

2021 VOTERS GUIDE



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2021 Voter's Guide. Within, you will find:

- information on the candidates for election to the Board of Directors
- your official ballot (or a link to vote online)
- ballot secrecy envelope & reply envelope (if voting by mail)
- Information on our virtual event: Saturday, April 24th

NOTE: If your membership is through a business partnership or corporation, please complete the relevant form as printed on your ballot. If your membership is not a partnership/corporation, you can ignore those forms.

Election results are announced at the April 24th, 2021 and published online at www.opalco.com.

All ballots must be received by mail or online
no later than 10:00 AM PST on April 21, 2021.
Ballots will not be accepted at the annual meeting.



THIS YEAR OUR ANNUAL MEETING
WILL BE A VIRTUAL EVENT



VOTE ONE OF TWO WAYS:

1. **VOTE ONLINE.** OPALCO offers secure electronic voting in partnership with Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS). This is the preferred method of voting.
2. **VOTE BY US MAIL.** See the enclosed ballot for instructions. Be sure to **SIGN THE FRONT OF YOUR REPLY ENVELOPE.** Without your signature, your vote will not count.

WHO GETS TO VOTE?

Each *membership* gets one vote, no matter how many meters are attached to the membership, regardless of how many people are named on the membership.

HOW MANY CANDIDATES CAN WE VOTE FOR?

For each position that is open, members may vote for one candidate. In 2021, there are **THREE** open positions (vote for three candidates): two open positions in District 2 and one open position in District 3. Vote in every election regardless of your home district.

WHY VOTE?

OPALCO members are owners of their electric cooperative. You have the power to elect your Co-op Board of Directors who set the rates and make the policies.

ON THE 2021 BALLOT:

District 2 (Orcas, Armitage, Big Double, Blakely, Fawn, Little Double and Obstruction islands) candidates - **TWO** open positions (**PICK TWO**):

- Rick Christmas
- Joseph Cohen
- Rick Fant
- Jeffrey Struthers

District 3 (Lopez, Decatur, Center and Charles islands) candidates - one open position (**PICK ONE**):

- Eric Beckman
- Peter Garlock
- Tom Osterman

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - TWO OPEN POSITIONS

RICK CHRISTMAS

Richard (Rick) Christmas Rick has been a resident of Orcas Island dating back to 1998. As an active member of the community he has participated in the following organizations:

- Vision For Eastsound process
- Orcas Island Fire & Rescue (OIFR) Commissioner 2018 – present
- Liaison between OIFR and the Public Hospital District 2019 – present
- Member of American Legion Post 93 Voyle B. Martin – present
- Director Orcas Power & Light 2018 – present



Rick has served as Chief Information Officer and member of senior management at True Blue, which is a leading international provider of specialized workforce solutions. He was accountable for all activities related to the development and implementation of business applications; managing the relationships between the Information Management department and external and internal customers. Managed the relationship and service levels from technology vendors and outsourcing partners to customers. Spearheaded re-engineering and best practices for all aspects of branch and corporate operations. Developed an analysis of new potential markets and provided recommendations on viability and profitability.

Previously, Rick was a founding member and CIO of Gentiva Health Services, the largest provider of home health care and related services in the United States. Rick brought more than 27 years of executive experience leading business and technology reengineering efforts for a variety of clients and vendors. He was responsible for directing all information management activities. As a key member of the senior management team, he directed the company's efforts to integrate business systems, enable productivity tools as well as promote electronic commerce for internal and external uses. Rick's leadership and his experience in deploying new business systems were invaluable as the Gentiva organization transitioned into a stand-alone public company.

With his extensive background in technology and systems, as well as more than 30 years of experience in Operations and Marketing, Rick has been a valuable contributor to the many companies as they continue to invest in information technology to advance their efforts to further improve efficiencies in their core processes, and provide technology support to other key strategic initiatives.

Education: BA University of California Long Beach
BS University of California Irvine MS University of Washington

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - TWO OPEN POSITIONS

JOSEPH COHEN



Joe Cohen and his wife Martha Farish completed their home in 2005 and have been Eastsound residents since.

Joe has experience serving on utility boards as President of Eastsound Water Users Association for 2019-2020 and as a director for 2017 – 2019. Joe chaired a comprehensive review of water rates, finding ways to encourage conservation and keep rates fair and affordable for residential and business customers. As a continuing director in 2021 he is working with other board members on long-range planning for capital improvements to ensure sustainable business operations well into the future.

Joe is well respected for his ability to get to the heart of problems and solutions, boiling them down to their essence, thereby facilitating informed decisions.

Joe enjoyed an entrepreneurial career in the financial services industry. In 2002 he merged his RIA business and created HoyleCohen, LLC – a wealth advisory firm in San Diego. He successfully transitioned management and ownership of the business in 2012 and relinquished client advisory work in 2019.

Joe's passion over the past 20 years has been in the philanthropic space. He has served on numerous boards in San Diego (R.H. Fleet Science Center; Old Globe Theatre; Jewish Community Foundation) and Orcas Island (Orcas Island Community Foundation). Joe and Martha created the Early Child Education demonstration project on Orcas – working with three preschools to increase accessibility and improve quality measures. He raised \$100,000 per year of funding for four consecutive years in support of this effort.

Joe's favorite saying is to always *Shift Your Thinking*. In any role (including Board service) one should be capably proactive in looking at things differently and asking great questions. This often leads to a consensus *Shift in Thinking* for the organization and better outcomes in the future.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - TWO OPEN POSITIONS

RICHARD (RICK) FANT

Rick Fant and his wife Myrna have been residents of Orcas Island since 1997. Sailing around the San Juan Islands year-round they fell in love with the Islands and their awesome natural beauty and elected to establish a home on Orcas. Rick then became active in the local community serving on the boards of his local homeowner associations and the Raccoon Point Road Maintenance Association (RPRMA) where he led the effort to get almost two miles of gravel road paved for the more than 130 users of the road.



Rick studied Electrical Engineering in college and then created a start-up building accounting software for medical offices. When the startup sold, Rick moved into larger organizations and had a 40-year international career managing and leading in large technology companies including Microsoft, Vodafone and Mozilla (Firefox) with an emphasis on building products that focus on the user and include respect for privacy and the environment in a complex world. His experience was in building large, complex systems in both regulated and unregulated environments as the manager of large P&Ls and creating partnerships that work for all parties. His approach, that worked successfully, was to engage broadly with internal and external partners, get buy-in at all levels and deliver in incremental steps. Rick will bring his business and partnering experience to OPALCO.

Rick is an experienced board member currently serving on multiple international and local boards. He serves as Board Chair and is hands-on and detail-oriented serving on multiple board committees. One of his current boards is VillageReach, a 200-person public health non-profit focused on vaccinations and health-care in rural African villages, and now expanding worldwide. VillageReach is using its expertise in mass vaccinations to assist in the United States. Rick understands operating at scale and how the board is key in setting the right direction for the organization; Rick will bring these skills to OPALCO.

Rick and Myrna are local business owners. Operating the Airport Center office complex, the hub for businesses that support Orcas residents (Insurance, Medical, Optometry, Counseling). Rick understands that local businesses face many challenges operating on Orcas such as transportation and the overall higher cost of doing business and strives to keep the Airport Center affordable.

Rick believes the challenges of climate change are real and believes that reliable, sustainable, low-cost supply of electric power is essential for our island community to have an economy that works to support visitors and enable its residents to thrive; put people first.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - TWO OPEN POSITIONS

JEFFREY STRUTHERS



Jeff Struthers is a NRECA Credentialed Director. Jeff, a long-term, full-time islander, is committed to sustaining reliable and economical electric power and broadband essential for our island communities to thrive in challenging times.

Jeff joined the Orcas community full time in 1998. Over the years, Jeff served on the County Parks Commission (member, former Chair) and the Orcas Animal Shelter

(Board Treasurer). Jeff also built an energy-efficient house of his own design, a commitment spanning a decade.

Before Orcas, Jeff helped develop several high-tech service businesses and managed family trusts. Earlier, Jeff was a senior executive with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he led a team of technical and financial experts providing non-partisan advice to three Presidents (e.g. Space Shuttle, Space Telescope, Space Station, environmental satellites, strengthened support for basic research). Jeff also represented OMB on various governmental policy panels and taught seminars on the budget and legislative process.

Earlier, Jeff was OMB's expert for renewable energy technology funding and legislation, helping shape a Presidential Solar Energy initiative. Also earlier, Jeff served as an Air Force Engineering Officer improving aircraft-based weather observations and a world-wide, 24/7 network of digital satellite communications. Jeff holds an MBA from Harvard, a degree in Electrical Engineering and Professional Engineer certification.

"I believe reliable and economical electric power and broadband are fundamental to enjoying a safe, healthy, modern and convenient island lifestyle. I remain steadfast in support of our Co-op's commitment to keeping our members energized and connected, through times of COVID and the climate challenge ahead, in the island way ... with fiscal responsibility, safety, environmental sensitivity and respect for our islands' culture. I will remain energetically engaged to successfully further this commitment on behalf of our members."



THE ISLAND WAY

DETERMINING OUR ENERGY FUTURE

What will it mean in the coming years, to sustain our island communities? To recognize change and find our way through it? Where will we find the power we need? Only here, only in ourselves. This is the task that has come to us. But we aren't alone. We have the advantage of the most advanced energy technology on the planet—if we choose to seize it. We have a utility model that's equal parts cooperation and independence—if we choose to trust it, and magnify its strengths. And we have a long-standing habit of thinking off the coast of the expected—if we choose to unite and use it to shape the future we want.

Everyone plays a part in the transition away from fossil fuels - for the good of our island communities and the planet.

YOU CAN:

- Electrify Heating and Transportation
- Subscribe to Community Solar
- Use Smarthub to monitor your energy usage
- Find ways to conserve and become more efficient

LEARN MORE AT WWW.OPALCO.COM/ISLANDWAY

WHAT WE SHARE IS STRONGER
THAN WHAT WE FACE



OPALCO

Co-op Run. Community Powered.



SWITCH IT UP!

This Electric Life.

Save Now! Pay Later!

Switch it Up offers easy on-bill financing for super efficient Ductless Heat Pumps, Heat Pump Water Heaters, Fiber to your Home or Business and Electric Vehicle Chargers.

Find more info at www.opalco.com/switchitup

ROCKISLAND

This year our annual meeting is on Zoom. Never used Zoom before? No problem.

Rock Island, OPALCO's fully owned subsidiary will be offering support for members new to the Zoom platform.

**Find resources at www.rockisland.com or
contact them at (360) 939-8100.**

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

ERIC BECKMAN

My aim in running is to advance two primary initiatives:

1. Make broadband access realistic for more members. I believe broadband in the 21st century must be viewed as electricity was in the 20th century. In 2015, the Board made a wise investment to acquire Rock Island: county Internet traffic is up 3X during COVID. Reliable, affordable internet access has become especially important for rural communities, without which you can't receive telehealth, public safety is compromised, our students are disadvantaged. Last spring, I initiated a fiberhood project to extend broadband to our residence and Lopez neighbors. This almost yearlong experience gave me firsthand perspective and new ideas that I would welcome applying to achieve positive outcomes for others.
2. Increase locally generated power. Electricity interests me because it can be generated from far away or locally. Our region cannot add much new hydroelectric capacity. This means energy costs will rise as we transition from fossil fuels. Now is the time to develop sustainable, local power supplies to keep electricity affordable, protect against outages, and reduce dependence on purchase agreements. Through financially analyzing investments in member generated solar/storage systems, deploying education programs, and opportunistically leveraging Federal-level developments I can help execute the Island Way initiative.



I'm a 30-year CPA, with public and private sector experience and experienced Board member. I was also an executive at WatchGuard Technologies and possess thorough technical understanding of internet infrastructure. Most recently, I've blended my technical and financial backgrounds at an advisory firm that guides Global 2000 clients through business model transformations like that now confronting OPALCO.

Lastly, I'm Preserve Steward for the SJPT's 40-acre Beecher Preserve, and preserving the unspoiled character of the San Juans would guide my every decision. My wife Melissa and I, both Northwest natives, have been on Lopez since 2004.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

PETER GARLOCK



Peter Garlock has represented District 3 as a Director since January 2018. Peter's professional career spans nearly 40 years' experience managing large and complex technology organizations in both the private and public sectors. He retired after serving 15 years as the Director of Information Technology for the Port of Seattle. Under his leadership, a wide range of innovative technology services and systems were developed and implemented to improve operations and serve the traveling public at SeaTac airport and the Port's numerous other

lines of business including Maritime and Real Estate holdings.

In addition to Peter's extensive background in technology, his strengths include a strong focus on customer service, information security, financial management, strategic planning, public private partnerships, labor relations, and environmental stewardship. He is very well acquainted with the many challenges and rapid changes taking place in both technology and power generation, and how these two sectors are becoming increasingly integrated and interdependent.

He and his wife divide their time between residences in Seattle and Lopez Island. Peter is an NRECA Credentialed Director. His education includes a Masters Degree in Business Management and he served 12 years as an officer in the US Air Force.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITIONS

TOM OSTERMAN



Tom recently retired after selling his national power systems manufacturing and integration firm and has relocated to Decatur Island. He is in the process of building a home on Decatur along with his wife. He has a more than 30-year history of summer boating visits to the San Juan Islands with his family.

Tom attended WWU and has had a 36-year career in the Broadband Network power industry. He founded a firm that specialized in providing powering systems for critical communications network facilities, data centers and Telecom sites as well as manufacturing

emergency power system products for these markets. Tom operating this firm for 28 years with eight regional offices and 150 employees around the US prior to selling his firm and retiring. He has several patents, developed energy back-up systems up to several megawatts in capacity and has written many industry trade articles over the years.

Tom is currently President of a renewable energy and microgrid development non-profit trade organization (Emerge Alliance) based in Washington DC, which is focused on renewable energy and energy storage and transmission policy, technology development and education.

"I am excited about the potential to participate with OPALCO as a Director and contribute with my industry experience in power generation, distribution, energy storage and broadband network deployment. OPALCO has established infrastructure, a participative user-customer membership configuration and effective resources for power and broadband delivery to the residents of San Juan County. I would like to assist OPALCO in navigating future Energy and Communications industry challenges, opportunities and benefits to members. I would like to participate with renewable energy policy, de-carbonization and system reliability goals and a particular focus in broadband network expansion. I respectfully ask for your vote!"



OPALCO ANNUAL MEETING

04/24/21

JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Same great prizes - different platform. No need to get out of your sweatpants or off your couch!

April 24th @ 9 am via Zoom

We will be hosting informative break-out sessions to talk with our Board and Staff and learn about OPALCO's energy programs, long-range plans, solar projects, Rock Island developments and more! We will do our usual State of the Co-op and announce the election results.

REGISTER for the Annual Meeting at www.opalco.com.