



General Meeting
County Budget
 Nov. 8, 11:30 AM
 2404 N. Howard



ELECTED OFFICIALS LUNCHEON
 Noon
 November 30
 Spokane Club

VOTER

Spokane County General Budget

COMPILED BY PAM BEHRING

The 2016 budget for Spokane County may not be your favorite reading topic but if you look at the current general budget, you might find the variety of County institutions and how they are funded interesting. It is not easy to remember all the county does which includes collecting property taxes, running a ballpark, improving rail access to the West Plains and providing public safety. Below is the 2016 General Fund Budget for Spokane County. It includes general government and public safety.

	Annual Revenue	Annual Revenue Continuing Appropriations	Annual Expenditure	Annual Expenditure Continuing Appropriations
General Government				
Administrative Services	10,829,098	97,055	3,846,163	97,055
Property Tax	48,661,274	-	-	-
Property Tax Shift	6,100,000	-	-	-
Sales Tax	40,858,192	-	-	-
Cost Allocation	9,667,535	-	-	-
Assessor	15,150	-	3,408,368	-
Auditor	4,556,681	61,629	4,899,177	61,629
Bailiwick	95,145	-	95,145	-
Board of Equalization	-	-	241,913	-
Budget Office	-	-	685,077	-
Central Services	-	-	573,754	-
Chief Operating Officer	-	-	282,441	-
Commissioners	500	-	921,857	-
Coop Extension	180,298	-	550,862	-
Data Processing	-	-	5,115,121	-
Debt Service	2,593,778	-	2,702,419	-
Facilities	169,181	-	5,149,161	-
Galger Sour	-	-	20,000	-
Health District	-	-	2,403,801	-
Hearing Examiner	12,000	-	201,667	-
Human Resources	350,185	-	1,071,278	-
Liability Insurance	-	-	1,240,930	-
Long Range Planning	-	-	1,051,708	-
Outside Agencies	-	-	619,852	-
Parks	642,525	1,459	2,184,971	1,459
Purchasing	375,660	-	1,060,452	-
Resource Conservation	-	-	93,183	-
State Examiners	-	-	511,000	-
Treasurer	735,000	-	2,290,783	-
General Government	125,635,182	160,143	41,029,063	160,143

	Annual Revenue	Annual Revenue Continuing Appropriations	Annual Expenditure	Annual Expenditure Continuing Appropriations
Public Safety				
Civil Service	-	-	195,432	-
Clerk	1,824,870	66,090	2,775,374	66,090
Communications	461,504	-	602,685	-
Confinement	-	-	30,548,795	-
Counsel For Defense	-	-	1,115,541	-
District Court	4,039,338	12,942	4,862,688	12,942
Emergency Mgmt	290,000	1,099,118	470,292	1,099,118
Juvenile	184,449	2,478,276	6,208,994	2,478,276
Martin Hall	-	-	282,875	-
Medical Examiner	410,000	-	1,566,639	-
Pre-Trial Services	109,257	-	664,606	-
Probation	-	-	345,000	-
Prosecutor	3,400,566	267,161	12,530,747	267,161
Public Defender	1,059,000	123,922	8,351,488	123,922
SCOPE	-	-	280,469	-
SCRAPS	-	-	445,332	-
Security	2,250	-	985,368	-
Sheriff	20,038,593	761,038	36,659,867	761,038
Superior Court	925,750	698,023	6,581,885	698,023
Public Safety	32,739,577	5,506,570	115,474,091	5,506,570
Operating Budget	158,579,150	5,666,713	158,500,156	5,666,713
Fund Balance	17,622,827	-	19,498,800	-
Total General Fund	176,201,977	5,666,713	178,000,956	5,666,713

The full budget is available at spokanecounty.org and is easy to download.

On November 8, at the General Meeting, we will have guests Bob Wrigley and Gerry Gemmill from Spokane County to talk about the good, bad and other of the county budget. Please join us at 11:30. We plan a pot-luck lunch, i.e. bring something to share.

The months of September and October provided opportunities for ten League members to register new voters. September 16th was Constitution Day and League members registered one third of the seventy-six new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony held at Center Point. The last week of September was very busy. Spokane Falls Community College student government groups asked us to register voters on campus during a student government awareness event on September 26th. The next day, September 27th, National Voter Registration Day, the League partnered with the Spokane Library personnel, registering voters at the downtown library and Lewis and Clark High School. Wednesday, September 28th, we registered voters at the Washington State Supreme Court Forum sponsored by the League at Gonzaga University Law School. Breathing a sigh of relief and catching our breathe, we again registered voters at the Naturalization Ceremony on October 18th.

Thanks to the efforts of many tireless League members, close to a hundred new voters became eligible to vote in the General Election in November.

Bev Austin, Voter Service

League of Women Voters/Spokane Area
 invites you to our
Holiday Luncheon for Elected Officials

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
11:30 am. to 1:00 pm.

Spokane Club, Georgian Room
1002 West Riverside Avenue

RSVP by Wednesday, November 23rd
 to Molly Hannan (533-0501 or email molhann@gmail.com)

Once again our League will invite sitting, re-elected and newly elected local city, county and state officials to join us for our holiday buffet luncheon at The Spokane Club. In the past this luncheon has been a membership perk but we have charged a members' guest fee of \$30 to help cover our costs. The luncheon is not a fund raiser but an opportunity for our members to visit informally with local leaders and to invite friends and associates to join us. Avista Corporation has stepped forward to help with underwriting some of the luncheon costs.

I encourage all our members to join us this year and for each of you to invite others who are interested in LWVSA issues to come as guests. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call me.
 Molly Hannan 533-0501

Calendar		
November	8	General Mtg. 11:30 AM @ office. Bob Wrigley & Gerry Gemmill, speakers. Topic: County General Budget. Pot-Luck lunch.
	23	Board Mtg. 9 AM @ the office. (This is the day before Thanksgiving.)
	30	Elected Officials Luncheon, Noon @ the Spokane Club.
December	25	Merry Christmas!
January		

Book review from Susan Gray

HILLBILLY ELEGY, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

by J.D. Vance

How to explain all the Donald Trump supporters among the “white working-class” demographic is a puzzle to many. Who are these people and why are they so devoted to a man who is anathema to his detractors? This book, written by someone who grew up in a southern Ohio steel town where Trump supporters make up almost 100% of the population, offers a plausible explanation beyond the economic (factory-jobs-lost-to-globalization) or the psychological (racist/stupid) that are most often offered by those who have had little direct personal exposure to the people in those regions that are full of Trump signs.

J D Vance, a 31-year old Yale Law graduate, a principal at a Silicon Valley investment firm and self-described Republican, was born into that world to a single mother who struggled with drug addiction his whole life. He acknowledges he’s a bit young to be writing a “memoir”. But more than a gripping modern-day Horatio Alger story, it’s a thoughtful examination of a large segment of that “white working class,” those Appalachian hillbillies descended from the 18th Century Scots-Irish immigrants settling in the vast region surrounding the Appalachian Mountains from Alabama and Georgia in the south up through Kentucky in the north, bringing with them distinctive cultural attributes that remain largely unchanged to this day, both good (a sense of honor, intense loyalty and fierce dedication to family and country) and bad (a bizarre sexism, distrust of outsiders or people different from themselves, quick and often violent response to perceived threats). Vance’s Appalachian ancestors settled in the coal region of Eastern Kentucky, as “day laborers in the Southern slave economy, sharecroppers after that, coal miners after that.” Life was hard and poverty was common.

In the economic boom following World War II, the mills and factories of the Industrial Midwest looking for workers heavily recruited significant numbers of ambitious young people from the Appalachian region offering good paying jobs with good benefits. Significant numbers (up to 30% of some Kentucky counties), including Vance’s grandparents, seized this opportunity and for them, the American Dream was alive and well. His grandfather left an impoverished small town in Eastern Kentucky to spend the rest of his life in Middletown, a prosperous mill town in southwestern Ohio. He took pride in his 40 years in the steel mill.

But globalization affected Middletown as it did the rest of the Industrial Midwest. In 1989, a merger between the local steel mill and the Japanese company Kawasaki enabled the mill to survive for a few years, but far fewer employees were needed, marking a downward spiral for the town. As jobs fled Middletown, people who could afford to leave did so. But others whose houses were underwater found themselves stuck in declining neighborhoods, the lost jobs costing them their economic security and a stable home and family life. The resulting stress from not having enough money, the social isolation and pessimism about the future got passed down to their children, high rates of divorce, and prescription drug addiction reaching epidemic proportions. If only they had better access to jobs, goes the argument, the other parts of their lives would improve as well.

Though when he was younger he wanted to believe this, Vance now sees a more fundamental problem—“a culture that increasingly encourages social decay instead of counteracting it...”; too many men with children to support who decline to work in the good jobs that can still be found around Middletown; people who can’t admit that their drug addiction, divorces and other bad life choices harm not only themselves but also their children; people who feel that they have little control over their life and are willing to blame everyone but themselves; social decay not caused by “the government” or corporations or globalization but as a consequence of the choices people made in response to their changing circumstances. Though Vance believes that public policy solutions can help ease people’s short-term suffering, permanent improvement for those communities will happen only when people stop looking for someone to blame and ask themselves what they can do to make things better where they live, how they can give their children emotional and spiritual support and a sense that they can control their own destiny, encouraging them to engage with the world.

As chronicled in this book, Vance’s improbable journey didn’t lead to his accomplishing something extraordinary but allowed him to achieving something quite ordinary, a nice job, a happy marriage, a comfortable home, things that most kids who grew up like he did could never expect to have. He shines a light on a large, cohesive swath of society that many of us never thought much about. That may change after this election.

CANDIDATE FORUM @ NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL

The Newport School District and *The League of Women Voters/Spokane* co-sponsored a Candidate Forum in Newport High School held October 17, 2016. Students and the public submitted questions that were collected by *The Miner Newspapers*, also a co-sponsor.

Thank you, [Jean Wells](#) for a job well done!



October General Meeting – ballot initiatives

Though not as well-attended as some, our October general meeting had some great speakers and interesting discussion between the speakers and the audience.

The meeting featured speakers who favored the three State ballot initiatives supported by LWVWA—Jesse Doran, Field Organizer for Raise Up Washington, on behalf of I-1433 the initiative proposing to increase the state minimum wage; Council President Ben Stuckart speaking on behalf of I-1464; and a speaker advocating the passage of I-1491 which limits the possession of firearms by people deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others. Though attempts to locate speakers representing opposition to these initiatives were unsuccessful, the arguments opposing the initiatives were read as well. Linda Milsow

\$75 Individual Dues: Local \$24 - State \$19 - Nat'l \$32
\$105 Household; \$110 Sustaining Member; \$150 Benefactor

Yes, I want to join/renew membership in LWV/ Spokane Area

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: H _____ W _____

Fax: _____ e-mail _____

I would like to receive the newsletter by ___ mail or ___ email (please check one)

Please indicate amount enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205

Pay by Credit Card through Pay Pal at www.lwvspokane.org/join.html

Thank you, AVISTA, for printing the LWV Spokane “TRY’s” and for supporting our Elected Officials Luncheon.

LWV Spokane Board of Directors:

Pres., Pam Behring; Vice-Pres., Linda Milsow; Sec., Sally Phillips; Treas., Jan Carrington; MLD Director, Lin McGinn; WEB page, Mary Hughes; Voter Service, Bev Austin; Forums, Susan Gray.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SPOKANE AREA
2404 N. HOWARD
SPOKANE, WA 99205
(509) 326-8026
WWW.LWVSPOKANE.ORG**

TO:

“The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.”

