



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

More than a decade ago the League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund launched a major, new Civic Education Project to show students how they can participate in making and keeping government effective. These learning materials build a foundation for understanding our government and how to be actively involved participants. Due to their popularity and high demand we produced periodic updates and a Curriculum Guide for teachers.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition is now available in print and online, free. It includes a new chapter, *What's Next for Washington?* about sustainability and global climate change.

The materials are:



**Unique:** The LWV textbook **The State We're In: Washington Your guide to state, tribal and local government** 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. This is the first civics text to include tribal government and history. 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. And, all activities are designed for several levels of learning.

The OSPI's state standards are identified with every chapter and including:

- Grade Level Expectations (GLE's)
- OSPI-developed Assessments (formally known as Classroom Based Assessments)
- Common Core State Standards

**User friendly:** 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 complete book and the guide are online, free, at our website: [www.lvwva.org](http://www.lvwva.org) or <http://moodle.esd113.org> . Our website also provides samples of the chapters and ordering information for the books, teacher's guide and an illustrative, colorful poster: *What Does It Take to Be A Good Citizen?*

**The State We're In: Washington** author was Jill Severn, journalist, reporter for the United Nations, Executive Director of the World Affairs Council and 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 and President of TVW (retired), now 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, 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, (retired) Kent School District and Carolyn St Claire, Curriculum Specialist (retired). Consultants included Chambliss Keith, teacher, Hood Canal School and Sally Brownfield, teacher, currently the Director of Education for the Squaxin Island Tribe.

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. We believe the vitality of our democracy depends on active and engaged citizens. Energizing today's students through knowledge will help create tomorrow's concerned and involved citizens.

Books and the Teacher's Guide are available singly, or in classroom sets of 30 copies plus a Teacher's Curriculum Guide. Biannual online updates will keep the materials fresh.