Have you moved?

Your ballot will be returned by the Post Office if your address is out of date. Don’t assume that your ballot will be forwarded.

Updating your address is easy:

- Login to VoteWA.gov
- Email elections@sanjuanco.com
- Call (360) 378-3357
- Stop by the elections office
  55 Second St., Ste. A
  Friday Harbor, WA

Reading your voters’ pamphlet

Why is a measure in the local voters’ pamphlet not on my ballot?

The districts in which you are registered to vote determine the measures on your ballot. The local voters’ pamphlet includes all districts within San Juan County and may include measures outside of your voting districts.

Are candidate statements fact checked before being published?

No. Candidate statements are printed exactly as they are received. They are not checked for factual or grammatical accuracy.

How are committees in favor of or in opposition to a measure formed?

Districts that choose to participate in the local voters’ pamphlet are responsible for appointing committee members who agree to write the statements. The statements are a way to persuade voters to vote for or against a measure. The Auditor’s Office does not check statements for factual or grammatical accuracy.

What is an explanatory statement?

An explanatory statement is prepared by the district’s attorney; it outlines the effect the ballot measure would have if it is passed by the voters.
Writing letters to voters has been one of my great joys and privileges as San Juan County Auditor. This is my 16th and final General Election letter, as I am retiring at the end of 2022 after four terms in office. As much as I look forward to more travel, gardening, and time with grandchildren, I will miss this position and the remarkable people it has allowed me to meet.

These have been a tumultuous 16 years in US elections. From the giddiness of audacious hope to the gaudiness of MAGA, American politics have swung between polar extremes. Economically, we have lived through the Great Recession, the longest economic boon in US history, the world’s most deadly pandemic, and now a confounding period of rapid growth coupled with crippling shortages and delays. The world continues to surprise us.

Through it all, elections have stood as a beacon of constancy and trust. A system envisioned by a group of revolutionaries over 200 years ago has indeed stood the test of time. It has flexed with the times, responding to concerns about access, accuracy, and security with technology, tests, and audits, all designed to ensure voters that their confidence in the results of elections is well placed.

Elections in Washington State have never been more accessible. San Juan County adopted all Vote by Mail in 2005; in 2011, Vote by Mail became mandatory across the state. Also in the last 16 years, the number of ballot boxes has increased, prepaid postage has become required, options for electronic access have expanded, and registration has become possible right up until 8 pm on election night.

Similarly, elections have never been more secure. At multiple points in the process, systems are reviewed, tested, and audited. As cyber threats to security increase, the tools available to us to ensure security have kept pace. Federal and state grant programs have helped counties to purchase cyber tools and requisite training. Elections workers have had to become experts not only in elections law, but also in cybersecurity.

The base mission remains the same, however: to facilitate the orderly election of officials at federal, state, and local levels, and to allow voters to weigh in on tax and other measures put forth by local jurisdictions. In this year’s general election, San Juan County voters will help elect a US Senator, a US Representative, the Washington Secretary of State, and two State Representatives. Locally, Lopez voters will vote to renew the tax levy for the Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District and San Juan voters will vote on a library bond. Countywide, we will elect a Council member from District 3 (Lopez/Shaw) and a Sheriff, vote on an increased road levy, and vote to adopt or reject four Charter amendments submitted by last year’s Charter Review Commission.

As I look forward to retirement, I reflect with fondness and pride on my association with San Juan County Elections. I am proud to be an American, proud to live in San Juan County, and proud of my small part in maintaining democracy. Make me proud, once again. Get out there and vote. I’m counting on you.

F. Milene Henley, San Juan County Auditor
**Voting Instructions**

**How to vote**

Use a dark blue or black ink pen to completely fill in the box to the left of your choice.

Do not use pencil.

Vote for one in each race/measure. If you vote for more than one, no votes will be counted for that race/measure.

**If you make a mistake**

Draw a line through the entire race/measure response. Then you may make another choice.

Do not use white-out.

**Optional write-in**

To vote for a candidate not listed, print the name on the blank line provided above 'Write-in' and fill in the box.

- Tear off the stub at the top of the ballot and throw the stub away.
- Mark all contests you wish to vote. **You don't have to vote every issue.**
- Put your finished ballot into the security sleeve.
- Put your security sleeve and ballot into the return envelope.
- Read, sign, and date the Voter's Declaration on the envelope. **We cannot count your ballot unless you sign the declaration.**
- Seal the return envelope.
- Return your voted ballot.

*No postage is required if returned by mail or ballot drop box.*

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**Return Your Ballot**

**Ballot drop box**

Return your ballot to a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8:

- **San Juan County Elections Office**
  55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
  M–F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  Election Day 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- **San Juan County Courthouse**
  Second St. Entrance, 350 Court St., Friday Harbor

- **Lopez Island Fire District Office**
  2228 Fisherman Bay Rd., Lopez Island

- **Orcas Island Senior Center**
  62 Henry Rd., Eastsound

**By mail**

*No stamp is needed!* Place your ballot in the mail before the deadline. **Your ballot must be postmarked on or before November 8, in order to count.**

**In person**

The Elections office is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M–F, and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8:

- **San Juan County Elections**
  55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
  (across from the Courthouse)

**Accessible Voting**

San Juan County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an accessible voting unit.

The accessible voting equipment will be available at the elections office Monday through Friday, beginning Friday, October 21, and through Election Day, November 8.

**Replacement Ballots**

To replace a lost or damaged ballot:

1. Contact SJC Elections as soon as possible at:
   - **San Juan County Elections**
   - **Phone:** (360) 378-3357
   - **Email:** elections@sanjuanco.com

   OR

2. Download a replacement ballot:
   - Go to VoteWa.gov
   - Sign in with your name and date of birth
   - Click on **MyBallot** then **Online Ballot** in the left-hand column
   - Follow the instructions for voting and returning your ballot
This ballot checklist shows all San Juan County candidates and measures approved for inclusion on the ballot for the November 8, 2022, General Election. Not all races and measures listed here will be on your ballot.

### Advisory Votes

**Advisory Vote No. 39**
Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5974

The legislature increased, without a vote of the people, the tax on aircraft fuel from 11 cents to 18 cents per gallon, costing $14 million in its first ten years, for government spending.

This tax increase should be:
- [ ] Repealed
- [x] Maintained

**Advisory Vote No. 40**
Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2076

The legislature imposed, without a vote of the people, premiums on “transportation network companies” to provide workers compensation to their drivers, costing an indeterminate amount in its first ten years, for government spending.

This tax increase should be:
- [ ] Repealed
- [x] Maintained

### Charter Review Commission

**Charter Amendment Proposition No. 1**
The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 1 concerning a new position of Public Advocate. If adopted, the measure would establish a new position entitled “Public Advocate” to provide an additional resource to receive, accept and respond to public questions; assist the public with county systems; and listen to public concerns and complaints; but the Public Advocate could not give legal advice and would refer whistleblower complaints to the appropriate county department or official.

Should this measure be:
- [ ] Approved
- [x] Rejected

**Charter Amendment Proposition No. 2**
The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 2 concerning the Charter Review Commission. If adopted, the County Charter would be amended to require a budget and staffing resources for the Commission each time it is formed; would provide that proposals for the ballot are submitted to the Auditor instead of the County Council; provide for early dissolution by vote of the Commission and notice; and require the Prosecuting Attorney to provide the Commission with information about the Commission’s duties and other topics.

Should this measure be:
- [x] Approved
- [ ] Rejected

**Charter Amendment Proposition No. 3**
The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 3 concerning ranked-choice voting for certain County officers. If adopted, and if the Washington Legislature passes a law that permits ranked-choice voting, this measure would require the use of ranked-choice voting for the offices of Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk, Auditor, Assessor, Prosecuting Attorney, and members of the County Council; and certain existing County election procedures would be eliminated if ranked-choice voting is used in San Juan County.

Should this measure be:
- [x] Approved
- [ ] Rejected
**Charter Review Commission Continued**

**Charter Amendment Proposition No. 4**

The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 4 concerning initiatives and referendums. If adopted, this measure would amend Title 6 of the County Charter to reduce the number of qualified signatures required for San Juan County initiatives and referendum petitions from 15 percent to 8 percent of the votes cast in the county in the last election for Governor.

Should this measure be:

- [x] Approved
- [ ] Rejected

**San Juan County**

**Proposition No. 1 - Road Fund Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift**

The San Juan County Council adopted Resolution No. 20-2022 concerning a road levy lid lift. This proposition would authorize the road levy rate at $1.00 per $1,000 assessed value, which is estimated to be 44 cents per $1,000 assessed value above the rate for 2023; and thereafter the approved levy dollar amount will be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies subject to RCW 84.55; and the increased revenue will be used to maintain roads and marine facilities, repair storm damage, and enhance roads for pedestrians and cyclists.

Shall this proposition be approved?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

**United States**

**U.S. Senator - 6 Year Term**

- [x] Patty Murray  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)
- [ ] Tiffany Smiley  
  (Prefers Republican Party)

**Congressional District 2**

**U.S. Representative - 2 Year Term**

- [x] Rick Larsen  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)
- [ ] Dan Matthews  
  (Prefers Republican Party)

**Washington State**

**Secretary of State - 2 Year Unexpired Term**

- [x] Steve Hobbs  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)
- [ ] Julie Anderson  
  (Prefers Nonpartisan Party)

**Legislative District 40**

**State Representative Position 1 - 2 Year Term**

- [x] Debra Lekanoff  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)
- [ ] Shannon Perkes  
  (Prefers Republican Party)

**State Representative Position 2 - 2 Year Term**

- [x] Alex Ramel  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)
- [ ] Trevor Smith  
  (Prefers Democratic Party)

**San Juan County Nonpartisan Offices**

**Assessor - 4 Year Term**

- [x] John Kulseth

**Auditor - 4 Year Term**

- [x] Natasha Warmenhoven

**Clerk - 4 Year Term**

- [x] Lisa Henderson

**County Council - District 3 - 4 Year Term**

- [x] Jane Fuller

**Sheriff - 4 Year Term**

- [x] Ron Krebs
- [ ] Eric Peter

**Treasurer - 4 Year Term**

- [x] Rhonda Pederson
San Juan Island Library District

Proposition No. 1 - Bonds to Build a New Library

The Board of Trustees of San Juan Island Library District adopted Resolution #3-2022 to finance a new library facility and refund a District bond issued to acquire the real property at 660 Spring Street for the new building. Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to incur indebtedness, and issue not more than $12,000,000 of general obligation bonds, to mature within 21 years from their date of issuance, to pay the capital costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping a new library facility in Friday Harbor and to refund the outstanding bond issued to acquire the real property, and to levy annual excess property taxes to repay such bonds.

Should this proposition be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District

Proposition No. 1 - Excess Property Tax Levy for 2023

The Governing Board of the Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District adopted Resolution No. 19-2022 concerning an excess levy for the District. This proposition would authorize the District to collect $105,000 by a levy of excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District in an amount estimated to be $.081201 cents per $1,000 assessed valuation for one tax year -- 2023 -- for the purpose of funding operations and capital improvements of the District.

Shall the proposition be approved?

☐ Yes
☐ No
Charter Amendment Proposition No. 1

The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 1 concerning a new position of Public Advocate. If adopted, the measure would establish a new position entitled “Public Advocate” to provide an additional resource to receive, accept and respond to public questions; assist the public with county systems; and listen to public concerns and complaints; but the Public Advocate could not give legal advice and would refer whistleblower complaints to the appropriate county department or official.

Should this measure be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement
Written by Callie A. Castillo, Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for San Juan County

This proposed amendment to the San Juan County Charter has been submitted by the Charter Review Commission.

The San Juan County Charter describes the duties and responsibilities of different departments, offices, agencies, and positions within the San Juan County government. This proposition would amend the Charter to add a new position of Public Advocate. The position may be volunteer or paid. The Public Advocate would be responsible for answering questions from the public on how to navigate county systems, such as land use, licensing, public safety, records requests, and many other county services. The Public Advocate would also be charged with providing opportunities for the public to raise concerns and voice complaints.

The Public Advocate could not give legal advice to the public. If the Public Advocate receives a whistleblower complaint, the Public Advocate must refer the complaint to the appropriate county department or official for further action.

Funding for the position of Public Advocate will be determined after the County Council determines whether the position should be in a volunteer capacity or as paid staff.

This proposition will become part of the County Charter if it is approved by a majority of those voting. A fiscal note was not prepared for this proposition.

Arguments For and Against this Measure are on next page

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
Argument For Proposition No. 1

Have you tried going on the San Juan County website lately? Have you tried to find something or someone to help you? It is a pretty daunting experience. Here is a solution:

We need a Public Advocate for the purpose of accepting and responding to public inquiries. The Public Advocate is a community outreach position, accountable for organizing and implementing responses to citizen questions on HOW to navigate the county systems, and to give access and opportunity for citizens (including employees) who raise concerns and voice complaints. It could be a new position, or it could be a trained volunteer position.

The Public Advocate will receive, respond and make recommendations to the Council and/or appropriate county departments on ideas or complaints concerning the operations of county government.

A citizen could dial a phone number and actually speak to someone who could help them. It’s an idea whose time has come. Please vote YES for a Public Advocate.

Written by

New Position of Public Advocate
Robert O’Connell, raoconnell445@gmail.com
Janet Brownell, maxdigger1@me.com
Sharon Abreu, sharmuse@gmail.com

Argument Against Proposition No. 1

This proposition is not what it pretends to be. It does not accomplish what its proponents promise and will increase County costs for wasteful and ill-defined bureaucratic purposes. This proposition proposes a new government position with the title of Public Advocate.

This new position is intended to help guide citizens through the county’s systems and services. However, this function is already performed both online and in person. The County has a well-organized website and all county officials and departments are easy to contact. Rather than spend money on a new bureaucratic position, we could invest in further improvements to the existing systems.

While this new position could conceivably investigate, report on, and help settle complaints brought by citizens against the County, no such responsibility or authority is granted by this proposition. This ombudsman’s role puts another layer between our elected officials and the public. Such a position must be carefully defined to ensure effectiveness, independence, and transparency. Our County Council is already directly responsible and accountable for managing county affairs.

This proposition is well-intentioned but poorly written. This proposition does not specify if the so-called public advocate is elected or appointed, salaried or unpaid. The duties are unspecified and the costs of implementation are not identified. This proposition may lead to waste and redundancy while failing to achieve either citizen assistance or checks and balances on county government.

Vote NO on Proposition 1.

Written by

Bill Bangs, Orcas Island
Gordy Petersen, San Juan Island
Concerning Establishing a New Position of Public Advocate for the Purpose of Helping Citizens Navigate the San Juan County Systems

The San Juan County Charter Sections 10.50 shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 10.50 – Information Management and Public Advocacy

(1) The County Manager shall establish procedures for maintaining a modern, efficient system for processing, maintaining and disposing of information and records; shall maintain a means to store and maintain, in retrievable manner, all County records which should not be destroyed and which are not necessary for the current operation of County government; and shall provide needed services for all branches of County government in a way that shall be deemed desirable for the efficient operation of the County government. These procedures shall be in compliance with general law and shall affect all departments of the County, elective or appointed.

(2) The Public Advocate shall establish procedures for the purpose of receiving, accepting and responding to public inquiries. The Public Advocate is a community outreach position accountable for organizing and implementing responses to citizens’ questions on how to navigate the county systems, and to give access and opportunity for citizens (including employees) who raise concerns and voice complaints. The Public Advocate will not give legal advice. Should a whistleblower complaint be made to the Public Advocate, subject to applicable law, the Public Advocate will immediately refer the whistleblower complaint to the appropriate department and official.
San Juan County Charter Review Commission

Charter Amendment Proposition No. 2

The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 2 concerning the Charter Review Commission. If adopted, the County Charter would be amended to require a budget and staffing resources for the Commission each time it is formed; would provide that proposals for the ballot are submitted to the Auditor instead of the County Council; provide for early dissolution by vote of the Commission and notice; and require the Prosecuting Attorney to provide the Commission with information about the Commission’s duties and other topics.

Should this measure be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement
Written by Callie A. Castillo, Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for San Juan County

This proposed amendment to the San Juan County Charter has been submitted by the Charter Review Commission (CRC) to change procedures and processes related to the CRC. The CRC is established once every ten years to review the County Charter, propose amendments, or make other recommendations. The CRC’s term of office ends at one year or when final recommendations are submitted to the County Council for referral to the voters. The County Council must provide the CRC with reasonable funds, facilities, and services during the CRC’s scheduled term of office.

This proposition would specify that the CRC’s term of office would last from January 1 of the year following its election until December 31 of that same year. The CRC’s term would end early only if two-thirds of the members vote to notify the County Council that the CRC has completed its work. The CRC would also file any proposed Charter amendments with the County Auditor.

The proposition would also require the County Council to budget for expenditures by the CRC during the CRC’s term of office. The budgeted funds must be equivalent to the amounts spent by the CRC in the last term plus an amount for inflation. The CRC may request additional funding from the Council, which may grant the request at its discretion.

The County Manager would be tasked with providing meeting space, technical support, and staffing for CRC meetings. The Prosecuting Attorney would be tasked with informing the CRC about its legal authority and what steps the Prosecuting Attorney would take if there was a conflict of interest amongst any of the County bodies.

This proposition will become part of the County Charter if it is approved by a majority of those voting. A fiscal note was not prepared for this proposition.
Argument For Proposition No. 2

Currently, the Charter does not delineate the County Council’s responsibility in providing the Charter Review Commission (CRC) with tools to function effectively. The 2021 CRC encountered problems and obstacles in trying to get up and running. For example, there wasn’t an adequate budget for support staff for the CRC meetings, critical to record keeping and publishing of meeting announcements. It also wasn’t clear that the county IT department had a responsibility to support the CRC. The changes proposed are designed to help future CRCs by clarifying what future County Councils need to do to provide for the effective functioning of the CRC.

Those changes include: sufficient and timely provision of a modest budget to allow the CRC to function; full IT and other county staff support; physical meeting space.

The Amendment also recognizes the recent Superior Court decision and establishes the CRC’s term of office as a full calendar year, unless the CRC declares they have submitted their final amendments and their work is completed.

This amendment clarifies that proposed amendments to the Charter are transmitted directly by the elected CRC to the County Auditor for inclusion on the next November ballot, with a copy to the County Council, consistent with the Court decision.

The Charter is vitally important because it’s essentially the County’s constitution and the CRC is elected to propose necessary changes. The proposed clarifications will make life simpler for both future CRC members and County Councils and will better serve the public.

Vote Yes on Proposition 2.

Written by
Clarifying Language on the CRC
Anne Marie Shanks, ames1021@gmail.com
Kevin Ranker, kevinr@kevinranker.com
Richard Grout, grout@rockisland.com

Argument Against Proposition No. 2

This proposition is a mess. The proponents would have you believe that the proposed changes to our Charter would fix the confusion and controversy that appeared to beset the most recent Charter Review Commission. Unfortunately, the proposed amendments only add to the potential for confusion and conflict. For example, this proposition does not clarify if multiple submissions for the ballot are allowed during the term of the Commission. Instead, this proposal would allow the Commission to declare the early termination of its tenure without reference to completion of its duties. And there is no discussion or disclosure of fiscal impact.

The existing charter already requires that the County provide the CRC with reasonable funds, facilities, and services during its term. This proposition deletes this simple, clear language and adds a multiplicity of bureaucratic procedures that could impact other county agencies, some of which duplicate duties already specified for the County Manager and the Prosecuting Attorney. A better approach would have been to clarify the responsibilities of the CRC in order to work with other County agencies in a timely and mutually supportive manner. Goals should include: (1) proposed amendments are consistent with the law and the rest of the charter, (2) ballot measures meet the requirements as to form, (3) and both the Prosecuting Attorney and the Council have adequate time to review and act on the CRC’s recommendations before an election.

This proposition does not fix the underlying problems in the operation of a Charter Review Commission.

Written by
Bill Bangs, Orcas Island

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
Complete Text

Charter Review Commission Proposition #2

Concerning Amending language in the County Charter to provide clarification regarding budget provisions for the Charter Review Commission (CRC), staff support requirements, and further resolution regarding the term length, procedures and duties of the CRC, and the role of the Prosecuting Attorney

DELETE Section 9.22 – Expenditures
DELETE Section 9.32 – Amendments by the Charter Review Commission
RETITLE Section 9.20 – Election Procedures

ADD Section 9.22 – CRC Budget, Provisions, and Process

(1) The County Council shall provide to the CRC reasonable funds, staff, facilities, and services appropriate to an elected County agency.

(a) Provisions shall be made in the budget for expenditures of the CRC during its scheduled term of office. Funds shall be provided to the CRC that are commensurate with the expenditures of the preceding CRC, plus an allowance for inflation. Should the funds provided prove to be inadequate to the task, the Commission may ask the County Council for additional funding, which may be provided at the Council’s discretion.

(b) The County Manager shall provide an adequate in-person or virtual space for the Commission to conduct all of its meetings. The County Manager shall also arrange for the technical support the CRC needs to do its business, including adequate staff support and communications between its members and with the public. Within the first week following the certification of the election of the CRC members, the County Manager will meet with the new Commissioner receiving the most votes and relate the details of the provisions made for the Commission, as set out above.

(c) Within two weeks of the certification of the election of the CRC members, the County Manager shall provide adequate staff support to the CRC to serve as CRC Clerk.

(d) Members of the CRC shall serve without salary, except that they shall be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

(2) The term of the Charter Review Commission shall be one year, from January 1st of the year following its election until December 31st of that same year. The term shall end earlier only if the Chair, upon successful motion, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire CRC, sends notice to the legislative authority that the CRC has completed its work. Upon the sending and receipt of such notice, the term of the CRC and its Commissioners shall end.

(3) The CRC shall file and register any proposed Charter amendment(s) with the County Auditor who shall submit the amendment(s) to the voters at the next November general election occurring at least ninety (90) days after the registration of the proposed amendment(s) with the Auditor. The CRC shall also submit the proposed amendment(s) to the legislative authority, for informational purposes. The CRC shall pass a resolution to accompany the proposed amendment(s) to the Auditor.

(4) No later than its second regular meeting, the Chair of the CRC will ask the Prosecuting Attorney to appear before the CRC and delineate the following: a) the nature and limits of the CRC’s legal authority, and b) the practices and procedures followed by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in the event of conflict of interest between county bodies and other authorities represented by that office.
San Juan County Charter Review Commission

Charter Amendment Proposition No. 3

The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 3 concerning ranked-choice voting for certain County officers. If adopted, and if the Washington Legislature passes a law that permits ranked-choice voting, this measure would require the use of ranked-choice voting for the offices of Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk, Auditor, Assessor, Prosecuting Attorney, and members of the County Council; and certain existing county election procedures would be eliminated if ranked-choice voting is used in San Juan County.

Should this measure be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Written by Callie A. Castillo, Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for San Juan County

This proposed amendment to the San Juan County Charter has been submitted by the Charter Review Commission to require ranked-choice voting for county-wide elected positions if the State of Washington passes a law allowing for ranked-choice voting for any office in the state.

Under the current County Charter, the county-wide positions of Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk, Auditor, and Assessor are elected under the general state election laws for non-partisan offices. The County Prosecutor, however, is elected under the general state election laws for partisan offices.

This proposition would amend the San Juan County Charter to require that all county officers, including the Prosecuting Attorney, be elected through a method known as ranked-choice voting if the State allows that method of voting for any state office. The proposed amendment states that the type of ranked-choice voting adopted by the State for non-partisan offices would then be used to elect the county offices.

Under ranked-choice voting, voters are permitted to mark several candidates in a race and rank them in order of preference. It is a single transferable vote. There are many different types of ranked-choice voting, however.

It is unknown what type would be used to elect county offices because the State has not yet allowed ranked-choice voting or specified the type to be used for non-partisan races. Under the proposed amendment, County Council members would be elected by majority vote under any adopted ranked choice voting method.

The County would use ranked-choice voting at the next election where a county-wide position is on the ballot if the State were to adopt ranked-choice voting.

This proposition will become part of the County Charter if it is approved by a majority of those voting. A fiscal note was not prepared for this proposition.

Arguments For and Against this Measure are on next page
Argument For Proposition No. 3

No matter our politics, we can all agree that our elections work best when voters are empowered. Ranked-choice voting is a better way to vote: it gives voters more choices and more say and fosters more civil campaigns and a less gridlocked government.

With ranked-choice voting, you can rank the candidates you like in your order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on. If your favorite can’t win, your vote counts for your next choice. Ranked-choice voting has been adopted in both progressive and conservative places across the country. Voters consistently say they like it and that it’s simple to use.

With ranked-choice voting, you don’t have to worry about the “lesser of two evils” or “throwing away your vote”. Ranked-choice voting means more civil campaigns, because candidates want to reach out to voters beyond their base to earn 2nd and 3rd choice support. All candidates have a fair shot, and the candidate with the most support from the most voters wins. Places that use ranked-choice voting see more candidates of more diverse backgrounds running for office and winning, which results in better representation for everyone.

San Juan County will be better served when the power is in the hands of the voters. Ranked-choice voting will help us elect leaders who focus on solutions. Please vote YES for ranked-choice voting.

Written by
Ranked-Choice Voting for SJC
Sharon Abreu, 21-year resident, Orcas Island
Alison Longley, PhD, SJ Islander since 1980
Ron Metcalf, longtime resident, Lopez Island

Argument Against Proposition No. 3

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), the latest fashion in election tinkering, is unneeded in our county. Our current system works well, and our local elections officials do a tremendous job leading a process that is well respected and garners high voter turnout. In the rare instance that there are more than two candidates for local elections, the primary election promotes the top two vote getters to the November election. Very simple and clear and does not need a computer to analyze intent, redistribute votes of the candidate who is dropped off and declare a winner, according to some algorithm that could be manipulated. Our voters and candidates deserve a clearly and immediately understandable vote counting system, not one that involves a complicated process of ranking candidates and possibly repeating vote counts by a computer, leading to possible mischief.

This will cause confusion in the election process during times when elections results are under suspicion and will not enhance voter confidence. Additionally, this poorly conceived proposition does not describe any particular form of RCV (in fact there is more than one) and it’s “out of area” promoters and supporters are promising a “fix” but in reality, the result will be confusion, surprise, distrust, and further alienation from our democratic institutions.

There are many loose ends as this proposal is dependent on when and what the State legislature actually does with RCV. Our county cannot itself initiate RCV.

Please REJECT Proposition 3

Written by
Tony P Ghazel
Bill Appel
Tom Starr
Complete Text

Charter Review Commission Proposition #3

Concerning Amending the current voting rules to include Ranked Choice Voting

Section 5.10 (Election Procedures) of the San Juan County Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in this Charter, nominating primaries and elections of the County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Clerk, County Auditor, and County Assessor shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of non-partisan County offices. Except as provided in this Charter, nominating primaries and elections of the Legislative Body shall be conducted in accordance with general law governing the election of non-partisan County officers. The election of the Prosecuting Attorney shall be as provided by state law.

(2) When Washington State Law provides for a method of ranked choice voting for candidates for any office in Washington State, that ranked choice voting method for conducting elections for non-partisan office, as amended, authorized and approved by the State of Washington shall be used for the elections of candidates for the offices of County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Clerk, County Auditor, County Assessor, Prosecuting Attorney, and Legislative Body members, and the method of election called for in subsection 5.10(1) of the San Juan County Charter will be discontinued.

Section 5.32 (County Council – Nominations) of the San Juan County Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

Qualified voters of the County shall nominate candidates for the County Council. Such candidates shall be nominated by countywide primary election for non-partisan office in the same manner as candidates for other County offices. (RCW 36.32.040) Should San Juan County adopt a method of ranked choice voting that combines the primary and general elections, this section shall not be applicable.

Section 5.33 (County Council – Elections) of the San Juan County Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

County Council members shall be elected by the qualified voters of the County in a countywide general election. The person receiving the highest number of votes for the position shall be declared duly elected, unless the election method is by ranked choice voting, in which case the person receiving the majority of votes under the ranked choice voting method shall be declared duly-elected.

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
San Juan County Charter Review Commission

Charter Amendment Proposition No. 4

The San Juan County Charter Review Commission submitted Proposition No. 4 concerning initiatives and referendums. If adopted, this measure would amend Title 6 of the County Charter to reduce the number of qualified signatures required for San Juan County initiatives and referendum petitions from 15 percent to 8 percent of the votes cast in the county in the last election for Governor.

Should this measure be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement
Written by Callie A. Castillo, Special Deputy Prosecutor for San Juan County

This proposed amendment to the San Juan County Charter has been submitted by the Charter Review Commission to reduce the number of signatures required for petitions for initiatives or referendums.

The San Juan County Charter currently requires a petitioner for initiative or referendum to collect a number of signatures of registered voters equal to 15 percent (15%) of the votes cast in the County in the last race for Governor in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. This proposed amendment would lower the number of required signatures to 8 percent (8%) of the votes cast by the County in the last race for Governor.

This proposition will become part of the County Charter if it is approved by a majority of those voting. A fiscal note was not prepared for this proposition.
Argument For Proposition No. 4

Vote for Initiatives! Approve Proposition 4

Initiatives are a sign of a vibrant political culture where voters learn more about their government and take that power into their future. Bike paths, affordable housing, and adequate senior and childcare are just a few of the complex issues that could be tackled by voter initiatives, a tool for grassroots activism.

The Charter Review Commission investigated why in sixteen years of home-rule only one initiative landed on the ballot. They found that our Charter has the most restrictive initiative laws in the state, with the highest percentage of required signatures.

San Juan County’s voters are passionate, engaged and stay informed, consistently achieving the highest voter turnout statewide (90.6%). Even though this is to be celebrated, this further increases the number of signatures required to place an initiative on the ballot. With our most recent gubernatorial election turn-out, over 2,300 signatures would be needed, almost the entire town of Friday Harbor.

The Charter Review Commission proposes lowering the required number of signatures to gather, in order to activate and inspire a more robust culture of direct democracy for our county. Proposition 4 will make the task of gathering signatures less daunting to potential sponsors by lowering the number of signatures needed from the current 15% of voters in the last gubernatorial election to the statewide standard of 8%.

You owe it to yourself to make the most of this valuable right. By approving Proposition 4 you give yourself more say in county government.

Argument Against Proposition No. 4

Cutting in half the number of signatures required to place initiatives and referenda before the voters is unnecessary and potentially costly. The Charter Review Commission claims we need more “direct involvement” in local government, yet there’s no evidence we lack such involvement. 90% of the registered voters returned ballots in 2020; clearly, our voters are involved. County residents also have ready access to local government officials, through Council Hearing participation and direct communication.

In addition to initiatives, the Charter provides for mini-initiatives that require signatures from only 3% of the voters. Mini-initiatives put the proposal before the County Council; if the Council agrees that voters should decide the issue, the proposition goes on the ballot. This process requires less than half the signatures proposed in this Charter Amendment.

Since the County Charter went into effect in 2006, two referenda and one initiative have been adopted by the voters. One initiative was adopted by Council before it went to the ballot. One initiative was headed to the ballot until it was stopped by court action. No proposal ever failed to reach the ballot for lack of qualified signatures.

San Juan County already has processes in place for “direct involvement” with government. We have a history of success with full initiatives and referenda. There is a real cost to going through the process of putting measures on the ballot. If a measure can’t get 15% of voters to sign, it’s probably not worth that cost.

Written by

Dave Anderson, david_john_anderson@hotmail.com
Patty Garcia, pgarciasji@gmail.com

Greg Hertel
Richard Fralick
David Bayley
Charter Review Commission | Proposition No. 4

Concerning Amending Signature Requirements Concerning Initiatives and Referendums

The San Juan County Charter Sections 6.22 and 6.41 shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 6.22 – Initiative – Procedures

(1) Any legal voter or organization of legal voters of San Juan County may file an initiative proposal with the County Auditor, who within five (5) working days shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The County Auditor shall register the initiative by giving the proposed initiative a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure.

(2) The County Auditor shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten (10) days after receipt thereof, in consultation with the petitioner shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed seventy-five (75) words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

(3) The petitioner then has one-hundred-twenty (120) days to collect the signatures of the registered voters in the County equal in number to at least fifteen (15) eight (8) percent of the votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election. Each petition shall contain the full text of the proposed measure, ordinance or amendment to an ordinance and the ballot title.

(4) The County Auditor shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if it is validated, submit the proposal to the people at the next general election that is at least one hundred and twenty (120) days after the registering of the petition.

(5) The County Council may choose to enact the proposal without change or amendment. If the County Council does not adopt the proposed measure and adopts a substitute measure concerning the same subject matter, the substitute proposal shall be placed on the same ballot with the initiative proposal.

(6) The voters shall be given the choice of accepting either or rejecting both. The voters shall then be given the choice of accepting one and rejecting the other.

If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for accepting either, then the measure receiving the majority of the votes cast on the second issue shall be deemed approved. If a majority of those voting on the first issue is for rejecting both, then neither measure shall be approved regardless of the vote on the second issue.

Section 6.41 – Referendum – Procedures

(1) Any legal voter or organization of legal voters of San Juan County may file a referendum proposal, against any enacted ordinance or portion thereof, with the County Auditor. The proposal shall be presented to the County Auditor within forty-five (45) days after the ordinance is passed by the County Council.
(2) Within five (5) working days, the County Auditor shall confer with the petitioner to review the proposal as to form and style. The County Auditor shall register the referendum by giving the referendum proposal a number, which shall thereafter be the identifying number for the measure.

(3) The County Auditor shall then transmit a copy of the proposal to the Prosecuting Attorney, who within ten (10) days after receipt thereof, shall formulate a concise statement, posed as a question, not to exceed seventy-five (75) words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the measure being referred. Such concise statement will be the ballot title.

(4) The petitioner then has one hundred and twenty (120) days to collect the signatures of registered voters of the County equal in number to at least fifteen (15) eight (8) percent of the number of votes cast in the County in the last gubernatorial election. Each petition shall contain the full text of the measure being referred and the ballot title.

(5) The County Auditor shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and if validated, submit the measure to the people at the next general election that is at least one hundred and twenty (120) days after the registering of the petitions.
San Juan County

Proposition No. 1 - Road Fund Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

The San Juan County Council adopted Resolution No. 20-2022 concerning a road levy lid lift. This proposition would authorize the road levy rate at $1.00 per $1,000 assessed value, which is estimated to be 44 cents per $1,000 assessed value above the rate for 2023; and thereafter the approved levy dollar amount will be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies subject to RCW 84.55; and the increased revenue will be used to maintain roads and marine facilities, repair storm damage, and enhance roads for pedestrians and cyclists.

Shall this proposition be approved?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Explanatory Statement
Written by Randall K. Gaylord, San Juan County Prosecuting Attorney

The San Juan County Council has proposed a one-time, permanent levy lid lift on the county road fund portion of the regular property tax. The county road fund is used to lay out, construct, alter, repair, improve and maintain county roads and marine facilities.

The proposition is to increase the county levy to one dollar per $1,000 dollars of assessed value. This is estimated to be an increase in the levy rate of 44 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. It is further expected that this will result in an additional $4 million dollars for the year 2023. After 2023, and for subsequent levies, the new levy amount will be used to determine the authorized increase to the levy as allowed and limited by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

The resolution adopted by the County Council sets out the purposes for the levy lid lift and identifies specific programs to be allocated from the proceeds of this levy and any proportional increase to the levy. The funds raised by this levy are dedicated by law and the resolution to: capital and maintenance projects intended to preserve and/or replace County infrastructure impacted by flooding; maintain and improve the network of county marine facilities including docks, piers, ramps, and buoys; and enhance County right of ways and road shoulders to accommodate safer and more accessible non-motorized uses for pedestrians and cyclists.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the San Juan County Assessor at (360) 378-2172.

A simple majority of persons voting is necessary to approve this measure. A “yes” vote is to approve the measure, a “no” vote is to reject the measure.

Arguments For and Against this Measure are on next page

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
Argument For Proposition No. 1

Our County Roads and Docks need your help!
This critical infrastructure provides transportation corridors supporting the quality of life in our island communities. However, growth, storms and deferred maintenance have taken a toll on these vital facilities. Costs for materials, services and personnel have increased, outpacing the county’s ability to address these needs.

Your YES vote for the 2022 Road Levy provides:

For the replacement of scores of failing/inadequate culverts that contribute to flooding, erosion and road washouts.

To maintain and repair public docks and boat ramps. These are an essential link for island residents and visitors, recreational boaters, local businesses and emergency responders.

For shoulder enhancements along some of the busiest roads - allowing for more space for pedestrians and bicyclists outside of the traffic lanes, increasing safety for all road users.

Our transportation infrastructure is constantly exposed to the elements: rain, freezing temperatures, ice, snow, slides, wind, waves, tides and currents. All of these forces work to destroy our roads, boat ramps and docks. Storms are forecast to increase in frequency and severity. Regular maintenance and timely repairs minimize the disruption, damage and cost of protecting the decades of investment in our local transportation network. This proposed levy increase provides funding to be proactive.

We need to look no further than the ferries to see the folly of deferred maintenance and inadequate funding. Ferries breaking down, sailings being cancelled and service disruptions adversely affecting life and livelihoods in San Juan County.

Join us! Vote YES, 2022 Road Levy.

Written by
Committee Supporting the Road Levy 2022
Dave Zeretzke, 42-year county resident, SJI
Rob Nou, first responder, Lopez Island
Chris Guidotti, Orcas Island

Argument Against Proposition No. 1

There are many users of our county roads and marine facilities. The cost burden of maintenance should be shared by all the users. Why should our property taxes pay for more tourist amenities? Heck no to raising property taxes 79% that results in even more tourist use of our infrastructure. Maybe the lodging tax should contribute toward maintenance of roads tourists use?

Maintaining our county roads is a legitimate concern. But the timing and amount of the proposed tax levy is something that must be considered. We’re all aware we are experiencing the worst inflation in forty years. The economy is barreling into a recession of as yet unknown duration and severity. The cost of living is soaring with everything. Families increasingly have to decide between paying rent and mortgages, fueling their vehicles to get to work, and buying school supplies for their children as well as groceries and the other necessities of life. At a time like this, going to the voters to ask for a 79% increase in property tax is incredibly tone deaf. This clearly is not the time to increase our taxes. Governmental budgets inevitably request amenities that don’t equate as priorities in hard times. These are indeed hard times. Our County officials need to recognize this, scrutinize how existing revenues are apportioned, find ways to re-purpose funding for shortfalls, and assure all the users of our infrastructure pay their fare share.

Written by
Committee Against the Road Levy 2022
Daniel Schwartz, 6-year resident SJI
Renee Polda, 48-year resident SJI
Ron Whalen, 45-year resident SJI
Elected Experience
San Juan County Assessor 2015 – 2022

Other Professional Experience
Chief Appraiser, Assessor’s Office 2007 – 2014
Appraiser, Assessor’s Office 2004 – 2006
Assistant Manager, moped rentals 1997 – 2003
Naturalist, wildlife excursions 1998 – 2000
Certified Farrier 1993 – 1996
Associate attorney, civil litigation firm 1989 – 1993

Education
Washington State Accredited Appraiser, 2004
Colorado School of Trades Farrier Science, 1993
West Virginia University College of Law, J.D. 1989
Dartmouth College, B.A. 1985

Community Service
Friday Harbor Presbyterian Church, elder and past youth group leader Boy Scouts, past Board of Review member 4-H, past livestock assistant

Statement
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Assessor for the past eight years. I will continue to work hard to fulfill mandatory duties and provide exceptional personal service to taxpayers and taxing authorities. I believe the most important responsibility of the office is to provide an assessment process that is professional, fair, and clearly understood. I look forward to the next four years.

Thank you for your vote.

Contact
(360) 378-9641; rhforge@rockisland.com

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office
Natasha Warmenhoven
(Nonpartisan)  

Elected Experience
N/A

Other Professional Experience

Education
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Northern Arizona University.

Community Service

Statement
I have served as the Chief Deputy Auditor for San Juan County since January 2020. I oversee the financial, recording and licensing responsibilities of the Auditor’s office and supervise nine staff members.

If elected, I promise to be a responsible steward of the County’s funds. I will maintain a high level of communication with the public regarding those funds. A priority during the first year is to successfully implement the County’s new financial management software.

I enjoy serving our community and look forward to continuing that service as the next Auditor of San Juan County.

Thank you for your support.

Contact
(360) 670-0073; natashaforauditor@gmail.com
https://natashaforauditor.com/

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office.
Lisa Henderson
(Nonpartisan)  Unopposed

Elected Experience

Other Professional Experience
Member of Judicial Information Systems Forms and Codes Committee, Washington Association of County Clerks
Education Committee, Washington Association of County Officials Board of Directors; State of Washington Sexual Assault Response Team
Chief Deputy Clerk San Juan County, Legal Assistant/Paralegal, Escrow Assistant, Office Manager, Executive Assistant, Benefit Coordinator

Education
Western Governor’s University – Bachelor’s Business Administration, Eastern Michigan University, National Center for State Court Certificates: Managing Technology Projects, Court Performance Standards, Managing Human Resources, Managing Court Financial Resources Community Service: Friends of Lime Kiln Society, SJC Sexual Assault Response Team

Statement
It has been my honor to serve the Clerk’s office since 2014 and the last four years as your County Clerk.

During my first term, I have implemented remote access to documents, developed processes to allow remote filing and eliminated need for most physical files. This has saved resources for the taxpayer and improved access to justice.

Keeping procedures current during a time of unprecedented legislative changes and a pandemic has been especially challenging. With your vote and confidence, I am dedicated to this work for the people of San Juan County.

Thank you for your support!

Contact
(360) 298-2102; lisahendersonforclerk@gmail.com

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office
Jane Fuller
(Nonpartisan)  Unopposed

Elected Experience
Charter Review Commissioner, District 3, San Juan County, WA (2020-2021)

Other Professional Experience
International development professional for 28 years focused on issues of governance and human rights working with the United Nations, federal public service, private sector, not-for-profits, and foreign governments.

Education
Master of Arts, Gender and Development, University of Sussex, UK (1992). Bachelor of Arts (Honors), Political Studies/History, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada (1990).

Community Service

Statement
It is with great enthusiasm that I am running for San Juan County council, and I am ready to serve our community. To this office I bring decades of experience developing and implementing policy, working with diverse stakeholders in collaborative ways, analyzing issues thoroughly, and listening to all points of view when making decisions. My vision for this county is one that recognizes the critical importance of a vibrant and sustainable economy, reliable ferry transportation, affordable housing for all, protecting and preserving our environment, while being respectful and inclusive of all who live here. Thank you for your consideration.

Contact
(360) 468-3491; info@electjanefuller.com
https://electjanefuller.com/

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office.
Amy
Vira
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Elected Experience
Not previously elected

Other Professional Experience
Amy Vira has been a deputy prosecutor in San Juan County since 2011. In addition to experience prosecuting felony and misdemeanor crimes, Ms. Vira has broad civil experience in areas including land use law, public records compliance, and general liability. She also serves as a San Juan County deputy coroner.

Education
Amy Vira graduated from Western Washington University and University of Minnesota Law School.

Community Service
Amy Vira serves on the Board of The Whale Museum, is a member of the San Juan County Textile Guild, and volunteers as a WSU Master Gardener.

Statement
Amy Vira is dedicated to pursuing justice with respect, integrity, and equality. Over a decade of experience in the prosecutor’s office gives her the knowledge and understanding needed to do the job. She is committed to providing accurate and unbiased legal services and upholding the law in a fair and just manner that treats victims with respect and honors the rights of all parties.

Ms. Vira intends to continue the valuable work of the prosecutor’s office by constantly striving to improve service to the community and fostering an atmosphere of growth and purpose within the office.

Contact
(509) 433-8609; votevira@gmail.com
https://www.votevira.com/
Ronald J. Krebs
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
8 years serving as Sheriff

Other Professional Experience
20+ years management experience, 8 years patrol deputy and 8 years executive management in law enforcement, 14+ years in the private sector

Education
High School graduate, graduate of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy, FBI LEEDA trilogy graduate, former San Juan EMS EMT and Nationally Registered EMT.

Community Service
Executive board member Safe San Juans, Executive board member San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, Key Leader for COY (Children of Orcas Youth)

Statement
As Sheriff for the past 8 years, I have a proven track record of leadership, management and fiscal responsibility all while prioritizing community respect and trust.

I am a 3rd generation islander and Gulf War veteran with 16 years in law enforcement. My 20 years of business management experience, over multi-million dollar private and public entities, provide a sound background for the Sheriff Office’s multitude of responsibilities.

Over the next term, I will continue to seek out diverse, community-oriented employees and promote San Juan County as a safe and inclusive place to live, work, and raise a family.

Contact
(360) 622-5921; rkrebs@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/RonKrebs4Sheriff

Eric Peter
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
First Time Candidate

Other Professional Experience

Education
Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Leadership Institute, FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute, WSCJTC Patrol Tactics Instructor Course, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission Lateral Academy, Houston Police Department Academy (965 hours Basic Academy 1382 hours continued In-Service Training)

Community Service
American Legion Post 163, San Juan Island Lions Club

Statement
With 27 years in law enforcement, 14 in leadership, there are four primary principles that champion daily: Safety, Communication, Trust, and Transparency. Relationships and experience matter.

Law enforcement is at a crossroads and San Juan County deserves a transformational leader.

Transparency is the cornerstone of public trust, decisions must be clear, and guided by unbiased reasoning. Healthy law enforcement relies on processes, not personalities. Better outcomes are achieved with collaboration, accountability, and compassion. We deserve a safer community. I appreciate your vote helping make San Juan County a safer place to live. I’m here to listen and lead.

Contact
(281) 702-3725; ericpeterforsheriff@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/ericpeterforsheriff
Rhonda Pederson
(Nonpartisan)  Unopposed

Elected Experience
San Juan County Treasurer 2015-2022

Other Professional Experience
San Juan County Treasurer: 7 ½ years, San Juan County (22 Years): 7 years as Chief Accountant, maintaining financial records for 27 Taxing Districts, and preparing the County’s annual financial reports; Junior Taxing District Accountant; Recording/Licensing Deputy. Assisted in conversion of current accounting system, tax collection and revenue receipting software programs. Governmental Accounting, Cash Basis Reporting and Federal Grant Management Classes

Education
Bellingham Vocational Tech School; Legal Secretary Certificate

Community Service
Former Elementary School Volunteer, Friday Harbor Volunteer Fire Fighter, San Juan Soccer Association Treasurer, Kiwanis member

Statement
I am honored to have served as your County Treasurer. I am proud of my department’s high level of integrity, commitment, and service to the citizens of San Juan County, especially during the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19. During my tenure, my team has assisted me in the implementation of systems to improve efficiency, compliance with new legislation/mandates, streamlining services to the public.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your Treasurer and remain committed to meeting the needs of our citizens and the challenges of the future with competence, efficiency, and ongoing development.

Thank you for your vote.

Contact
(360) 317-6059; rhonda4treasurer@gmail.com

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office
Carolyn M. Jewett
(Nonpartisan)

Legal/Judicial Experience
San Juan County District Court Judge from 2019 to present; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in San Juan County District Court from 2015 to 2018; District Court Unit in King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in 2014.

Other Professional Experience
Volunteer Legal Advocate for Immigrant Families Advocacy Project; Research Assistant, Washington State University Sociology Department.

Education
Juris Doctor, University of Washington School of Law, 2015; B.A. in Sociology and Spanish, Washington State University, 2012.

Community Service
Member of the Board for Judicial Administration Court Recovery Task Force; volunteer judge for Washington State YMCA Mock Trial Competition; SJI 36 Weekends volunteer 2018 – 2019; volunteer for San Juan Community Theatre.

Statement
Integrity, fairness, and commitment to justice: as your District Court judge, I am dedicated to administering the law impartially and ensuring equal access to our legal system. The pandemic has challenged courts to reevaluate what “access to justice” really means. Though we still have hurdles to overcome, we also have new opportunities for change and innovation. I have been honored to work with local leadership, as well as judges across the state, to serve our community in the face of emergency conditions and work towards recovery. I look forward to continuing to serve as your District Court Judge.

Contact
(360) 550-6907; reelectjewett@gmail.com
https://www.carolynjewett.com/

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor’s Office
San Juan Island Library District

Proposition No. 1 - Bonds to Build a New Library

The Board of Trustees of San Juan Island Library District adopted Resolution #3-2022 to finance a new library facility and refund a District bond issued to acquire the real property at 660 Spring Street for the new building. Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to incur indebtedness, and issue not more than $12,000,000 of general obligation bonds, to mature within 21 years from their date of issuance, to pay the capital costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping a new library facility in Friday Harbor and to refund the outstanding bond issued to acquire the real property, and to levy annual excess property taxes to repay such bonds.

Should this proposition be:

☐ Approved
☐ Rejected

Explanatory Statement
Written by Daniel S. Gottlieb, Attorney for San Juan Island Library District

If approved by San Juan Island Library District voters, this proposition authorizes the District to incur indebtedness through the issuance of up to $12,000,000 of general obligation bonds within 21 years to construct, furnish and equip a new Library facility at 660 Spring Street in Friday Harbor and to refund the general obligation bond issued by the District in 2020 to acquire the site for the new Library, and to impose excess property tax levies to repay the bonds.

After extensive studies and community input to determine the District’s needs, the feasibility of meeting those needs at the existing Library site, and an extensive analysis of alternative sites, the District resolved in 2020 to purchase the property at 660 Spring Street. The new site will be cleared, and a new building constructed at the site to serve as the new San Juan Island Library. This new Library facility will provide more space for a variety of users, including children and young adults, and more amenities, including multiple study rooms, quiet sections, larger program areas, outdoor leisure and activity space, and increased and improved parking.

The total project budget is estimated at $20,000,000 and comprises approximately $14,500,000 in construction costs and $2,075,000 in repayment of the 2020 bond, with the remainder of the budget amount in architecture and construction management costs. The project costs will be funded through a combination of bond proceeds, private donations and grants. Rejection of this proposition would cause construction of the new Library to be slowed or suspended.

Arguments For and Against this Measure are on next page
Argument For Proposition No. 1

For one hundred years, islanders have relied on our public library for educational, informational, and recreational materials and personalized, professional assistance. Six days a week our Library welcomes everyone while meeting changing community needs with new and diversified offerings. The current library building is at full capacity for collections, technology, services, and programs, and cannot be expanded, while our Library usage as a vital community resource and gathering place continues to grow. Our Library has been nationally recognized for the quality of its service. The facility, however, can no longer support activities for a population 50% greater than during the 1995 expansion, 22% greater just since 2010.

Today, year-round programs for toddlers through teens provide creative learning opportunities, socialization, and fun activities to challenge and expand young minds. Adults participate in classes and entertaining and informational programs on a wide variety of subjects. Our Library’s dedicated staff assists users with their personal technology devices, loans technology aids, and teaches technology skills. Collections have expanded far beyond traditional books to include, for example, e-books, streaming video, home living assistance devices, WiFi hotspots and laptops, and nature kits. For some time, requests for space for public and collaborative meetings have far exceeded current capacity.

A new Library with modern technology infrastructure would provide room for current and new collections to grow, offer several meeting spaces, outdoor multi-use areas, and more and safer parking, enabling the Library to continue its tradition of high quality service long into the future.

Vote yes!

Written by
Vote Yes For SJI Library
Lynn Weber-Roochvarg
Beth Helstien
Bill Appel

Argument Against Proposition No. 1

Now is not the time to saddle San Juan County property tax payers with yet another tax increase. Excessive inflation faced by all households is forcing home owners and renters to sacrifice in order to buy essentials such as fuel, child care, rent, mortgage, medical expenses and food. Candidly, a new, elaborate library complex is just not an “essential” that is needed now.

Our community is rightly concerned about affordable housing, yet government is on the march to make housing less affordable in these inflationary times. My own tax statement shows that in 2022, junior taxing authorities added 62.9% to my annual tax bill. The district of my residence on San Juan Island has 11 junior taxing authorities. County wide, levy increases are UP a whopping 52.97% since 2017. I urge all voters to go to the San Juan County Assessor’s web page and look at the tax statement data to see how much more we are paying to junior taxing authorities.

The proposed library/community center/recreation area is an aggressive overreach of the Library Board’s mission to supply a place to read and learn. We all love libraries, but they are becoming more and more outdated with advances in technology and information delivery. From a traditional library standpoint, the current building is probably sufficient.

Now is not the time to spend $20,000,000 for a new, expanded, astronomically expensive library in Friday Harbor.

Written by
Michael W. Carlson, mcarlson@rockisland.com

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District

Proposition No. 1 - Excess Property Tax Levy for 2023

The Governing Board of the Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District adopted Resolution No. 19 - 2022 concerning an excess levy for the District. This proposition would authorize the District to collect $105,000 by a levy of excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District in an amount estimated to be $.081201 cents per $1,000 assessed valuation for one tax year -- 2023 -- for the purpose of funding operations and capital improvements of the District.

Shall the proposition be approved?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Explanatory Statement

Written by Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney for San Juan County

Each year, the Governing Board of the Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District has proposed a balanced budget that includes revenue from tipping fees based upon weight or volume, and tax revenue to be paid for with a one-year property tax levy. For the year 2023, the amount of the tax revenue that is budgeted is $105,000, which is the same amount as in the year 2022.

The Governing Board has adopted Resolution No. 19 - 2022 calling for an election to approve the one-year property tax measure to generate $105,000. If adopted, the property tax rate for the Solid Waste District would be an amount of approximately $0.081201 per $1,000 of assessed value for taxes imposed for the year 2023. The estimated levy rate is the same amount as the rate charged in the current year.

The Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District must use the revenue raised for district operations and capital expenses.

A “yes” vote is a vote to approve the proposal; a “no” vote is a vote against the proposal. A sixty percent majority is needed to pass this measure.

Arguments For and Against this Measure are on next page

The San Juan County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).
Argument For Proposition No. 1

Each year the Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District must put its levy on the ballot as required by state law.

Our much envied and admired local facility has creatively kept up with increased volumes and costs while continuing to offer; no-fee recycling services, Take It or Leave It, paint recycling, hazardous waste collection and composting information. Last year the metal recycling group recycled and diverted 8,420 lbs. of high-grade metals: copper, brass, stainless steel and aluminum. Take it or Leave it had 75 people lined up waiting for opening at its peak this summer.

“The Dump” is seeing up to 900 cars per week come through. The resulting higher garbage and recycling tonnage must be hauled off island just as fuel and ferry costs have increased, and ferries are cancelled or delayed. These factors have all created a challenging cost environment The Dump is working hard to manage.

Garbage fees alone cannot cover the cost of maintaining our unique and innovative solid waste system. We are so fortunate that Lopez Solid Waste has such amazing community support; our 2022 Levy passed with an impressive 84% “yes” vote – the highest percentage ever.

This year’s levy is once again at $0.08 per $1,000 of assessed taxable value. That’s approximately $40 a year for a $500,000 property, a great value for a well-managed, award-winning program. Vote for Lopez Proposition 1. Keep our Lopez Dump and Take It or Leave It operating under local control and managed according to Lopez values.

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Argument Against Proposition No. 1

No information submitted