

LAUREN STEPHENS



I hope to join the Opalco leadership team as an advocate for individual rate payers and small business owners. I believe there should be an individual on the board who is an active business user of all Opalco services and is aware of the huge impact policies and rate increases have on small businesses. Our commercial property business on Lopez Island puts me in touch with small business owners who depend upon Opalco and Rock Island.

In 2015 I worked extensively with Opalco/Rock Island, doing a major commercial building upgrade. This involved all new power, including a new transformer, installation of solar panels, all new fiber optic wiring to 14 rental spaces, and new meters. It has given me a unique perspective on what is working well and what is not.

I graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in American History. In Utah I worked for Eastern Airlines and as a volunteer until we started a family. My husband and I moved to Lopez Island in 1996. We raised two children on Lopez and have been small business owners here for 20 years.

I have 13 years of elective board service on both the Lopez Island School Board and the Fisherman Bay Sewer Board. I have experience on budgeting, levy and bonding campaigns for operations and capital projects. I have worked extensively on rate setting, union contract negotiation, policy development, risk management and personnel issues. As a sewer commissioner, I have experience running a small utility. My focus as a board member is responsible fiscal management and customer service. I advocate active board participation with staff to make decisions that serve both the agency and the people.

I would be honored to help implement a responsible path for future power and broadband service in San Juan County.