

2022 VOTERS GUIDE



Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2022 Voter's Guide. Within, you will find:

- information on the candidates for election to the Board of Directors
- your official ballot (and a link to vote online)
- ballot secrecy envelope & reply envelope (for voting by mail)
- Information on our virtual event: Saturday, April 30th

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 Virtual Annual Meeting on April 30th, 2022 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 27, 2022.
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 2022, there are **THREE** open positions (vote for three candidates): one open position in District 1, one open position in District 3 and one open position in District 4. 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 2022 BALLOT:

District 1 (San Juan, Brown, Henry, Pearl and Spieden islands) candidates - one open position (VOTE FOR ONE):

- Mark Madsen, Incumbent
- Steven Carleton
- Jessa Madosky

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

- Brian Silverstein, Incumbent

District 4 (Shaw, Bell, Canoe and Crane islands) candidates - on open position (VOTE FOR ONE):

- Jerry Whitfield, Incumbent

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

MARK MADSEN - INCUMBENT



Mark has lived on San Juan Island since 2006 and has served as a Director of OPALCO since 2014, now seeking re-election in District 1.

Mark has served as a Trustee for the SJI Library District since 2009 and is a director for the SJI Food Cooperative. He is past President and director with the SJC Economic Development Council and was co-chair of the SJI Agricultural Guild while developing the Brickworks in Friday Harbor. Mark recently retired as a director and past President of Seattle Arts and Lectures, which places professional writers in public schools to teach the craft and joy of writing.

Mark has a Ph.D from the University of Washington, M.S. from Wisconsin-Madison, and a B.A. from the UW (and is a proud Husky!). Mark has worked at companies such as Realnetworks, Microsoft, and Internap Network Services. Mark was a co-founder of AllRecipes.com, and currently serves as CTO at WattIQ, a startup which uses sensor technology to help companies improve the sustainability of their equipment assets.

"I firmly believe that OPALCO is the community's strongest asset. Our cooperative gives us a way to help control our destiny as we face a changed energy landscape and the effects of climate change."

"The transition to carbon-free power in Washington will be difficult, even with fossil-fuel free hydropower helping us get most of the way there. But this region has more demand than electricity supply. We are creating local renewable energy, as a cooperative and by supporting member generation. And we should work regionally with other cooperatives on the mainland resources that will be necessary to support our demand for clean power."

"OPALCO has a strong plan to meet these challenges, and I ask for your vote in order to continue my work helping our Cooperative make those plans a reality."

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

STEVEN CARLETON

I grew up in a Midwest farm town where I learned the value of hard work and the virtue of keeping things simple. Though grateful to have grown up in such a place, I couldn't wait to explore and experience the world.

I left for the US Coast Guard Academy in 1982 and four years later earned both a BS in Electrical Engineering and an Officer's commission. My first assignment upon graduation was the Coast Guard cutter Boutwell in Seattle. That's when I fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and when I first experienced the San Juan Islands.



After various tours around the US, including flight school, I ultimately landed in San Francisco where I finished my flying career, earned a graduate degree at Stanford Business School, and transitioned to my corporate career in Silicon Valley. I describe myself as a General Manager having served in or led several business functions from Operations to Engineering to Marketing to Product Development to Customer Experience. My industry experience is similarly diverse having served the hardware/software, biotech, consumer electronics, eCommerce and healthcare industries at Sun Microsystems, Genentech, Apple, and eBay. Most recently, I served as Vice President, Customer Experience at Premera Blue Cross before leaving at the end of October.

We've been on San Juan Island part time since 2013 with a goal to permanently make this home. The pandemic and the ability to work remotely (thanks to our fast fiber connection!) has accelerated our timeline and we've made this our permanent home for nearly two years.

If you ask anyone who knows me to label me, they'd likely say I am a 'problem solver.' I am committed to helping lead our community to resolve the most pressing and impactful challenges we face. Sustainability for our islands, in all forms, is a particular interest of mine.

DISTRICT I CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

JESSA MADOSKY

Dr. Jessa Madosky and her husband, Marc Santos, moved to San Juan Island in 2020 after falling in love with the islands while researching Southern Resident Killer Whale management conflicts.

"I earned my PhD in Conservation Biology in 2011 and since then have worked as a professor teaching Biology and Environmental Science at the university level. As an educator, I have dedicated my life to educating on issues from Global Climate Change to Wildlife management and conducted research on human/wildlife conflict and human conflict issues in wildlife management.



"I led the Board of Directors for the North America Society for Conservation Biology (the largest society of conservation professionals in the world) as the President from 2017-2019 and served as the Vice President for Membership for the global Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) from 2015-2017. I've served in various other leadership roles in both the global and North America section of SCB, including leading diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, education efforts, and supervising staff for the North America Section.

"I also served as the chair of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for an EPA Superfund site in North Carolina (2013-2015), working with the community and state and federal regulatory agencies to ensure community safety. I was a founding member of the Diversity Joint Venture, a joint partnership of scientific non-profit organizations, State agencies, and Federal agencies to increase diversity in the conservation workforce.

"My scientific expertise in conservation, global climate change, and sustainability make me an ideal candidate for helping OPALCO address the challenges currently facing the energy sector and our island community.

"My experience representing community interests ensures that I can be effective in advocating for continued resilience of both our critical local ecosystems and our human communities by helping OPALCO sustainably adapt to the impacts of climate change."

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

BRIAN SILVERSTEIN - INCUMBENT



Brian has been involved in the electric utility industry for four decades. He was elected to the OPALCO Board in 2016 and would like to continue serving our community. Brian and his wife Leslie became full time Lopez residents in 2012.

Brian worked for the Bonneville Power Administration, a Federal utility that provides energy to Northwest consumer-owned utilities like OPALCO. He retired as Senior Vice President of Transmission with responsibility for 1600 employees. One BPA achievement during that time was connecting enough wind generation to serve

over 500,000 homes.

Brian's key objectives for OPALCO:

- Maintain reliability by taking care of our facilities and supporting our employees.
- Keep electricity affordable for our Members by carefully managing the budget and using a small portion of our revenues to assist members who need help paying their bills.
- Protect our environment with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas production:
 - Pursue all cost-effective conservation.
 - Help Members switch from propane and gasoline to clean electric energy.
 - These actions reduce Member energy costs.
- Continue deploying cost-effective broadband to support education and community development. Manage Rock Island borrowing to protect OPALCO members.
- Use our fiber broadband to enhance crew safety, keep the lights on and enable customers to reduce peak energy use.
- Prepare for future challenges including a new agreement with Bonneville Power in 2028 and acquiring clean energy sources to serve growing electricity use. Tidal energy is promising.
- Transparent decision making.

Brian has a Master's degree in Electric Power and is a NRECA (National Rural Electric Coop Association) Credentialed Director. He volunteers on the Lopez Fire & EMS Logistics Team and Lopez Solid Waste Recycling.

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

JERRY WHITFIELD - INCUMBENT

OPALCO Members have recently endured a winter of prolonged sub-freezing temperatures, high winds, and much rainfall. While the mainland has been experiencing power outages, OPALCO has achieved 99.9% power availability in 2021. In addition, Rock Island has achieved a similar level of Internet reliability and now serves half of San Juan County with internet where there was none only seven years ago. None of this is happenstance. It is a result of good leadership and an experienced Board of Directors that puts Members interests first and uses its considerable expertise to achieve these remarkable results.



OPALCO and Rock Island are complex engineering organizations that operate in a highly regulated environment. Challenges ahead include negotiating a new power supply contract to start in 2028 and providing 100% carbon free power shortly thereafter. They need to be served by Directors that understand and can manage such complexities.

"I have served the membership for eight years and am currently Board Vice President, a Credentialed Cooperative Director, and represent OPALCO on the Washington Rural Electric Cooperatives Association.

"My experience started as an Aerospace Engineer where I earned a PhD in Aeroacoustics working on reducing the jet noise from the supersonic Concord's engines. My work expanded to jet engine development and certification with Rolls Royce and Boeing.

"In mid-career I pivoted to renewable energy where I created the first wood pellet stove as a "carbon-neutral" home heating appliance, and successfully pioneered the pellet fuel and pellet stove industries in the US and Europe. My wife Carol and I live on Shaw Island where we enjoy sailing and preserving the San Juan Islands for our grandchildren to enjoy.

"I am pleased to service the Members for a further term, cultivate new leaders and steward our energy future with reliable, affordable, renewable power sources."



OPALCO ANNUAL MEETING 04/30/2022

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 30th @ 9 am via Zoom

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.



OPALCO

Co-op Run. Community Powered.