

2023 VOTERS GUIDE



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2023 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 29th @ 9:00am

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 Annual Meeting on April 29th, 2023 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 26, 2023.
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 and regardless of how many people are named on the membership. One member: one vote.

HOW MANY CANDIDATES CAN WE VOTE FOR?

For each position that is open, members may vote for one candidate. In 2023, there are TWO open positions: one open position in District 1 (San Juan, et al) and one open position in District 2 (Orcas, et al). Vote in every election for all open positions 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 2023 BALLOT:

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

- Vince Dauciunas - Incumbent

District 2 (Orcas, Armitage, Blakely, Obstruction, Big Double, Little Double and Fawn islands) candidates - one open position (VOTE FOR ONE):

- Rick Christmas - Incumbent
- Chuks Onwuneme

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

VINCE DAUCIUNAS - INCUMBENT



Vince Daudiunas and his wife Vikky have been residents of San Juan Island since 2002.

I currently serve as the President of the OPALCO Board of Directors, and as a member of the San Juan County Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee. I served for 14 years on the Board of Directors of the Friday Harbor Animal Shelter, and as its Treasurer for 12 years. I enjoy flying and hold a Commercial Pilot certificate.

My education includes Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and UC Berkeley. I am a member of the IEEE Power and Energy Group, and the American Chemical Society.

After working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, I spent 26 years with Hewlett Packard and Agilent Technologies in Research and Development, General Management, and Business Development.

My experience includes development of systems for measurement, computation, and communication in a wide variety of industries, including Power Generation, Telecommunications, Environmental Science, Water Quality, and Biotechnology. I was responsible for Strategic Planning in Agilent's Chemical and Life Sciences Group.

In my last position, I was Vice President at Symyx Technologies; a company focused on discovering new materials for use in many areas, including fuel cells, advanced batteries, renewable energy, and environmental sensors.

I was first elected to the OPALCO Board in 2011. In the past 12 years, the OPALCO team has many significant achievements, including the implementation of a vastly improved Broadband infrastructure through Rock Island, the county's first Community Solar project, and continuous improvement of our electrical grid. OPALCO is taking a leadership position with respect to meeting the challenges of a rapidly transitioning energy system. This includes renewable generation and storage, energy conservation, meeting Washington State's and San Juan County's environmental and decarbonization goals, and assuring a safe, reliable, and sustainable power supply.

Our Coop has an exciting future, and I hope to continue as one of your Board members.

I respectfully ask for your vote!

COMING SOON!



POWERED BY
OPALCO & THE SUN

OPALCO's second Community Solar project will start selling shares in 2023! Sign up to receive updates by emailing solar@opalco.com.

What is Community Solar?

Community Solar is a utility-scale solar project that members can participate in to offset their own energy usage. Members can choose to buy shares and get bill credits for locally produced power. OPALCO takes care of operating, maintaining, upkeep, and administration of the array.

Visit [**opalco.com/solar**](https://opalco.com/solar) for more information.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

RICK CHRISTMAS - INCUMBENT

Richard (Rick) Christmas 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 – current



He 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 twenty-seven 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.

"I'm proud to be a part of the work OPALCO does and honored to be associated with the capable and hardworking people that make it happen. The industry is undergoing significant change. I am excited by the opportunities we have to improve the safety, reliability and affordability of our power system. Conservation will continue to help reduce the long-term load growth and our subsidiary Rock Island will keep growing and providing excellent fiber and wireless broadband services to our county. Our Co-op has an exciting future, and I hope to continue contributing to it as one of your Board members."

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

CHUKS ONWUNEME



I am a highly experienced and dedicated professional with a passion for sustainable energy and a background in engineering and technology.

My journey began in Nigeria, where I grew up learning from my father, a power systems engineer who worked on hydro-power generation systems. This early exposure to the field sparked my interest and I knew from a young age that I wanted to follow in his

footsteps. In high school, I discovered computer programming and quickly became engrossed. After graduating at the top of my class, I was awarded an academic scholarship to study Computer Science and Engineering at The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA).

While in college, I worked as a software engineer at IBM, building systems and software that spanned across various IBM ecosystems. Upon graduation, I joined Nokia, a Finland-based mobile and telecoms giant, where I helped build the Symbian smartphone operating system, a highly ubiquitous smartphone operating system. My time at Nokia exposed me to various opportunities to solve very challenging engineering problems, an experience I took with me when I left the company after nine years.

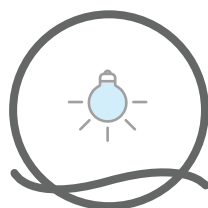
I later moved to the Pacific Northwest and, with the healthtech company I co-founded called Pillsy, I co-invented and helped create one of the world's first Internet-of-Things (IOT) smart pill bottles that helped people adhere to their medications. This company later became Optimize Health, a modern Remote Care platform for healthcare providers.

During the pandemic, I chose to lay roots on Orcas Island and quickly learned about OPALCO's mission, as well as Rock Island's. Given my strong desire for solving complex engineering problems and my passion for sustainable energy, I can appreciate the magnitude of the challenges ahead for these organizations and I am committed to working towards a more sustainable future for our community.

SWITCH IT UP OPALCO'S ON-BILL FINANCING

Projects include:

- Efficient Heating Systems
- Solar and Battery Projects
- Weatherization including insulation, windows, door, etc
- Energy Star Appliances
- Home EV Chargers
- Fiber to your home/business
- Commercial Projects



SAVE NOW - PAY LATER!



**EASY TO APPLY AND QUALIFY FOR UP
\$100,000 PER OPALCO MEMBERSHIP**

***new construction now eligible!**

Apply Today:
www.opalco.com/switchitup



OPALCO ANNUAL MEETING 04/29/2023

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 29th @ 9 am via Zoom

Get the latest on OPALCO's energy programs, long-range plans, solar projects, Rock Island developments and more! Co-op leadership will give a State of the Co-op address and announce the election results, followed by a member Q&A session.

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



OPALCO
Co-op Run. Community Powered.