

Outline for Spokane LWV Presentation to High School Students—10-20 minutes total

November 27-December 17, 2018

Beth Pellicciotti

Topic	Detail, sources
History of League of Women Voters	Formation of League https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history Mission of LWV—non-partisan
History of voting (optional)	<p><i>Voter Franchise Timeline (I used two of these dates for my own personal story)</i></p> <p>1776: White, 21, property owning, literate men 1885: White, 21, men 1870: White & black men, BUT Jim Crow Laws constitutional 1910: In Washington, women added 1920: Women, throughout US 1960's: Native Americans in all states 1965: All citizens in reality (verified by Justice Department) 1971: All citizens 18 or over</p> <p><i>Civics is Fundamental</i>, Katherine Murphy. League of Women Voters. Clark County. WA. https://lwvclarkcounty.org/civics-is-fundamental/</p>
Why voting is important	<p>Decisions made at different levels of governments Decisions made that might affect high school students now and in the future.</p> <p>Each vote counts. I gave a story about how just one vote can decide an election.</p>
Why voting is important to me	<p>My own personal story Why do I vote? And why is the League work important to me?</p>
The Washington State voting system Voting while away at college	<p>Explanation of the mail-in ballot system Easy to change your address to get your ballot mailed to you in college (www.myvote.wa.gov)</p>
How to get information on candidates	<p>Washington State has information on local, state and national candidates through websites (for example: www.myvote.gov)</p>
Introduce the next step – the voter registration process	

Script for Spokane LWV High School Presentations
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The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage and support voting as both a right and a privilege for American citizens. The organization is nonpartisan, in that it does not support any one party or one candidate, and is almost 100 years old. It was formed a few months before women nationally received the right to vote, to help “women carry out their new responsibilities as voters” <https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history>

However, during the last 100 years, the League has worked on ensuring all voters’ rights and providing candidate information to all. In the Spokane chapter, several members attend naturalization ceremonies to register newbie citizens; one of our members does special outreach to the homeless. And each of us has a story to tell why we think voting is so important to us.

Here is my story. The right to vote is important to me, because in my own family we have members who were disenfranchised because of gender and because of age. My mother-in-law, who is still with us, was born in 1917, years before women had the right to vote. When I was a senior in high school, we had a single polarizing issue – support for or against the Vietnam War—and yet when the presidential election occurred the fall I started college, I could not vote. I was 18, and the voting age then was 21. In 1971, that law changed.

By voting, you are choosing those who makes the rules that affect you—
You vote for:

school board members who approve budgets for athletics, academics, school schedules;

state legislators who fund public schools, public colleges and universities, decide on state financial aid for students and set minimum wage;

federal legislators who decide on health care, federal financial aid to students;

Today you will choose to register to vote. In our state, we vote by mail, so once you register, you will be mailed a ballot before the next election. Right now you will be asked for your current address.

If you are away from home next fall in college, you can update your voter registration with your college address, and your ballot will be mailed to you there (www.myvote.wa.gov)

If you want to influence or change the rules in our society, you vote. There is a great statement – If not me, who; if not now, when?

One last story...A few months ago, an election and the control of the state House of Delegates in Virginia teetered on a one vote difference between candidates. Then that one vote was found making that race a tie. So close, that in the end the decision on who won was left to a lottery type drawing. Are you that one vote?

Summary of Training – the Washington State Voter Registration Form

1. Use blue or black pen to complete form.
2. Print clearly.
3. You will be asked to sign the form at the end.

If you have any questions on any parts of the form where you may need to talk with your family, please take this form home, and you can then mail it in.

Personal Information	<p>Full Name Date of Birth – use mm/dd/yyyy</p> <p>Residential Address—your ballot will be mailed to this address</p> <p>Mailing address—may not apply to most of you right now. This option is for those whose mailing address is different from residence. If you are away from home next fall in college, you can update your voter registration with your college address, and your ballot will be mailed to you there. www.myvote.wa.gov</p> <p>Phone number and e-mail address are optional</p>
Qualifications	<p>I am a citizen I will be 18 by the next election. “Next election” is the date of the primary election (August 7) or the general election (November 6)</p> <p>If no to either one of these questions, do not fill out the rest of the form.</p>
Military	See questions
Identification	<p>Write in the Washington State Driver’s License number or WA State ID. This number is at the top of the driver’s license. Make sure all the letters and numbers completely fill the blanks as shown.</p> <p>OR use last four digits of social security number.</p>
Former registration	This information is used to update your name or address if already registered.
Declaration	This must be signed and dated.
Back of Form	This form can be addressed and mailed (with a stamp) to the Spokane County address shown on the bottom of the back of form.