



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WASHINGTON

Empowering all Washingtonians to engage in a more responsible and responsive democracy

2018 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 constraints many school districts do not provide training for teachers...to say nothing about having money to buy 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.

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.

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