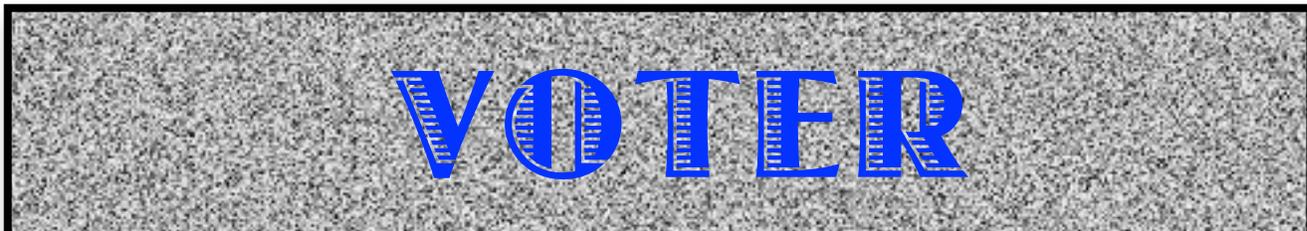




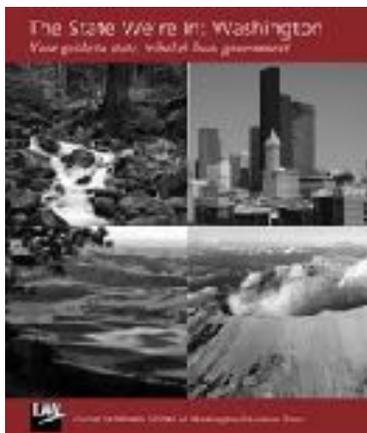
CREATING
A MORE
PERFECT
DEMOCRACY



GENERAL MTG.
CIVICS EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 13 @11:30
2404 N. HOWARD
Downstairs



CIVICS EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON STATE



For a long time the League of Women Voters Washington has promoted the teaching of civics in our schools. Our efforts are gaining momentum but we still have work to do. Please join us for our February 13 meeting when we are pleased to welcome Susie Gerard, Spokane School District Secondary Social Studies Coordinator. She will be speaking on civics education in Spokane Public Schools and Washington State. We will be interested in knowing from her perspective what the League can do to promote and further civics in our schools.

Some background information on civics education in Washington:

2018 State League Issue Paper – CIVIC EDUCATION

Civic Education seems to be the big topic in the Legislature these days. Both parties are anxious to get more students involved in civic life.

The state League has submitted a bill called: Expansion of civics education in public schools. (HB 1896, SB5668) This will help meet the new requirement for students to have 0.5 credit in civics. Over the last few years we have found that due to budget constrains many school districts do not provide training for teachers...to say nothing about having money to buy

Photo in heading is from the Bain Photo Collection at the Library of Congress.

books...which is one reason our textbook and teachers guide are available online—FREE. With money from this bill we want to provide professional development for all social studies teachers in WA. Exceptional teachers will enhance our current Teachers Curriculum Guide by including more learning tools, and using current effective learning guidelines. Then they will use our text book and the new guide to train other teachers. Our goal remains—help all our students understand federal, state, tribal and local governments, and learn to become active citizens within their communities. We are currently updating our textbook to the 8th edition and hope to have copies available by Feb. 2018. If much of the wording is changed we will have new bill numbers. We will advise you if this happens.

Another group, led by the Council on Public Legal Education, introduced Creation of a Civic Learning Public/Private Partnership (SB 5236) that we supported. It did not pass so will be up for consideration again this year. (This year's version can be found at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5236&Year=2017>.)

We are currently meeting legislators to promote our bill and gather support. And, meeting with other education groups such as the principal's association, WEA, to gain their support and endorsement.

Contact Information: Karen Verrill, 360-866-6187 <gokar1@comcast.net>

If you have not seen the League's excellent book Karen Verrill mentioned, you can view **The State We're In: Washington - Your Guide to State, Tribal & Local Government (7th Ed.)** on the League's website at <http://moodle2.ospi.k12.wa.us/course/view.php?id=158>.

More information on the League sponsored HB 1896: A similar bill was proposed last year but it was not adopted. If you are interested in its passage, contact your state representatives and senators. Some of the provisions of the bill are included below. (Totally new sections are labeled as such. New items within a section are underlined. And, of course, removed sections have a line through the words.) It is easy to access the entire bill by going to www.washingtonvotes.org. Then put in the bill number.

Substitute HB 1896 - 2017-18

Expanding civics education in public schools.

Sponsors: **Laurie Dolan** (Former District 81 school teacher, now western WA state rep), **Stonier, Lovick, Springer, Appleton, Bergquist, Manweller, Tarleton, Frame, Goodman, Timm Ormsby** (Spokane County, Legislative District 3 Rep)

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Jan 8

Public hearing in the House Committee on Education at 1:30 PM. (Committee Materials)

By resolution, reintroduced and retained in present status.

Jan 11

Executive action taken in the House Committee on Education at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials)

ED - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass. (View 1st Substitute) (Majority Report)

Jan 15

Referred to Appropriations.

Some of the provisions of the substitute bill:

6 NEW SECTION.

Sec. 1.

Line

13 The legislature also recognizes, however, that two
14 factors limit the effectiveness of civics education.
15 First, when the one-half civics credit is embedded in other
16 courses rather than taught in a stand-alone civics course, the
17 required content is easily diluted or ignored altogether. Pressure to
18 emphasize other areas of the curriculum can relegate civics education
19 to a lesser role.
20 Second, professional development opportunities for teachers in
21 civics education are rare. In many districts, due to limited budgets

Page 2

1 and competing demands for funding, opportunities for teachers to
2 deepen instructional and curricular practices in civics do not exist.
3 The legislature, therefore, intends to: Require school districts

4 to make stand-alone civics courses available to all
5 high school
6 students; and support the development of an in-
7 depth and interactive
8 teacher professional development program to
9 improve the ability of
10 teachers throughout the state to provide students
11 with an effective
12 civics education from kindergarten through
13 twelfth grade. This
14 expanded civics education program seeks to
15 ensure that students have
16 basic knowledge about national, state, tribal, and
17 local governments,
18 and that they develop the skills and dispositions
19 needed to become
20 informed and engaged citizens.
21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.093 and 2009 c 223 s 3
are each amended to
read as follows:
(1) If, after July 26, 2009, the state board of
education
increases the number of course credits in social
studies that are
required for high school graduation under RCW

Calendar

February 13: Civics Education, 11:30am,
2404 N. Howard
21: Board Mtg, 10am.

March 13: Criminal Justice Reform/
Ombudsman Issue, 11:30am,
2404 N. Howard
21: Board Mtg, 10am.

April 10: Water Resources, 11:30am,
2404 N. Howard
18: Board Mtg, 10am.

May: Annual with Speaker

28A.230.090, the board

18 shall also require that at least one-half credit of that requirement

19 be ~~((coursework))~~ a stand-alone course in civics.

20 (2) The content of the civics requirement must include, but not
21 be limited to:

22 (a) Federal, state, tribal, and local government organization and
23 procedures;

24 (b) Rights and responsibilities of citizens addressed in the
25 Washington state and United States Constitutions;

26 (c) Current issues addressed at each level of government; ~~((and))~~

27 (d) Electoral issues, including elections, ballot measures,
28 initiatives, and referenda;

29 (e) The study and completion of the civics component of the
30 federally administered naturalization test required of persons

31 seeking to become naturalized United States citizens. Nothing in this

32 subsection (2)(e) obligates students to obtain a passing score on the

33 civics component of the federally administered naturalization test as
34 requirement for high school graduation; and

35 (f) The importance in a free society of living the basic values
36 and character traits specified in RCW 28A.150.211.

37 (3) Beginning with or before the 2020-21 school year, each school

38 district must offer a one-half credit stand-alone course in civics as

39 an elective course to all high school students in the district.

Page 3

4 **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.4154

5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, an expanded civics education teacher training
8 program is established within the office of the superintendent of
9 public instruction.

10 (2) The program must provide for the selection of a team of
11 qualified social studies teachers, and when appropriate, civics
12 education specialists, from across the state who will:

13 (a) Develop teacher training materials using existing open
14 educational resources (OERs) that include civics information on
15 national, state, tribal, and local government, and the civics
16 component of the federally administered naturalization test required
17 of persons seeking to become naturalized United States citizens;

OSPI Civic Education Initiative:

More information on State requirements for civics education can be found at
OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) Social Studies,

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/civiceducation.aspx>

HB 1896 also says that the curriculum should include the six proven practices for enhancing civic education. A Power Point video with more details about the six proven practices can be found on the OSPI site. These six practices include the following:

1. Classroom instruction on government, history, law, and democracy
2. Discussion of current events and controversial issues
3. Service learning
4. Extracurricular activities

24/7 homeless shelters. The budget has the second highest development revenue allocation ever. As promised, utility rates have stabilized.

The city has been following the practice of “complete streets.” When a street is repaved all the utility projects are included. Streets are being designed for both motorized and non-motorized road users. Handling all work at once saves money in the long run. However, sometimes this policy has resulted in citizen frustration as streets crumble, while 'waiting their turn' for a comprehensive rebuild. The City has decided that if a road is in bad shape and is not scheduled for rebuild within 2 years, a temporary grind/overlay will be undertaken. Spokane has experimented with permeable paving surfaces on S. Havana. It's worked well and they will extend it to other paving projects. They expect this will help with water running through pavement, reducing the amount of runoff that sewers must handle. It will also reduce pavement cracking and potholes.

THANK YOU!

Charles and Ann Rayner Wood bequeathed \$2000 to the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area. They were generous, gracious people in spirit and action.

Funding for arterials comes mostly from state and federal grants. Residential street work is funded entirely at the local level. Current road bonds will be paid off in 2033. If a levy is approved at that time, the money available for road maintenance will double.

The City is focusing lots of effort around the Spokane River. It has set aside 300,000 for trail/river investment. We are close to completion of a loop trail, Monroe to Sandifur Bridge on both sides of the river. There are plans for a zip line ride from downtown, ending in Glover Field. Plans for the Bosch lot northeast of the Monroe St Bridge include a dog park, parking, a small climbing wall. There are plans for a sports-plex downtown, north of the river. It would act as a replacement for Albi Stadium, and provide a new stadium for only \$7 million more than just patching up Albi. This is seen as a big draw for hotels in the area.

Thank you to Lin McGinn for arranging the meeting and seeing to the setup and cleanup. It is a big job and you did it well.

**Thank you, AVISTA, for printing the LWV Spokane “TRY’s” - They Represent You!
The 2018 version will be available soon Please stay tuned!**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: H _____ W _____

Email _____ Fax _____

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

Please make check payable & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205 and indicate amount enclosed: _____

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



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

TO: