Presentation to Spokane High Schools
November and December 2018

Beth Pellicciotti

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE SPOKANE AREA
Overview

• League of Women Voters
• History of voting in America
• Why voting is important – at all levels
• Why voting is important to me
• MyVote—Checking your voting status
  —More information on candidates
• Are you the ONE vote?
League of Women Voters

Mission:
Empowering Voters
Defending
Democracy
non-partisan

History:
Formed in 1920
6 months before women had right to vote

League of Women Voters’ History
https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history
The push for women’s right to vote began much earlier than 1920…

In a state named after a location in England

In a town named after a Native American tribe.
In 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York, 300 women gathered.

The leaders called the convention having been denied delegate roles at an anti-slavery meeting because of their gender.

For the next 72 years, women and men pushed for women’s right to vote.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment was passed.
History of Voting in America

1776: Voting is controlled by individual state legislatures. Only white men age 21 and older who own land can vote.

1870: The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution eliminates racial barriers to voting; however, many states continue practicing voter discrimination. Poll taxes, literacy tests, fraud, and intimidation still prevent many Native Americans from voting. Native Americans are still denied the right to vote.

1920: The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, giving women the right to vote nationwide.

1924: The Indian Citizenship Act grants Native Americans citizenship and voting rights.

1868: The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants full citizenship rights, including voting rights, to all men born or naturalized in the United States.

1910: Washington voters amend the State Constitution, allowing women to vote and run for office.

1912: Washington voters amend the State Constitution, giving citizens the power to propose initiatives and referenda; the first statewide initiative in 1914 bans alcohol sales.

1923: Washington State voters pass Initiative 40, repealing the poll tax. Poll taxes are used in many states as a way to discriminate against certain voters.
The federal Civil Rights Act is passed to ensure that all men and women age 21 and older, regardless of race, religion, or education, have the right to vote.

The 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, eliminating poll taxes nationwide.

1965

The federal Voting Rights Act suspends literacy tests. Registration and voting rights are now federally enforced.

2000

The U.S. Supreme Court decides the Presidential Election after dubious ballot counting practices call into question Florida’s electoral votes. The incident sparks national outcry and a wave of election reforms.

The U.S. Census reveals that Washington’s non-English speaking population has grown large enough that some counties must translate voting materials in compliance with the 1975 Voting Rights Act.
1971  The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution lowers the voting age to 18.

1984  The federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires polling places to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Today  About 4 million people are registered to vote in Washington, roughly 68 percent of those eligible.

1975  The federal Voting Rights Act is renewed, permanently banning literacy tests nationwide. Section 203 is added, requiring translated voting materials in areas with large numbers of citizens with limited English skills.

2008  After a lengthy U.S. Supreme Court battle, Washington enacts the “Top 2 Primary” that allows voters to choose any candidate regardless of party preference.

2009  Washington becomes the second state in the U.S. (after Oregon) to vote entirely by mail rather than in person at the polls.
Why voting is important

You vote for school board members to ...

budget for sports and extracurricular activities.
Why voting is important...

You vote for state legislators to...

fund public education

set sales tax, gas tax
Why voting is important

You vote for Congress and the Senate who pass legislation on

- federal financial aid
- healthcare
Why voting is important to me

Two members of my family have been disenfranchised during the past 100 years.

My mother-in-law, who was born in 1917, before women had the right to vote.
Why voting is important to me

I was a high school senior in 1968, turning 18, and not able to vote.
Voting in Washington State after you have registered...

Voting by Mail

You will receive a ballot before next election for which you are eligible to vote...

The primary is the first Tuesday in August.

The general election is the first Tuesday in November.
Voting in Washington State

• Check out this website:

• [www.myvote.wa.gov](http://www.myvote.wa.gov)
Voting in Washington State

please update your personal information

- **current residential address**: 8910 N Rosebury Ln, Spokane, WA 99208
- **current mailing address**: same as residential address
- **current phone**: 
- **current email**: helpful if we need to contact you

Update your mailing address, and your ballot will be mailed there.
Voting in Washington State

Access...
Information on you and on candidates

- Voter Registration Details
- Voting History
- My Elected Officials
- Voters’ Guide
- Drop Box & Voting Center Locations
- Ballot Status

[www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote]
Are you the ONE vote?

Can only ONE vote make a difference?

Ask the citizens of Virginia...

A ONE vote margin to determine control of House of Delegates became a tie, when ONE vote was found.

A drawing determined election and the control of House.

Republican wins tied Virginia House race after random drawing


Virginia State Board of Elections chairman, James Alcorn, holds up the name of David Yancey, the winner of a drawing to determine the winner of a tied election for the 94th district House of Delegates seat at the Capitol in Richmond, Virginia on Jan. 4, 2018. Steve Helber / AP NBC News. By Alex Seitz-Wald. 01/04/18.
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