



THE STATE WE'RE IN: WASHINGTON
Your guide to state, tribal and local government
A Civic Education Project

The vitality of our democracy depends on active and engaged citizens. Energizing today's students through knowledge helps create tomorrow's concerned and involved citizens.

In 2003 the League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund launched a major Civic Education Project to show students how they can participate in making and keeping government effective. These new learning materials build a foundation for understanding our government and how to be an active participant. We printed the 5th edition in 2004. Due to high demand we produced the updated 6th edition and revised teachers Curriculum Guide in 2008.

The 7th edition is now online, and it includes a new chapter: *What's Next for Washington?* which is about sustainability. Semi-annual online updates will keep the material fresh.

We are initiating a project to translate the text into Spanish which will be placed online and some hard copies may be printed.

The materials are:



- **Unique:** The LWV textbook **The State We're In: Washington Your guide to state, tribal and local government.** This is the first civics text to include tribal government and history. It is typically used in a course required in Washington State for high school graduation. Professionally written and illustrated with graphs, photos and drawings, this book covers the basic ideas and structures of our democratic government. It includes sidebars about people and historical events, and reflects the ethnic and geographic diversity of our state. It describes both pre-contact, traditional tribal governance and current tribal governance and how it interacts with state and local governments. A description of Tribal sovereignty and the Centennial Accord are included, along with an historical time line beginning in 1579.
- **Comprehensive:** Developed by experienced classroom teachers, the companion **Teacher's Curriculum Guide** describes the learning objectives of each chapter and various activities that ensure students understand the reading material. The Office of Public Instructions state standards are identified with every chapter and include:
 - Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALR's),
 - Grade Level Expectations (GLE's)
 - OSPI-developed Assessments (formally known as Classroom Based Assessments)
 - Common Core State Standards have been added during the current update of this material
 - Activities are designed for several levels of learning.
- **User friendly:** The complete book and the guide are online, free, at: <http://moodle.esd113.org> .

And our website www.lwwwa.org, provides samples of the chapters and ordering information.

Middle and high school students and teachers move smoothly and easily through the materials while learning that Civics and Washington state history lessons are interesting and fun. The material is useful for home schools and community college classrooms, GED, ESL and Youth and Government programs. Adults find a wealth of useful information in the book and it is a unique resource for immigrants and new residents of all ages.

The State We're In: Washington was written by Jill Severn who has been a journalist, a reporter for the United Nations, Executive Director of the World Affairs Council and a speechwriter for two governors. She writes books and other materials for state agencies and private companies.

The book was developed in consultation with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's Department of Indian Education and Department of Social Studies, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, many experienced and knowledgeable teachers, students, and League volunteers. Notable contributors of information and review include:

- **Kyle Taylor Lucas**, Former Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, provided information on the governance and culture of tribes. (Also consulted about tribal affairs were: Denny Hurtado (Director of Indian Education, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) Bobby Whitener, Colleen Jolle, Debbie Souza and many other tribal leaders.
- **Hugh Spitzer**, Attorney and Affiliate Professor, University of Washington Law School, provided consultation on the development of our state constitution,
- **Denny Heck**, Co-founder, President of TVW, (retired), US Representative helped with historical perspectives and wrote the forward.
- **Steve Lundin**, Staff to the House of Representatives (retired) shared his expertise on local governments.

Leslie Hoge, Hoge Designs of Seattle, designed the book, developed the graphs and charts and selected the photographs.

The Teacher's Curriculum Guide update was written by Maureen Pittenger, 7th grade teacher, Kent School District and Carolyn St Claire, Curriculum Specialist, retired. Chambliss Keith, teacher, Hood Canal School and Sally Brownfield, teacher, currently the Director of Education for the Squaxin Island Tribe, served as consultants on the guide.

The book and the Teacher's Curriculum Guide are endorsed by teachers across the state and the Washington State Indian Education Association. The recently released Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum includes the use of this book. These materials are currently in use in Spokane, Seattle, Yakima, Edmonds, Olympia, Tacoma, Prosser, Vancouver, Toppenish, Tumwater, Tenino Marysville, and many other school districts.

The League's nonpartisan goals are to educate and encourage all citizens to become active participants in our communities. This civic education project is the embodiment of those goals. Books and the Teacher's Guide are available singly or in classroom sets of 30 copies of the book and a Teacher's Curriculum Guide.