

League of Women Voters Spokane (LWVSA) Meeting
Bev Austin, Vicky Dalton, Susie Gerard, Susan Hales, Mike McLaughlin, and Beth Pellicciotti
County Elections Office, Spokane
July 12, 2018

1. **Meeting Purpose:** This meeting with the county auditor, members of the Spokane LWV, and the coordinator for social studies for District 81 was focused on reviewing House Bill 1513. The group also wanted to determine the best way to partner (among the auditor’s office, Spokane LWV, and District 81) on presenting information to high school students on the importance of voting and the process of voter registration in fulfillment of House Bill 1513.

2. **Feedback from High School Teachers** on the recent Spokane LWV presentations on the importance of voting and on voter registration is critical for future work in this area. Susie Gerard reported that e-mails from teachers following the Spokane LWV visit to 41 classrooms were very positive. She will forward more specific feedback.
 - What impressed the students was that “Someone important felt that voting mattered enough that that person came to our class to talk about voting.”
 - Teachers of civics felt that their information on the importance of voting and the history of voting was being reinforced by outside individuals.
 - Teachers appreciated the very practical information that students received. The practical aspect of voting makes is “real” for students (for example, how to change addresses when going to college to vote in home district).
 - Teachers respected the fact that the League presentations were not slanted politically. (Note that “Schools cannot wander into politics.”—Susie Gerard)
 - The social studies department head at the Community School said that many times his students are overlooked when visitors meet with students at other schools, and he really appreciated having his

classes included.

3. **Documentation:** Vicky Dalton emphasized that documenting what is being done in the high schools in terms of voter registration and voter information is very important. She noted that the LWVSA, in working with her office, may be able to influence what metrics are used **beyond** the number of high school students registered to vote. Other metrics might include the number of students hearing presentations on the importance of voting and where to find candidate information and the type and content of hand-out material distributed during these presentations. The school year of 2018-2019 may be considered a pilot year in Spokane and in Spokane County high schools in determining these metrics. These metrics would be reported through the chain of command from principals to superintendents to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

LWVSA has collected this information from May 21 through June 1, 2018:

District 81 high schools visited (**6**)

Classes (**41**)

Number of students who received voter information (**588**)

Number of students who registered to vote (**272**)

Number of League volunteers presenting and registering students to vote (**12**)

Presentation content:

Mission and history of League of Women Voters

History of voting in the United State

Why voting is important

Why voting is important to me

Where to find candidate information

Voting in Washington State – how to change your address

Why one vote matters- recent event in Virginia voting—Are you that one vote?

Hand-outs:

Vote411.org – national League of Women Voters information on voting processes in all states with considerable information on Washington State voting process, voter registration check, and site for updating voter information

Postcard on upcoming primary dates, general election date and referral to My Vote website.

4. **New Hand-out Information:** Vicky Dalton is working with the WA Secretary of State to produce “My Vote” refrigerator magnets, which are simple and instructive on how to check registration status and where the completed ballot is in the tabulation process. This hand-out would complement the other materials handed out by the League.

5. **House Bill 1513:** This bill mandates a one-day, all high school event, through which students would register to vote (the one day is January 16, 2020). The group discussed how having all WA high school students register to vote on one day would be difficult for the high schools. Vicky Dalton noted that one way to implement this bill’s intent is to approach it incrementally, registering high school students to vote and providing voter information to students over many months. This approach would depend on a cumulative collection of data leading up to January 16, 2020. Vicky Dalton said that the target for this work is District 81 high schools and Spokane County high schools (there are 18 districts within the county). <https://www.spokanecounty.org/2490/School-Districts>.

6. **Discussion items and next steps:**
 1. Vicky Dalton will contact the superintendent of each district in Spokane County for the name of the social studies department chair (or other individual in charge of civics education in the high school) for further League contact.
(Vicky Dalton and Michael McLaughlin had to leave at this point).

 2. Susie Gerard will forward feedback from District 81 teachers on the LWVSA project from May-June 2018. She will also invite League members to one of the early meetings of her department leaders. In this meeting, the

members will ask for feedback on what other kinds of information/assistance students may need during members' next visit (the first meeting of this department leaders' group is August 21). From this initial feedback, LWVSA members may be able to develop a survey of teachers which will provide information for preparation for upcoming visits and with some tweaking, could be used post-visit with teachers. Survey results may represent teachers' perceptions of the impact of voter registration and information on students (an initial attempt at data collection).

3. Beth Pellicciotti will follow up with Karen Verrill (head of civics education for the State League) on the three-day training on civics education that WA State will be sponsoring with state League support (House Bill 1896). Beth Pellicciotti has suggested that League members sit in on this training to learn more about civics education and to gain a context for members' presentations on voting.
4. Bev Austin suggested that LWVSA members have a League information table at meetings of civics teachers (these teachers meet twice a year, mid-November and beginning of February). Susie Gerard would be the contact for planning on this.
5. Beth Pellicciotti will connect Susie Gerard to the Spokane LWV member, Sylvia Oliver, who is interested in developing a (Facebook?) depository site for shared lessons for civics teachers. Susie Gerard is also interested in developing a speakers' bureau for District 81 civics teachers.
6. The LWVSA members decided that the best dates for a return visit to District 81 schools would be after Thanksgiving through the first three weeks in December and again during the last two weeks in May. These visit dates would fit with curriculum that is being covered during those times and would reach all seniors.
7. The LWVSA has allocated one teacher textbook and 30 student textbook to District 81 (the WA State League publication, The State We're In). After some discussion, Susie Gerard suggested that she give the books to 12-15 current civics teachers for their review of Washington State history

(students have Washington State history only in 7th grade, but have to pass this unit on state, local and tribal history to graduate from high school). She believes the content of this book will be very helpful to teachers in covering this material for students who still need to pass this unit. Also, she will ask that teachers provide feedback on this textbook.

8. Susie Gerard is being recognized for her support of LWVSA outreach to the high schools at the first LWVSA meeting of 2018-2019 on Tuesday, September 11 (lunch begins at 11:30 am). Her supervisor, Heather Bybee (Director of Secondary Education), will also be invited to this luncheon.

**LWVSA Meeting with Vicky Dalton
County Elections Office, Spokane
June 6, 2018**

Attending: Vicky Dalton, Beth Pellicciotti, Susan Hales, (Bev Austin was not able to attend)

- 7. Review of legislation:** The purpose of this meeting was to review recent Washington State legislation (House Bill 1513, Section 3), which sets up on Temperance Day and Good Citizenship Day (starting January 16, 2020)* as a time of focused voter registration activity in public high schools.
- 8. Recent work in District 81 by LWVSA:** Vicky Dalton noted that the documentation of the recent LWVSA work was very important as legislators sometimes assume that little voter registration is occurring in the high schools. Beth Pellicciotti and Susan Hales shared the LWVSA document showing the number of :

District 81 high schools visited (**6**)
classes (**41**)
students who received voter information (**588**),
students who registered to vote (**272**),
League volunteers delivering voter information presentations and
registering students to vote on May 21 through June 1 of this year (**12**)

- 9. A cumulative approach:** The group discussed the logistics of the one-day approach to voter registration compared to a “peeled-in” approach in which voter information and voter registration is done throughout a semester, culminating in the January 16th activity. Vicky Dalton noted that other groups may be recruited to help with the voter registration effort. She is familiar with the work done by Roz and Norm Luther who recruit retired volunteers to register students in the high schools. She recommended that we attempt to develop a network with documented results.

10.

House Bill 1513, (2017-2018)

* "Sec. 3. RCW [28A.230.150](#) and 1969 ex.s. c 223 s 28A.02.090 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) On January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when January 16th falls on a nonschool day, there shall be observed within each public school "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day". Annually the state superintendent of public instruction shall duly prepare and publish for circulation among the teachers of the state a program for use on such day embodying topics pertinent thereto and may from year to year designate particular laws for special observance.

(2) Each year on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," social studies teachers must, as resources allow, coordinate a voter registration event in each history or social studies class attended by high school seniors. This event is part of the future voter program. Teachers must make voter sign up and registration available to all students.

(3) County auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate elements of the future voter program, and participate in voter registration events for students on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day."

(4) On each temperance and good citizenship day all students who will be eighteen years of age or older by the time of the next general election will be given the opportunity to register to vote online in the classroom. Paper registration must also be made available in the classroom. Students who do not possess a state identicard or driver's license must be provided a paper registration form. The event must include adequate time for students to complete the registration process in class.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the secretary of state, must update and distribute youth voter registration materials annually, by December 1st, for eligible students to register to vote at school. Electronic notification of the availability of the materials must be distributed to high school principals and secondary social studies and history teachers.

(6) The superintendent of public instruction must consult with the secretary of state to provide registration methods that enable the electronic collection of information on the number of students who registered to vote on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," with the goal of achieving at least fifty thousand new voter registrations for seventeen and eighteen year olds annually, beginning in January 2020.

(7) Beginning March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction must report on yearly progress toward the goal established in subsection (5) of this section, including the number of seventeen and eighteen year olds registered to vote by county and recommendations for increasing youth voter registration, to the governor and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW [43.01.036](#).

(8) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Future voter program" refers to the information that may be collected by a number of processes about a future voter. Information that is otherwise disclosable under chapter [29A.08](#) RCW cannot be disclosed on the future voter until the person reaches age eighteen, except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.

(b) "Sign up" means the act of providing information relevant to eventual official voter registration, prior to such time that he or she will be eighteen years of age by the next election.