

2024 VOTERS GUIDE



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2024 Voter's Guide. Within, you will find:

- information on the candidates for election
- your official ballot (and a link to vote online)
- ballot secrecy envelope & reply envelope (for voting by mail)
- information on our in-person Annual Meeting

All ballots must be received by mail or online
no later than 10:00 AM PST on April 22, 2024.

All members vote for all open positions
regardless of home island.

**VOTING MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO WIN
ONE OF OUR GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES**



**ANNUAL MEETING IN-PERSON
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 3-6 pm
EASTSOUND HEADQUARTERS**



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 2024, there are TWO open positions: one open position in District 2 (Orcas, et al) and one open position in District 3 (Lopez, et al). Vote in every district 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.

**VOTERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN!
GREAT PRIZES:
ELECTRIC TOOLS, CORDLESS VACUUMS & MORE!**

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

- Wendy Hiester

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

- Tom Osterman

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

WENDY HIESTER



Wendy has been a full-time resident of Orcas Island for the past two years after spending vacations in her family's home on the island for over 25 years. Wendy has jumped headfirst into volunteer work on Orcas Island, writing grants for Orcas Community Resource Center (OCRC), working on Fir Peace Farm with Orcas Community Participatory Agriculture, helping with the Orcas Chamber Music Festival and advising Friends of the San Juans on refinery technical issues.

After completing her B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Cornell University, Wendy started her career developing alternative energy solutions as an engineer with Mobil Research and Development Corporation. While passionate about alternative sources of power, corporate restructurings and mergers meant following a path that led through leadership positions in major projects and operations with Mobil and later BP, where Wendy was the process engineering superintendent at the Cherry Point Refinery. Wendy retired from BP Exploration Alaska where she led the revalidation of the oilfield safety systems following the Gulf of Mexico spill and managed production including the operation of over 2000 oil wells and 20,000 miles of pipelines. After retiring from BP, Wendy went back to her roots in sustainable chemistry in the role of Chief Technical Officer for a biotech start-up that produces sustainable chemicals from crab shells.

Wendy is now fully retired from industry and looking forward to joining the Opalco Board during this challenging time of transition to sustainable sources of energy. Wendy is committed to ensuring reliable power to Opalco's members and at the same time developing the infrastructure that will provide electricity from local sources, including solar, tidal, and wind.

COMING SOON!



POWERED BY
OPALCO & THE SUN

OPALCO's second Community Solar project will start selling shares in 2024! 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 3 CANDIDATES - ONE OPEN POSITION

TOM OSTERMAN

Tom retired in 2019 after selling his National power systems manufacturing and integration firm and relocated to Decatur Island. He is in the process of building a home on Decatur along with his wife. He has an over 30-year history of summer boating visits to the San Juan Islands with his family.



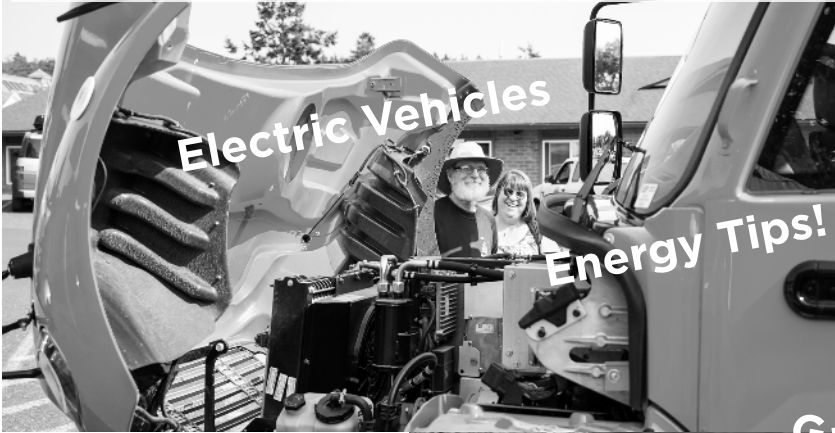
Tom attended WWU and has had a 40-year career in the Broadband Network power industry. He founded a firm that specialized in providing powering systems for critical communications network facilities, data centers and Telecom sites as well as manufacturing emergency power system products for these markets. Tom operating this firm for 28 years with ten regional offices and 150 employees around the US prior to selling his firm and retiring. In addition, he founded and still operates Radium Engineering LLC which is a renewable energy technology development consulting practice. He has several patents, designed-developed energy back-up systems up to several megawatts in capacity and has authored over 30 industry trade articles over the years.

Tom has participated as a prior board-member officer of a renewable energy and Microgrid development non-profit trade organization (Emerge Alliance) based in Washington DC which is focused on renewable energy microgrid and energy storage and transmission policy, technology development and education. Tom has been a board member of OPALCO representing District 3 for the last three years and was just invited by the President of WWU in Bellingham to join the WWU Institute of Energy Studies advisory board.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed participating as a board director with OPALCO these last three years and would like to continue this participation to be re-elected to another three-year term. I have been able to accomplish a detailed understanding of the OPALCO (and Rock Island) operational complexity, Rural Co-op governmental and financial compliance issues, and obtained my NRECA Credentialed Certified Director Certificate. I have participated with numerous conferences, meetings and policy debates and contributed with my industry experience in renewable power generation, distribution, energy storage and broadband network deployment. OPALCO has a progressive and member-facing culture and participative user-customer membership configuration. This organization provides reliable and cost-effective resources for power and broadband delivery to the residents of San Juan County. We do face significant near future complexity with the pending BPA contract renewal, Grant award infrastructure implementation and other headwinds as we navigate to a clean energy transition. I would like to continue to assist OPALCO as a director contributing to Energy and Communications industry challenges, opportunities and benefits to members."

I respectfully ask for your vote to re-elect me as OPALCO district three director!

OPALCO ANNUAL MEETING



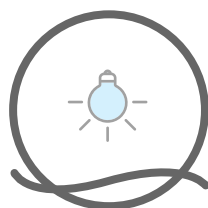
**APRIL 26
3-6 PM
EASTSOUND**



SWITCH IT UP OPALCO'S ON-BILL FINANCING

Projects include:

- Efficient Heating Systems
- Solar and Battery Projects
- Weatherization including insulation, windows, doors, 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

April 26, 2024, 3-6 pm



**VOTING MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO
WIN ONE OF OUR GREAT PRIZES!**

JOIN US FOR OUR IN PERSON ANNUAL MEETING

We're back! We are having an in-person event at our Eastsound office. We are going to have prizes, SWAG, energy tips, bucket trucks, food, electric vehicles, kids activities, and lots more!

**April 26th: 3-6 pm
Eastsound Headquarters**

Get the latest on OPALCO's energy programs, long-range plans, solar projects, Rock Island developments, and more!

**REGISTER for the Annual Meeting if you are coming
from other islands at www.opalco.com**



OPALCO

Co-op Run. Community Powered.