

Session Wrap-Up: Local News and Democracy

Issue Chair: Dee Anne Finken

Contact: dfinken@lwvwa.org

March 13, 2024

Bill Updates

*Bills in **green** were supported. Bills in **red** were opposed by the League. Bills in **black** the League was watching.*

These bills did not move forward this session:

SB 5626 Expanding and Enhancing Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship in K-12: The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (the OSPI) has begun convening in-person focus groups and creating networking opportunities through the state's Educational Service Districts to review updated learning standards. These updates were prompted by a number of groups and individuals, including SB 5626 sponsor Sen. Marko Liias, who sought learning standards that will more fully address media literacy and digital citizenship education.

Public comment periods on the updates begin in August, followed by professional development training set to begin in January 2025.

An OPSI official said teachers will be expected to begin teaching under the new standards in mid-2026.

SB 5102 Concerning School Library and Technology Programs: Sen. Wellman's bill, which would have required each district to adopt a policy requiring a teacher-librarian to provide media literacy and digital citizenship education, failed to advance by the Feb. 13 cut-off and so it did not proceed this year. A new version may be introduced next year.

How You Can Be Involved

Contact **Dee Anne Finken** for further information about the LWVWA's Local News and Democracy position and work the committee is planning related to additional future legislation. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month.