

Happy Birthday -- League of Women Voters

"The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Founded February 14, 1920



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

November 8, 1910

- Washington state constitution amended to enfranchise women, carried by nearly two to one
- 5th state to enact



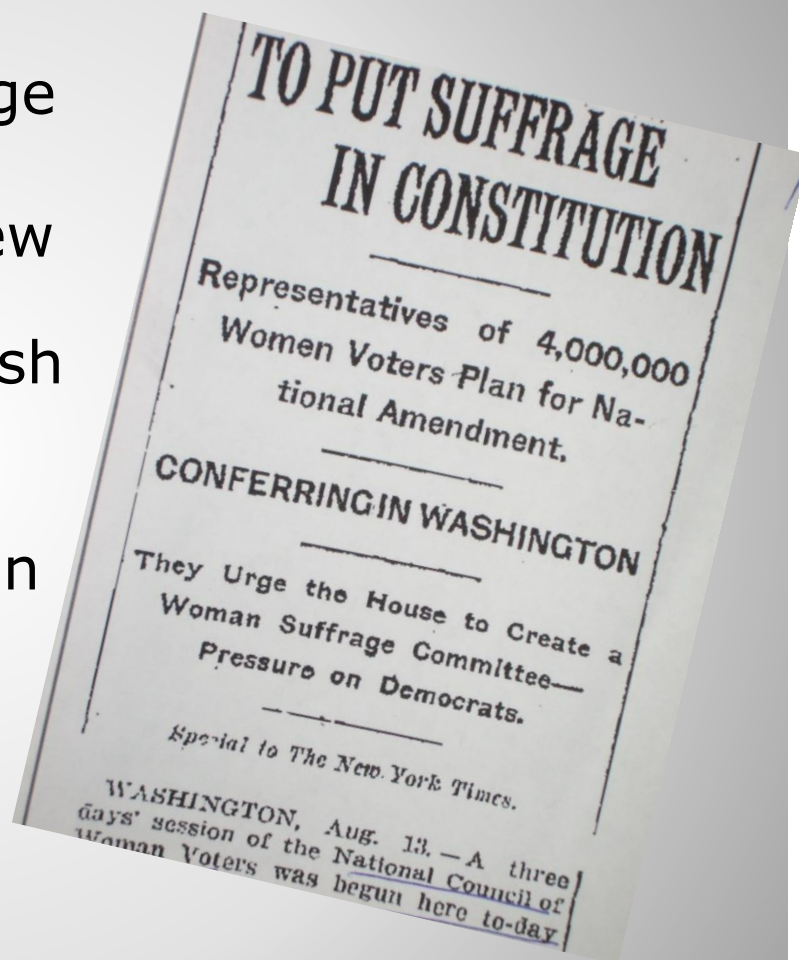
Washington State



- Emma Smith DeVoe with Gov. James Brady (Idaho)
- Commissioners from the 5 enfranchised states
- January 14, 1911, in Tacoma WA

National Council of Women Voters

- NCWV continued to grow as other states achieved suffrage
- 1913 – NCWV meeting in New York with 10 suffrage states approving a resolution to push for national amendment
- 1915 – NCWV meeting in San Francisco
- 1919 – NCWV merged with NAWASA



National Council of Women Voters



Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters at the National Convention in 1919.

She saw a great need for such an organization in educating the new voters and as a tribute to the suffragettes so that what had been won with difficulty would not be lightly used by the women voters.

**National American Woman
Suffrage Association**

- Victory Convention in Chicago
- February 14, 1920
- Last of the suffrage conventions
- And the official beginning of the **League of Women Voters** – to “finish the fight and to aid in the reconstruction of the nation.”

**National American Woman
Suffrage Association**

Founding Objectives

- Education of the new voters
- Passage of needed legislation (with primary emphasis on the protection of women and children)
- Awakening the electorate.



National League of Women Voters

Significant Legislation – 1950's

- 1955 - redistricting and reapportionment of legislative districts
- League Initiative (I-199) passed - Nov, 1956; then Legislature changed
- Second initiative (I-211) failed in 1962.
- Ultimately Redistricting Commission -1983



**League of Women Voters of
Washington**

Organized

- 1948 - 65 members
- 1949 – Unit plan for meeting started with 4 units
- 1951 – “Know Your Town Government” (Part of the national League requirement for full recognition)
- 1952 – First Finance Drive

**League of Women Voters of the
Greater Spokane Area**

Voter Registration



1954



League of Women Voters of the Greater Spokane Area

Spokane's "Favorite Daughter" Julia Stuart

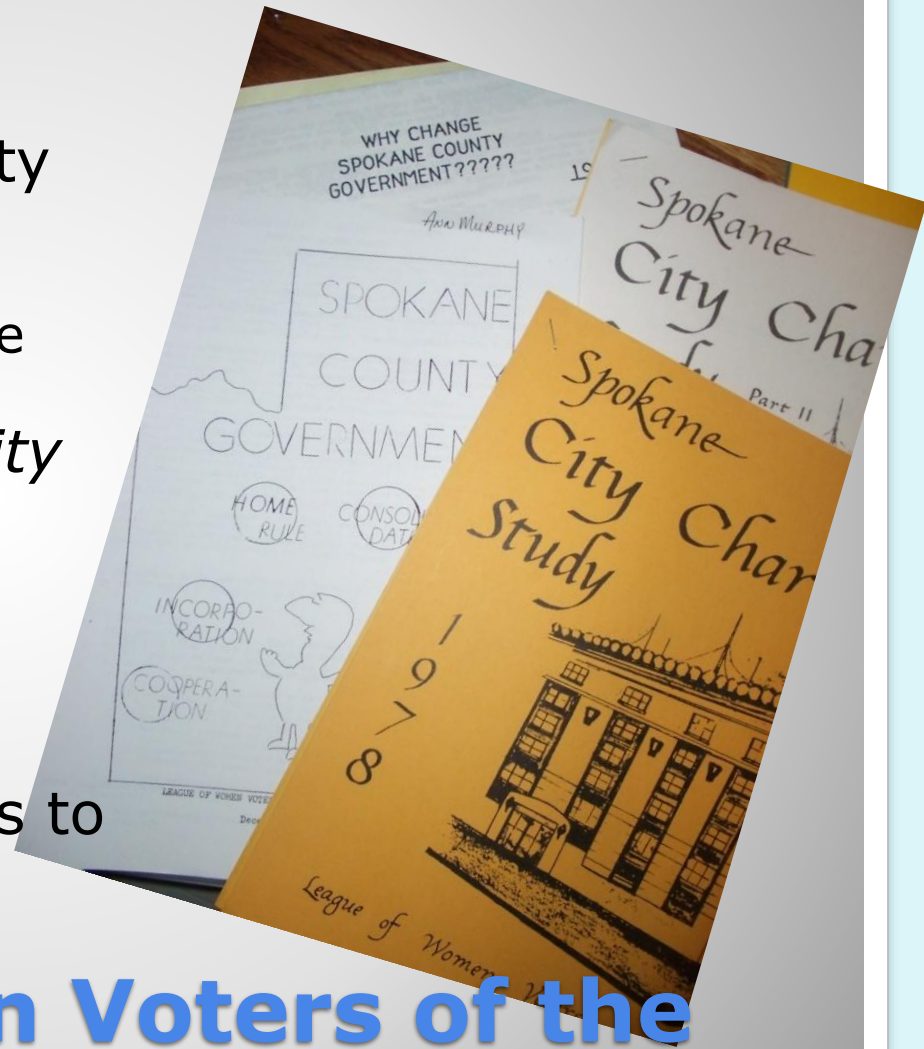


- 1951-53 President – Spokane
- 1953-55 VP LWV Washington
- 1955-59 President LWV Washington & leader of the Redistricting Initiative
- 1960-1968 LWV US – board member, 2nd VP, & President (64-68)
- 1968 – LWV Ed Fund Board
- ... numerous public service positions

**League of Women Voters of the
Greater Spokane Area**

60's ... 70's...

- Study various forms of city and county government
 - City of Spokane Charter
 - Spokane County Home Rule
- *1966 – Citizens Day @ City Hall – League members provide guided tours for citizens*
- Came out of the closet... and basements and boxes to move to an office!



**League of Women Voters of the
Greater Spokane Area**

- League of Women Voters US
www.lwv.org
- League of Women Voters of Washington
www.lwvwa.org
- League of Women Voters / Spokane Area
www.lwvspokane.org