



VOTER

March 2022

LWVSJ Happenings

March Membership Meeting - Defending Democracy

March 14th, 2022

12pm – 2pm via Zoom

Please join us for a discussion on ***Defending Democracy*** on Monday, March 14, 2022 at noon. The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels. The meeting will focus on two issues that significantly affect voting rights and representation:

- The first is redistricting, the process of creating representational district maps for states and local communities. By determining which neighborhoods are included in each mapped boundary, redistricting impacts how our communities are represented in the US and local government and determines how resources are distributed.
- The second issue is money in politics. In a democracy, politicians are expected to represent each person equally, regardless of their financial status. The principle of “one-person, one-vote” means that no matter who we are, our rights to health care, education, housing, and other basic needs are equally important. Money in politics complicates this system. When politicians receive large financial contributions from organizations, corporations, campaigns, or individuals, they are inclined to be more responsive to their needs. This puts the voices of everyday Americans at a disadvantage.

We will be joined by two experts on these issues from the League of Women Voters WA:

Alison McCaffree heads up the LWVWA’s redistricting efforts for the 2021 redistricting cycle. She has a wide range of leadership, management, and community organizing experience. Alison currently leads Politics of the Possible in Action—a nonprofit that focuses on increasing community engagement and enhancing the public’s knowledge of civics.

Cindy Madigan heads up the LWVWA’s work on Money in Politics. She is currently Fiscal Director for Northwest Regional Council, a local government health and social services agency. She volunteered for the past four years supporting the LWVWA Democracy Advocacy team by researching legislation related to elections and money in politics and helping with the action workshops and lobby day/week.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://georgetown.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdOqhrzgiGNGkzDne29TXCxARw-jNEDiW>

Members are encouraged to invite guests.

Meeting Dates 2022

Board Meetings 1 – 3pm	Membership Meetings 12 – 2pm
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 February meeting – The Old Military Rd Trail

At our February membership meeting Monday, February 14 we were joined by Jim McNairy from the Old Military Road Trail Project, who explained the history of the roads between English Camp and American Camp. He described the project to create a trail that links the two camps, mainly using the routes of the old military roads between the two camps.

The Old Military Road Trail Committee seeks to create a modern, multi-use trail wherever possible from English to American Camp to serve as a backbone trail down San Juan Island. The project is under the auspices of Island Rec and has the support of various public and private organizations that are responsible for a good bit of the land where the proposed trail will run including SJ county, National Park Service, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust and Roche Harbor Resort.

The goals of the project are: To create a safe recreational corridor across San Juan Island for people of all ages—walkers, as well as bicyclists and equestrians on appropriate sections, to enhance health and relieve road congestion.

To celebrate the extraordinary history and beauty of San Juan Island while promoting a sustainable balance between natural resource use and protection.

To connect neighborhoods and popular destinations and link our two National Historical Parks.

A video on the history of the road, a map of the proposed routes and a copy of the Concept Proposal, and regular updates are available at their website:

<https://www.oldmilitaryroadtrail.org/>



CIVICS THROUGH THE WINDOW

CHECK OUT OUR LIBRARY WINDOW DISPLAY

In November the board voted unanimously to purchase a number of copies of the highly acclaimed civics textbook – **The State We're In: Washington—Your Guide to State, Tribal and Local Government.**

This is a friendly, easy-to-read primer that covers the basics of how we govern ourselves, what is government, why we need it and why students should care. The publication helps to prepare students to be engaged citizens and encourages them to participate and be involved in the process.

We are thrilled to be able to share some of the book content and other details pertaining to Civics Education in our display at the Friday Harbor library – through the end of March.

Around the League – State & National Issues

An Endorsement of the League National Board regarding the Supreme Court Nomination

The Board of the LWV of the San Juans heartily endorses the statement issued on February 25 by the President of the national board of LWV and its CEO on President Biden's nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court. If confirmed, Jackson would be the first Black woman to hold a seat on the Court.

“The League of Women Voters applauds President Biden for delivering on his commitment to name a Black woman to the highest court in the land.

“The role of a sitting president is to appoint exceptional individuals who understand the power and influence of a US Supreme Court seat and will show an unshakeable commitment to justice. As a nonpartisan organization working to empower voters and defend democracy, the League of Women Voters expects the next Supreme Court Justice to defend the principles of our democracy and uphold our constitutional freedom to vote.

“This historic nomination brings the Supreme Court one step closer to truly reflecting the diversity of our nation. With voting rights and civil liberties under attack, the Supreme Court must uphold the foundation of justice for all in America.

“With this nomination, we call on our leaders in the US Senate to ensure a fair and bipartisan confirmation process. We demand that the focus of this confirmation be on the content of the nominee’s record, her ability to be impartial, and an assessment of her commitment to justice and equity.

“The nomination of the first Black woman to the nation’s highest court reinforces the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.”

An Update on Redistricting

Breaking news is that the Redistricting commission has voted to approve a settlement in the lawsuits claiming violation to the Open Public Meetings Act. The maps will not be changed. (San Juan County is still in district 40).

You can find the Commission's maps with overlays of last decade's districts here:

Legislative: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/3ee18c1d-a9ea-4c4b-8ee0-de5c241ddc90>

Congressional: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/73a73133-3f50-4bac-ad88-cfc12a8bd3ca>



Washington’s Open Public Meetings Act requires “All meetings of the governing body of a public agency shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the governing of a public agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.” RCW 42.30.030

The Washington Coalition for Open Government is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 2002. We are an independent, broad-based advocate for public records, open meetings and informed citizens.

[Find details in the Coalition for Open Governments' press release.](#)

Lunell Haught is on the Board of Directors of WashCOG. Both she and Alison McCaffree (one of our March meeting speakers) are working on the process/legislation to address the partisan issues with others who share their concerns.

March is Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and there are many ways to celebrate. The following link will show just a few of the events or resources to learn more about women's history.

<https://lwvwa.org/page-18629/12635702>



On March 3, the League CEO, Virginia Kase Solomon was joined by activists from SuperMajority, LULAC, and Black Voters Matter to discuss how to build more trust in our elections, grow our electorate with equity, and create fair voter access. As part of the Women's History Month panel discussions centered around getting out the vote, the intersections of gender and race, and how we can build a more inclusive, empowering democracy.

https://www.lwv.org/fighting-voter-suppression/womens-history-month-2022-panel?utm_source=NationalChapter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WPDPanelTY

Follow Us on Facebook!

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

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

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Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Robbie Lawson, Susan Martin

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

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