



Many Maps One Voice

The Women's Club

October 8, 5PM

see pg.3



GENERAL MTG.

"REDISTRICTING"

OCTOBER 10, 5:30PM

Downtown Library,

Rm1B

VOTER

Redistricting or Gerrymandering

The Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments the week of October 2 in *Gill v. Whitford* calling for an end to partisan gerrymandering. The case involves Wisconsin, a state where Republicans are accused of giving themselves an unfair advantage when they drew district maps after the 2010 US Census. The court is being asked to decide whether and when it is possible to bring a claim that redistricting to the advantage of one political party is unconstitutional. In the 2012 election, Republican candidates in Wisconsin received less than 49 percent of the statewide vote and yet won seats in more than 60 percent of the state's 99 seats. In 2014, 52 percent of the vote yielded more than 63 percent of seats for Republicans. Justice Kennedy's vote is considered crucial in this case due to a prior case, *Veith v Jubelirer* (2004), where he wrote a concurring opinion indicating he believed partisan gerrymandering could be unconstitutional if the court could agree on a workable standard. Challengers to Wisconsin's redistricting plan are attempting to provide such a standard.

The issue can be illustrated by looking at what is called a "wasted vote," or any vote that does not help to elect a candidate. The narrower meaning includes only those votes which are for a losing candidate or party. A broader definition includes surplus votes for winning candidates who would have won anyway without the wasted vote.

Wasted votes are the basis of the *efficiency gap* measure of gerrymandering, where voters are grouped into electoral districts in such a way as to increase the wasted votes of one political faction and decrease the wasted votes of the other.

Efficiency Gap (from wikipedia)

Wasted votes are the basis for computing the *efficiency gap*, a measure devised by University of Chicago law professor Nicholas Stephanopoulos and political scientist Eric McGhee in 2014. This statistic has been used to quantitatively assess the effect of gerrymandering, the assigning of voters to electoral districts in such a way as to increase the number of districts won by one political party at the expense of another. The heart of the computation is to add up, over all electoral districts, the wasted votes of each party's candidates. The efficiency gap is the difference between the two parties' wasted votes,

divided by the total number of votes. If each party wins a number of district elections in rough proportion to that party's electoral popularity, the efficiency gap will be near zero. Stephanopoulos and McGhee argued that in a non-partisan redistricting, the efficiency gap would be zero, with an equal number of wasted votes from either party. If the gap exceeded 7%, then Stephanopoulos and McGhee argued that this could ensure the party with fewer wasted votes would be able to control the state for the duration of the validity of the district map.

Citing in part an efficiency gap of 11.69% to 13% in favor of the Republicans, a U.S. District Court ruling in *Gill v. Whitford* in 2016 ruled against the 2011 drawing of Wisconsin legislative districts. It was the first U.S. Federal court ruling to strike down a redistricting on the grounds of favoring a political party. In the 2012 election for the state legislature, Republican candidates had 48.6% of the two-party votes but won 61% of the 99 districts. The court found that the disparate treatment of Democratic and Republican voters violated the 1st and 14th amendments to the US Constitution. The State challenged the District Court's ruling, and in June 2017, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in this case.

The following example illustrates the efficiency gap calculation. There are two parties, A and B. There are 500 voters divided into 5 districts with 100 voters each. In the recent election, Party A had about 45% of the votes but won 4 of the 5 districts, as follows:

District	A votes	B votes	Winner	A Wasted Votes	B Wasted Votes
1	53	47	A	2	47
2	53	47	A	2	47
3	53	47	A	2	47
4	53	47	A	2	47
5	15	85	B	15	34
total	227	273	4-A, 1-B	23	222

The efficiency gap is the difference in the two party's wasted votes, divided by the total number of votes.

- All votes for a losing candidate are wasted .
- To win a district, 51 votes are needed, so the excess votes for the winner are wasted votes.

$$\text{Efficiency gap} = \frac{222 - 23}{500} = 39.8\% \text{ in favor of Party A.}$$

Party A has less than half the votes, but far more of Party B's votes are wasted.

In early questions by the justices, the court appears evenly divided with Justice Kennedy in the middle. One man's vote will determine the value of each vote cast in every election in this country for the foreseeable future.

Pam Behring

*League members registered voters at five Spokane Library branches on **National Voter Registration Day** this year. This is the second year that the League of Women Voters have partnered with the Spokane Library to participate with groups all over the country, celebrating the right to vote.*

Bev Austin

Calendar

October 8: *Many Maps, One Voice*. The Women's Club, 9th and Lincoln, 5-7PM.

October 10: *Redistricting: Is it a Game?* Room. 1B at the Downtown Library, 5:30PM. Alison McCaffree, guest.

November 14: *What's coming up in the legislature?* 6PM.

December: To be announced.

February 13: Civics Education

March: Criminal Justice Reform/Ombudsman Issue

April: Water Resources

May: Annual

Jane Fellows will perform a dramatic reading, *Many Maps One Voice*, at The Women's Club, 9th Avenue and Lincoln, 5PM, October 8. The play by Anne McNamee Corbett is produced by Alison McCaffree. It is based on the book *Politics of the Possible* by Mary Ellen McCaffree and Anne McNamee Corbett. The actress, Jane Fellows, is the sister of Ann Murphy and daughter of Margaret Fellows Portman.

LWVWA endorses Initiative 940, De-Escalate Washington!

This statewide initiative is seeking to update and improve law enforcement training and community safety. In the words of the campaign, "It-

- Requires training for violence de-escalation, mental health, and first aid.
- Provides that police should render first aid at the scene.
- Applies a good faith standard for use of deadly force and removes the de facto immunity.
- Requires completely independent investigations of use of deadly force when there is injury or death.
- Brings diverse community stakeholders to the table for the development of standards and curriculum.

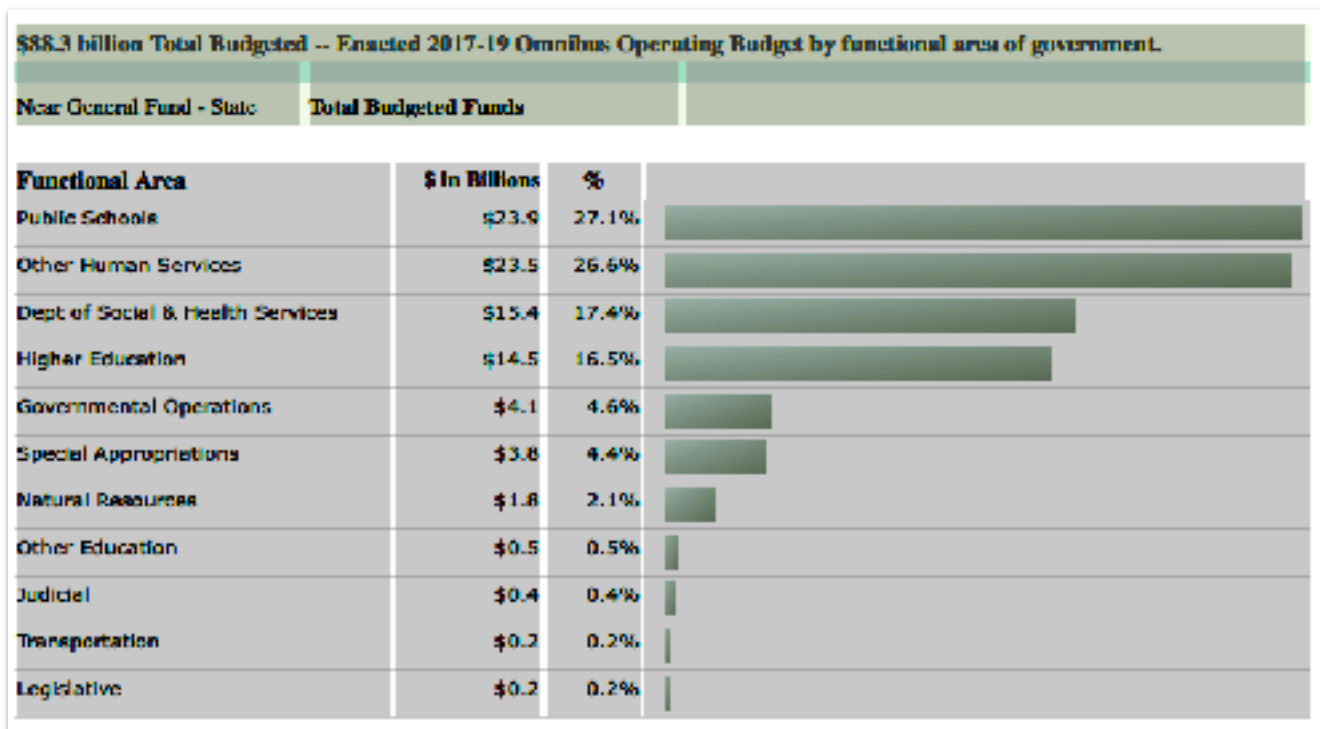
- Includes Tribal governments in investigations where a tribal person was injured or killed.”

The League is excited to endorse this initiative and we need your help to get the required signatures to send this measure to the 2018 Legislature. Once it is in the hands of Legislators, their action can make it law, or their inaction will put it on next year's ballot, or they can write their own law (and both measures will be on the ballot). We are forming a statewide committee to take on various aspects of this work-from signature gathering to writing press releases and everything in between. If you want to be involved with this committee, contact Heather Kelly (hejokelly@gmail.com) and Nikki Hurley (nhurley1009@gmail.com; 410-300-6195) to find the best way to get plugged in. If you want to volunteer directly for the campaign or work only intermittently on this project, you can check out the events calendar on the I-940 website to find an event near you: <http://www.deescalatewa.org/calendar>.

Let's get to work!

LWVWA

This is the current proposed General Fund budget for Washington State. At our General Meeting next month we will discuss the actions in the legislature and our representatives perspectives.



Public Schools: Includes the cost of educating the state's children from grades kindergarten through high school. It also includes the funding for other activities of the public school system. The Superintendent of Public Instruction allocates these funds to 295 school districts, nine educational service districts and other contractors who provide education services.

Other Human Services: Includes human services related agencies such as the Health Care Authority, Department of Corrections, Employment Security Department, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Department of Labor and Industries and others.

Dept. of Social and Health Services: The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) oversees the social services provided to the citizens of Washington State.

Higher Education: Includes the cost of secondary education and workforce training provided through the state's 34 community and technical colleges, four regional universities, and two research universities.

Governmental Operations: Comprises a large number of central service agencies, such as the departments of Enterprise Services, Financial Management, Revenue, etc., as well as the legislative and judicial branches of government.

Special Appropriations: Includes Sundry Claims, Contributions to Retirement Systems (LEOFF, Judicial, and Judges), Bond Retirement and Interest, and specific Special Appropriations to the Governor (which may include funding for a variety of items such as County Public Health Assistance, drought preparedness, firefighting, disaster response, and lawsuit settlements, among others).

Natural Resources: Includes the state's natural resource agencies such as the departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Other Education: Includes the cost of providing specialized education services at the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, arts and cultural services provided through the Arts Commission and the two state Historical Societies, and cost of the state Work Force Training, and Education Coordinating Board.

Judicial: Composed of the state courts: Trial court (Municipal, District and Superior), Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. State courts make rulings on the constitutionality and legality surrounding the implementation of a law, as passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

Transportation: The majority of funding for transportation is in the transportation budget. The operating budget only includes a portion of the total funding for the Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing.

Legislative: Includes the Senate, the House of Representatives, and other Legislative agencies that provide services in support of legislative process, studies, and policy making.

Dues are due!

September is the month in which annual membership dues are paid to our local League.

We hope you will renew your membership and continue to support our work. You may mail your dues to our office using the form at the end of the Voter so that we have your current information or you can pay by credit card using PayPal from our website: <http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html>. If you are unsure if you have already paid your dues for the 2017-2018 year or if you have any other questions about membership dues, please contact our Treasurer Jan Carrington at 509-844-1795 or jancarrington7@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

\$75 Individual Dues

\$105 Household

\$110 Sustaining Member

\$150 Benefactor

\$35 Scholarship (call for application)

\$35 Student

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

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



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TO: