

2025 VOTERS GUIDE



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2025 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 21, 2025.

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 25, 3-6 pm
SAN JUAN FAIRGROUNDS**



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 2025, there are THREE open positions: one open position in District 1 (San Juan, et al), one open position in District 3 (Lopez, et al), and one open position in District 4 (Shaw, 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 BIG PRIZES: ELECTRIC TOOLS, CORDLESS VACUUMS & MORE!

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

- Mark Madsen (Incumbent)

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

- Brian Silverstein (Incumbent)

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

- Jerry Whitfield (Incumbent)



DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

MARK MADSEN (INCUMBENT)



Mark has lived on San Juan Island since 2006 and has served as a Director of OPALCO since 2015, and is now seeking re-election in District 1.

Mark served as a Trustee for the SJI Library District from 2009-2021 and is a director for the SJI Food Cooperative. He is a director, and past President with the SJC Economic Development Council and was co-chair of the SJI Agricultural Guild while developing the Brickworks in Friday Harbor. Mark also

served 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 improve the sustainability of science and research laboratories.

"I firmly believe that OPALCO is the community's strongest asset as we face the coming challenges: climate change, increasing shortfalls in regional energy supply, and the difficult task of create local, renewable generation capacity.

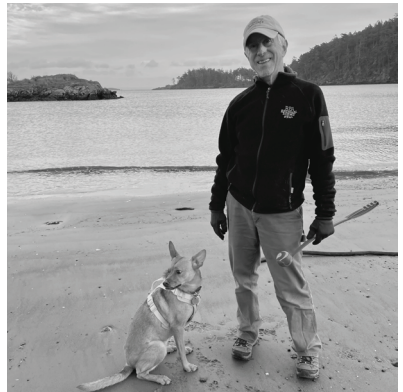
OPALCO has a strong plan to meet these challenges, with the involvement of the entire community. I look forward to many conversations about how we can build local capacity in a way that also protects our local environment and values. I ask for your vote to continue my workhelping our Cooperative meet these challenges and move our community forward."

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

BRIAN SILVERSTEIN (INCUMBENT)

Brian has been in the electric utility industry for four decades and was first elected to the OPALCO Board in 2016. Leslie and Brian became year round Lopez residents in 2012.

Brian worked at Bonneville Power Administration, a Federal utility that provides energy to consumer-owned utilities like OPALCO. He retired as Senior Vice President of Transmission. One achievement was connecting enough wind generation to serve 500,000 homes.



Brian's key objectives:

- Maintain safety and reliability by taking care of our facilities and supporting the employees.
- Keep electricity affordable by managing the budget and assist members who need help paying their bills.
- Protect our environment with a focus on reducing greenhouse gases:
 - Pursue all cost-effective conservation.
 - Help Members switch from propane and gasoline and acquire solar energy.
 - Our industry leading Switching Up program.
- Use our fiber broadband to:
 - Keep the lights on.
 - Connect those who want service, serve education and help business.
 - Continue managing Rock Island to protect OPALCO members.
- Address challenges including the agreement with Bonneville Power in 2028 and acquiring clean energy sources to serve growing electric use.
- Develop more community solar and tidal energy is promising.
- Update our rate design. We are a unique utility with two thirds of our costs for the system while the rest is buying energy.
 - Cover fixed costs every year no matter how much energy is used
 - Assign costs appropriately based on member's use
- Always make transparent decisions.

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 and Lopez Solid Waste Recycling.

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE - ONE OPEN POSITION

JERRY WHITFIELD (INCUMBENT)

Since 2014, I have represented OPALCO Members as Director for District 4 (Shaw et al). Currently I am Board Vice President and represent OPALCO on the Statewide Association, dealing with the State Legislature on electric power.



I qualified as an Aeronautical Engineer, achieved a PhD in Aeroacoustics working on the Concorde Airplane, and was employed by Rolls Royce and Boeing as a jet engine specialist. In mid-career I pivoted to Renewable Energy where I invented the first Wood Pellet Stove, a carbon-neutral home heating appliance, and built a large manufacturing plant for pellet stoves in Burlington, WA. I was credited with starting the modern Biomass Energy Era by Drax Power (UK) who have converted their fleet of coal fired power stations entirely to wood pellets to minimize their carbon emissions.

OPALCO is a complex engineering organization that operates in a highly regulated environment. Recent legislation requires all Electric Utilities in Washington to sell only carbon free electricity by 2045 or face financial penalties. This will create a scarcity of reliable and affordable power in Washington at a time when electricity demand is expected to increase significantly to support electric transportation (including ferries), space heating, and new data centers. OPALCO purchases electricity exclusively from Bonneville Power Administration with a maximum annual allocation which we are assured will not increase under the next 25-year contract starting in 2028. Under this scenario OPALCO will be forced to purchase any additional power on the open market at a much higher cost, or generate its own carbon-free power, possibly from tidal energy with its own technical, permitting, and financial risks.

To meet this challenge, the Board must be skilled in handling these risks and making decisions that will ensure the continued stability of OPALCO. I offer my proven experience as a director for a further term.

OPALCO ANNUAL MEETING



APRIL 25
3-6 PM
San Juan County
Fairgrounds



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 25, 2025, 3-6 pm



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEMBER FESTIVAL

It's that time of the year again where we celebrate local power and co-op members! We are going to have prizes, SWAG, energy tips, bucket trucks, food, electric vehicles, kids activities, and lots more!

April 25th: 3-6 pm

San Juan County Fairground

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

Shuttle from ferry landing to fairgrounds will be available for inter-island ferry commuters



OPALCO

Co-op Run. Community Powered.