



News from the *Salish Current*, Nov. 3, 2020:

Dear Reader: Thank you for reading *Salish Current's* newsletter. As we move past election day, we'd like you to help us grow in providing independent, local news to readers in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties. During the next two months, [your donation to Salish Current](#) will be matched by the national NewsMatch giving campaign and applied directly to paying our freelance news reporters. We are a nonprofit supported by readers, local donors, sponsors and partners, and foundations. If you believe in news — on government, health, education, business, environment and culture: the kind of news that is vital to the well-being of a healthy community — please [donate](#) and help us bring that news to you. Thank you — Amy Nelson, publisher, and Mike Sato, managing editor.

Unofficial election results Nov. 3, 2020, as of 10 p.m.

Congress

U.S. Representative Congressional District 1:
Suzan DelBene 60.6% Jeffrey Beeler, Sr. 39.3%
U.S. Representative Congressional District 2:
Rick Larsen 65.44% Timothy Hazelo 34.35%

42nd Legislative District

State Representative Pos. 1:
Luanne Van Werven 48.48% Alicia Rule 51.44%
State Representative Pos. 2:
Jennifer Sefzik 47.85% Sharon Shewmake 52.06%

40th Legislative District

State Senator:
Liz Lovelett 74.21% Charles Carrell 25.74%
State Representative Pos. 1:
Debra Lekanoff 96.71% (unopposed)

State Representative Pos. 2:
Alex Ramel 73.05% Russ Dzialo 26.81%

San Juan County

Residency District 1 :
Christine Minney 51.22% Ryan Palmateer 48.54%

Residency District 2:
Rick Hughes 46.78% Cindy Wolf 52.94%

Skagit County

Commissioner District 1:
Mark Lundsten 53.30% Ron Wessen 46.70%
Commissioner District 2:
Peter Browning 52.80% Mary Hudson 47.20%

PUD Commissioner District 1:
Kenneth Goodwin 39.15% Andrew Miller 60.85%

Superior Court Position 3:
Tom Seguire 46.05% Elizabeth Yost Neidzowski 53.95%

Whatcom County

PUD Commissioner District 1:
Jeffrey McClure 41.01% Christine Grant 58.72%

Superior Court Position 2:
Evan Jones 50.53% James Erb 49.27%

Superior Court Position 4:
David Freeman 78.63% Jim Nelson 21.16%

Results of the next vote count will be announced Nov. 4, 2020, 5 p.m.

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[Laws banning private armies go unenforced in Washington](#)



A photo posted earlier this year on Facebook identifies the group as members of Three Percent of Washington posing with an Olympia police officer. Some characterize the organization as paramilitary and question the legality of such groups, while its founder sees the registered nonprofit organization as a service group.

By *Katie Hayes* / [InvestigateWest](#) — When Olympia Police Officer Tiffany Coates' cruiser rolled into a gun shop parking lot, she knew armed men were waiting for her. She wasn't concerned. Vigilantes with the group Three

Percent of Washington carrying AR-15 rifles waved warmly as Coates arrived. A few minutes later Coates was smiling for a camera, flanked by nine paramilitaries. ([Read more here.](#))

*

[Religious freedom in pandemic times / Community Voices](#)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress.

A “principled pluralism” is necessary for a civil discussion of rights such as those set out in the First Amendment, asserts a Community Voices commentator.

By Ron Polinder — Matt Benoit deserves commendation for a thoughtful and respectful article ([“Reporter’s notebook: pursuing the story of the ‘Freedom to Worship Protest’”](#) Salish Current, Oct. 23, 2020) about his experience with the Three Percent of Washington “freedom to worship” group, and his willingness to explore what religious freedom may entail. ([Read more here.](#))

*Salish Current affirms its commitment to work for truth, justice, equality and healing for all people.
#SayTheirNames #BlackLivesMatter #NoJusticeNoPeace*

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News from around the region:

Health & Safety

- Over the weekend B.C.'s COVID-19 new cases rose at an unprecedented rate to 1,120 cases. ([CBC](#)) Canada's Ambassador to the U.S. says the facts on the ground right now argue for maintaining the border closure measures as they are. ([CTV](#))

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Salish Current is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, online local news organization serving Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit Counties. Salish Current exists to protect and improve democratic governance by reporting and curating local news with independence and strict journalistic integrity.

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