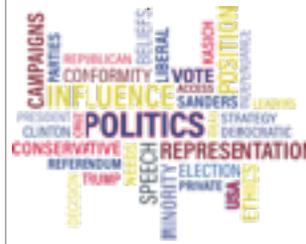




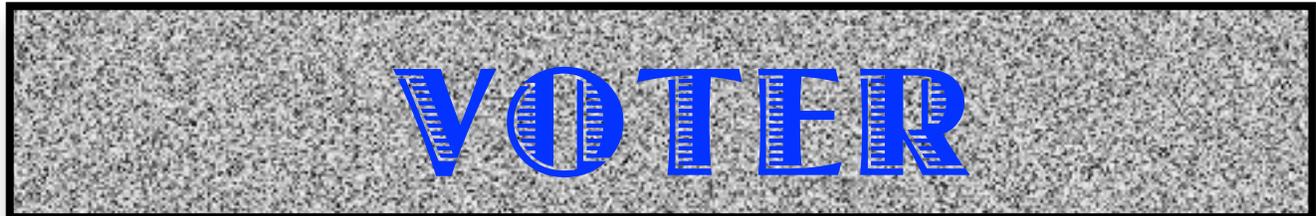
**LEAGUE DRINKS**

@ Anthony's  
 Dec. 6, 5PM  
 see p. 5



**GENERAL MTG.  
 LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

**NOVEMBER 14  
 @11:30  
 2404 N. HOWARD**



**CALL TO ACTION**

From a draft paper to the City Council proposing an ordinance regulating campaign contribution limits:

*Only 29% of donors who contributed over \$500 to candidates in elections between 2001 and 2015 came from Spokane. The Spokane donor who contributed over \$500 were a male majority (60%); overwhelmingly lived in Council District 2, the South Hill in particular (75); and were predominantly white. The most recurring contributions over \$500 in elections between 2001 and 2015 came from political action committees, city contractors, and City of Spokane public sector unions.*

The League is deeply committed to reforming our nation's campaign finance system to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. Our guest at this month's General Meeting is Ben Stuckart who will present his proposal for limits on local campaign spending. We welcome Ben as an introduction to all the work that lies ahead.

This issue as well as Redistricting are on the list for action at all levels of government. Our organization has targeted campaign finance and redistricting as crucial to the well being of this democracy. There are numerous other issues at the local level where LWVSpokane has developed positions; water and air quality, city and county budgets and law enforcement to name a few. Look at your Membership Handbook for a complete list.

And now the task at hand: Action! Please join us Nov. 14 at 11:30 downstairs at St. Andrew's.

*There are three LWVWA Action Workshops for those who might like to attend: November 18 in Olympia, December 2 in Tacoma and January 6 in Seattle. The contact information is in the Nov. TWIL (This Week In League).*

Initiative 1366 was passed by the voters of Washington State in the November election.

I-1366 requires that the sales tax rate would be decreased from 6.5% to 5.5% unless the legislature refers to voters a constitutional amendment requiring two-thirds legislative approval or voter approval to raise taxes, and legislative approval for fee increases. The sales tax decrease would result in a loss of \$1.5 billion in the current budget cycle. I-1366 won by a small margin, 51.5% in favor and 48.5% opposed.

Why does LWVWA believe that the initiative is unconstitutional?

- This initiative is a misuse of the initiative process. The people acting through the initiative have no power directly or by force of threat to invoke the constitutional amendment process. Initiatives were never intended to play a role in amending the state constitution.
- I-1366 exceeded the scope of the initiative process in the way mentioned above but also because it included two distinctly different subjects (tax reduction and constitutional amendment). This should make the initiative legally invalid.
- I-1366 is unconstitutional because it interferes with the power of the 2016 legislature to act. The Initiative requires the legislature to choose between an unsupportable sales tax reduction and the unconstitutional submission of a supermajority amendment that will forever empower a super-minority to exercise control over all future tax decisions. The 2016 legislature is thus not free to exercise its lawmaking power or the power to consider and propose constitutional amendments; rather it is forced to choose between two undesirable options.

## LEAGUE MYTH ABOUT ADVOCACY

*A local League can do voter service or advocacy, but not both.*

The LWV is both an advocacy and a voter service organization, and our strength comes from those twin missions. We believe in informing voters and we believe in advocacy based on well-informed public policy positions. We keep them separate but we do both.

Voter services activities are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information that they can use as a basis for reaching their own decisions. Voter services activities must be separate from advocacy and lobbying. It is also important to distinguish between advocacy and lobbying.

Lobbying includes action that transmits a point of view on a specific piece of legislation to elected

officials or their staffs, as well as action urging the public to contact their legislators about a specific piece of legislation. Lobbying activities must be funded through general operating funds (501(c)4). Advocacy activities, on the other hand, can sometimes be funded with tax-deductible monies. This is the case even when only one side of an issue is presented, as long as no call to action on a particular piece of legislation is issued. Such activities can include: (1) developing public policy briefs that analyze issues and provide detailed information and recommendations for addressing them through specific reforms and (2) providing forums for discussing issues and educating policymakers and the public.

**Thank you, AVISTA, for  
printing the LWV Spokane  
“TRY’s” - They Represent You!**

Questions about membership dues?  
Contact our Treasurer, Jan Carrington at  
509-844-1795 or [jancarrington7@gmail.com](mailto:jancarrington7@gmail.com).  
Website: <http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html>

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**Book Review** by Susan Gray

***ON TYRANNY: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century***

by Timothy Snyder

For those wondering what can be done about the turmoil we face in our current political environment, this fascinating little book (126 pages) by Timothy Snyder, a Yale history professor, gives us his historian’s answer, with “twenty lessons from the twentieth century, adapted to the circumstances of today.”

In the Prologue, Snyder begins by noting the examples of Greece and Rome, the great democracy and republic in the ancient world that the Founding Fathers looked to when establishing our Constitution; both of these ultimately failing as their rulers circumvented the law for their own benefit or as power was usurped by single individuals or groups, an evil that the ancient philosophers called “tyranny”. From Aristotle, the Founding Fathers understood that inequality brings instability and from Plato that demagogues can exploit free speech “to install themselves as tyrants.” To safeguard against such outcomes, the Founding Fathers in their new constitution established a democratic republic founded upon the rule of law that included a system of checks and balances as a mechanism to make the consolidation of power more difficult. The political system they devised has served us well over the last two hundred years, perhaps encouraging a belief that it automatically protects us from tyranny. Snyder calls this a “misguided reflex.” Instead, he says, we must see as the Founding Fathers did, what history tells us about the root causes of tyranny and to consider how to respond effectively.

We don't have to look to the Greeks and Romans; more recent, relevant examples can be found in Europe in the twentieth century in three periods where democracy arose—after the First World War in 1918; after the Second World War in 1945, and after the fall of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989. Many of these democracies failed during periods resembling our own in many important respects (e.g. the perceived inequalities created by expansion of global trade and the rise of right-wing political movements in response). In Snyder's twenty lessons, listed below, he describes how small, gradual, or seemingly inconsequential action or inaction on the part of their citizenry led these new European democracies to be overtaken by fascists, Nazis or communists.

As Snyder notes, "Americans today are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism or communism in the twentieth century. Our one advantage is that we might learn from their experience.

The Epilogue offers Snyder's take on how we got where we are today: two alternate anti-historical positions, the politics of inevitability vs. the politics of eternity. The politics of inevitability, the belief in "the end of history" which arose after the fall of the Soviet Union, posits that henceforth societies can move in only one direction—toward liberal democracy. That assumption that the status quo cannot change has stifled policy debate in the twenty-first century.

In the politics of eternity, described by Snyder as a "longing for past moments that never really happened during epochs that were, in fact, disastrous," as we cling to a mythological past we are prevented from considering future possibilities. In the politics of eternity, the nation is defined by its inherent virtue, not its future potential; politics is all about good vs. evil rather than exploring possible solutions to real-world problems.

At the end of the Epilogue, Snyder offers a glimmer of hope—that young Americans could

"become a historical generation, rejecting the traps of inevitability and eternity that older generations have laid before them." Perhaps his students have encouraged such optimism. Let's hope he's right.

Snyder's twenty lessons:

1. Do not obey in advance.
2. Defend institutions.
3. Beware the one-party state.
4. Take responsibility for the face of the world.
5. Remember professional ethics.
6. Be wary of paramilitaries.
7. Be reflective if you must be armed.
8. Stand out.
9. Be kind to our language.
10. Believe in truth.
11. Investigate.
12. Make eye contact and small talk.
13. Practice corporeal politics.
14. Establish a private life.
15. Contribute to good causes.
16. Learn from peers in other countries.
17. Listen for dangerous words.
18. Be calm when the unthinkable arrives.
19. Be a patriot.
20. Be as courageous as you can.

**Dues** are based on membership categories as follows:

- \$75 Individual
- \$105 Household
- \$110 Sustaining
- \$150 Benefactor
- \$37.50 Student

\$35 Scholarship  
 Call Jan Carrington  
 at 509 844-1795  
 for an application.

**Dues must be received by  
 Nov. 15 for 2017-18.**

**Calendar**

**November 14:** *What's coming up in the legislature?*  
 11:30 AM. Snacks provided.

**December 6:** League Drinks, 5PM @ .Anthony's. A room has been reserved.

**January:** City Budget

**February 13:** Civics Education

**March:** Criminal Justice Reform/Ombudsman Issue

**April:** Water Resources

**May:** Annual

Would you be interested in working on any of the topics for our General Meetings this year? If so, please call Pam Behring at 509-534-2223.

**Note: The Elected Officials Luncheon will not be held this year. Instead, we will have League Drinks at Anthony's on Dec. 6. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided. There is valet parking.**

**This Was an Awesome journey!** Friday - Sunday, September 8-10 - Joint LWV Washington and Oregon Membership/Leadership Development training in Portland. I traveled to Portland on September 1, with Ann Murphy, and Lunell Haught, for a Membership and Leadership (MLD) training with the combined Washington and Oregon Leagues about 48 people. We had four guest speakers from National League of Women Voters. I was totally energized and motivated with new energy to be in League.



**“CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY”**

Democracy does not depend on a few persons doing great things, it depends on many persons doing small things faithfully. “

Maude Wood Park, National President  
 LWV 1924

*A pic of all of us at the MLD training.*

Pam Behring, President/Voter Editor; Jan Carrington, Treasurer; Sally Phillips, Secretary; Mary Hughes, Web page, Lin McGinn, Membership and Bev Austin, Voter Service

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](http://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](http://WWW.LWVSPOKANE.ORG)

*To:*