13th. Speaking to the group on Zoom, he called his office “the largest law firm in the state,” adding that they represent and give advice to every state agency but emphasized that his office doesn’t make policy.

The office recently addressed the issue of election integrity when Loren Culp, a losing candidate for governor, filed a series of lawsuits against the state challenging the vote count. Attorneys have an ethical obligation not to file frivolous lawsuits, and after the AG’s office challenged Culp on those grounds, he withdrew his suits “with prejudice,” meaning he cannot file the suits again.

Also on election issues Ferguson said, “Together with other states, we filed a suit against the postmaster general, for failing to deliver our November 2020 ballots in a timely manner, and we won.” It was “a huge case for election integrity.”

A current priority in the office is “litigation against large corporations that we believe fueled the opioid crisis...Other states signed on to a settlement granting a lifetime legal shield to the Sackler-Purdue family, which we believe the judge didn’t have the authority to do.” Washington is still pursuing the case in court. Ferguson was happy to answer questions from the membership:

Susan Martin thanked him "for the leadership you took against the previous administration's immigration policies." and he responded, "Yes, there is no Muslim ban, and the Dreamers are still here.... Many of our suits are still ongoing; there are still dozens of cases... Just recently we won a case against the GEO Corporation which was paying immigrants in custody one dollar a day for janitorial work while they were being held." The corporation was ordered to pay millions in back pay.

In relation to school violence, Pati Otley asked what legislation relating to firearms he might submit to the legislature. He said, "This year we're proposing bans on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines... I am confident if these came to a vote they would pass."

In answer to a question regarding indigenous women, the Attorney General informed us that they are leading a state task force (Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/P) Task Force) to cover these issues.

He added that his office cannot pass legislation on its own, but that they can make suggestions to the legislature. He encouraged the meeting attendees to seek more information on the Attorney General's website.

Superintendent of schools Fred Woods asked what to expect regarding the various Covid-related mandates including masks, which have been challenged in court. Ferguson responded, "Our work is to defend any state law. Since the pandemic began the governor has issued many, many orders, and we have won every case (defending them)."

Michael Martin asked about consumer protection against ransomware and whether the AG has enough resources and legal horsepower for those kinds of cases. He responded, "Yes. A few years ago we had only nine attorneys in consumer protection, but we have increased our resources significantly and we now have over 30 attorneys. My goal is to have the largest consumer protection division in the country, some funded by the legislature and some funded internally."

The meeting was very well attended and was an enlightening and informative end to 2021.

By Louise Dustrude and Necia Quast

Think Local and Be Vocal: Register & Vote in every Election

February 8, 2022 Special Election

Registered voters on San Juan Island will receive ballots for this election. San Juan Island voters will vote on two levies:

- San Juan Island School District is renewing a four-year levy for educational programs and operational expenses not funded by the State.
- San Juan County Hospital District is renewing a six-year emergency medical services property tax levy. More information can be found at:
<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1292/Current-Election>

***YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR
COMMUNITY***

Support our EMS & School District!!

Around the League – State & National Issues

With midterms quickly approaching and anti-voter legislation cropping up throughout the country, there couldn't be a more important time to get involved in making the ballot fair and accessible to all Americans.

To kick-start the new year, **January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, join the King family and fellow advocates as we **Deliver For Voting Rights**. As stated by Martin Luther King III, "President Biden and Congress used their political muscle to deliver a vital infrastructure deal, and now we are calling on them to do the same to restore the very voting rights protections my father and countless other civil rights leaders bled to secure."



**Please Join the League of Women Voters of Washington and Fix Democracy First
January 24-27, 2022**

This year we are going online, offering a powerful experience to advocate for democracy and climate issues.

The program should help you identify some of the important issues coming up in this legislative session and prepare you to lobby with your legislators for the bills you want to see passed. We're requesting a \$5.00 donation; you are welcome to make another donation to either Fix Democracy First or the League of Women Voters. These donations are not tax deductible.

Over the course of the week, we will be meeting with legislators to advocate for bills that will protect our democracy. You will also:

- Hear from legislators and guest speakers
- Learn about critical democracy and climate issues and bills including campaign financing, the Voting Rights Act, Land Use and Housing
- Expected legislation in the 2022 session: discussion with legislators from both parties.
- Meet remotely with your state legislators
- Network with others from your area

Click here to register: <https://www.lwwa.org/event-4596311>

Defending Democracy in 2022

Our national legislature continues to be stalled on action supporting voting rights. As a result, many state legislatures feel emboldened to curtail voting rights. As we throw our time and energy into our critical activities and campaigns, we must never forget that the backbone of our democracy is the right to vote. If all voices have access and all voices are heard, we

can change the things that need to be changed through the will of the people. We all deserve elected officials who understand and respect this point. So, as you commit to changing our world for the better, we must all continue to keep our eye on the prize: fair and equitable access to the ballot box for all voters in our country. This is the ultimate way we defend democracy and empower voters, and **that is who we are.**

As the new year begins our delayed redistricting cycle continues across the nation. As district maps are being drawn, evaluated, approved, and litigated leading into our mid-term primary election season, it is important that voices from all communities get involved. We have created a 60-second video explaining the redistricting process and how to get involved for Leagues to use and share. ‘What is Redistricting?’ can be found on the **League’s YouTube Channel**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoBMr3b0Mew>

Additionally, a social media toolkit has been created with sample social media posts to share with the video.

Celebrating a Year of Advocacy

From the ongoing pandemic to a new Presidential administration, 2021 was a year to remember. Throughout it all, Leagues took action to promote fair maps, engage new voters, and push back against unprecedented waves of anti-voter legislation.

LWV's CEO Virginia Kase Solomón takes a moment to review some of our most empowering moments from the past year in her latest blog.

https://www.lwv.org/blog/lwvs-achievements-2021?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=December2021Highlights

Future Voter Program Improves Likelihood Eligible Young Voters Will Register and Vote

Psychology experts who help people establish good habits say it’s best to start early, which explains the support for the Future Voter (<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx>) program. “Kids who get interested in civics at an early age tend to become active, lifelong voters,” Secretary of State Kim Wyman said of the program that went into effect July 1, 2019. For 16- and 17-year-olds in Washington who register for the Future Voter program, signing up means they are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18. And with support from the Office of Superintendent of Instruction, teachers help students prepare for the new responsibility. In mid-January, on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, teachers offer a collection of special lessons and programs, some of which can be found in the Classroom Guide to Voter Registration.

https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/elections/civics/tgcd_toolkit2020.pdf The program looks like it has boosted participation among younger voters. According to the Secretary of State’s “2020 Report on Elections in Washington State,” nearly 73% of registered 18- to 24-year-olds voted in the 2020 election. That’s up nearly 14% from 2016, when only 59% of registered 18- to 24-year-olds voted.



Please join us in welcoming a new member to the League – Stephanie Butler. Stephanie gives us a glimpse into her background and reasons for becoming a member of the League.

“I became an American citizen in 1999 and voting in my first election was just the most wonderful privilege. I am the only American citizen in my family (I was born in the United Kingdom), and my extended family in England are fascinated to hear how the American process works, and about the challenges many voters and potential voters may face. Access to well-researched, non-partisan information is essential to responsibly exercising my right to vote. I am grateful for the resources from the League of Women Voters and to support the League’s value of “the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.” I retired in 2021 from my position as Executive Director of the State of Alaska’s higher education commission, and I’m enjoying my new home here on San Juan Island.”

Stephanie Butler

We’re on YouTube and Facebook!

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

Missed a meeting? Wish you had been able to be there? Our educational programs and candidate forums are recorded and put on YouTube for your convenience. You can access the video links in three ways. First and best, is to be a member of the LWVSJ and simply click on the link in this section of the monthly *Voter*. Second, go to [YouTube](#) and search for LWV FH (we had to use FH rather than SJ because the YouTube search engine would take LWVSJ to a New Jersey League!). Third, go to <http://www.mindspring.com/~sjmedia/default.html>

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan’s

Officers

Necia Quast	President	360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
Barbara Sharp	Co-Vice-President	360-472-0148	b_gsharp@hotmail.com
Susan Martin	Co-Vice-President	360-370-5205	martinsf@georgetown.edu
Steve Bowman	Voter Services	360-370-5814	steve.bowman52@gmail.com
Michael Martin	Treasurer	360-370-5205	martinml@ieee.org
Jill Belcovson	Secretary	805-689-2260	jillbelcovson@earthlink.net
Clare Kelm	Roster	360-378-3373	twopilots@interisland.net

Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	audraeaba@gmail.com
Mary Campanella		800-364-1984	marycampanella@icloud.com
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	chita.miller@gmail.com
Beverly Zapalac		360-375-5302	zapalacbeverly@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Robbie Lawson, Susan Martin

Hello Members:

A big thank you to members who have recently paid dues. We are well into our current fiscal year which started on June 1, 2021. This week you will receive an updated roster via email. Look at the column (labeled "Paid thru") near the far right hand side to see if you are paid through 5/31/2022. If not, please consider sending your check in to our PO box. Also please 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.

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. Below are the different levels of dues payments and the PO Box number. If you choose to give at a higher level than the "Regular" level, the extra money stays with our local League to support our important work here. Thanks for supporting LWV at all levels!

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

Name(s) _____ **Address** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one:

	Regular	Carrie Chapman Catt	Susan B. Anthony
Individual	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
Family	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
Student	\$35		

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 – jillbelcovson@earthlink.net
Contributing Editor - Susan Martin