

This Issue: Healthcare - We believe that the best healthcare model is one with very limited government intervention, based around the principle of individual responsibility.

Next Issue: Property Rights-It is the right of all citizens to legally acquire, own, use and dispose of private property. It is your right to protect your property with reasonable force against another person who is threatening to infringe upon your property.

Chairman's Chat

Rob Linebarger, SCRCC Chair/CEO
chair@spokanegop.com
Defending Faith, Family & Freedom



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Lincoln Day 2025

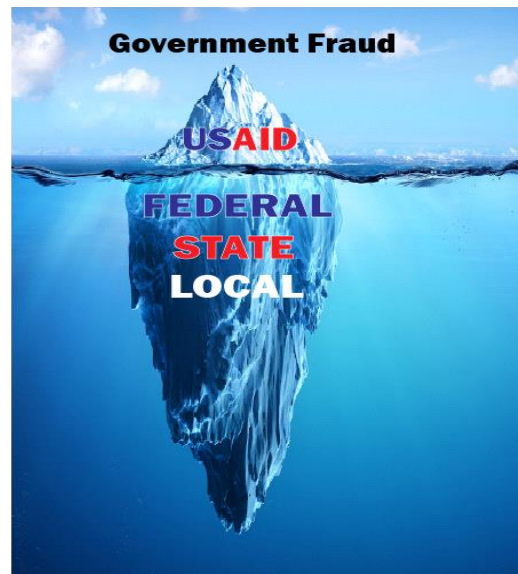
President Trump's "Fight, Fight, Fight," propelled him to victory and we must continue his "Fight! Fight! Fight!" call to battle as we have several critical local elections coming up later this year.

At the top of this list are School Board, Spokane City, and Spokane Valley Council races and the 2025 Lincoln Day Gala Fundraiser is where we come together and raise the money needed to support candidates and get out the vote.

Please save the date, May 2, tickets go on sale February 17, early bird pricing through March 16, we have a great program planned, and we hope to see you there

It's been an amazing first few weeks! Since the inauguration on January 20, many of us have watched and cheered on a great number of actions by President Trump and his team that not only had an immediate positive impact but also validated the optimism we all were feeling after his election last November and how anxious we were for January 20.

One of the biggest events that happened over the past few weeks was the speed at which the DOGE team was able to uncover fraud and corruption and the President's decisive action to put an immediate stop to it. Based on the reaction from politicians and the Marxist media, DOGE is right over the target and the "Fight" is only getting started.



I ask, do you think what DOGE uncovered is isolated at the Federal level or is this likely the tip of an enormous iceberg that runs throughout state and local governments as well? Send me an email, Chair@SpokaneGOP.com and let me know what you think.

I'll close with this quote from President Trump. "Democrats cheat in elections, that's what they do the best, they are no good at policy, they're not good on the border, they're no good on the economy, but they cheat like hell, that's what they're good at."

Now we can add to that quote, **they cheat at fundraising**, and we all know, if they lose their fundraising advantage, **We Win!**

We the People are the Solution.

- God Bless America -

Spokane sanctuary city status

Spokane's reaffirmation as a sanctuary city* puts us at a serious risk of losing millions in federal funding. The Department of Justice provides approximately \$4 million annually to Spokane, funding critical services such as law enforcement, courts, and jail operations. Without this funding, our police force could face budget cuts, leading to slower response time and fewer officers on the street. Our courts and correctional facilities would also suffer, creating backlogs and reducing resources for crime prevention.

And that's just the beginning. If the federal government decides to withhold all federal funding, the consequences could be devastating. Spokane relies on federal dollars for infrastructure, housing assistance, and public safety initiatives. Losing this funding would force difficult budget decisions likely resulting in cuts to essential services that keep our city running. Let's hope we haven't just poked the bear and alerted DOJ (Department of Justice) to our situation.

This pattern of focusing on issues that don't directly affect Spokane distracts us from the real crises at hand: drugs, crime, homelessness, and public safety. Instead of making political statements, we should be addressing the challenges that impact Spokane families every day.

Jonathan Bingle, Spokane City Councilman

**Note: While the City Council Policy Advisor pointed out that nowhere in the laws of WA or Spokane is the term sanctuary city used, that does not change the fact that our policies fit the more recent definition of the term. According to Fox News, "while there is no one-size-fits-all definition of a sanctuary city, the term loosely refers to places that offer political support and protections to people who are in the U.S. illegally," <https://evpsa.as.ucsb.edu/2017/03/02/sanctuary-states-need-know/>.*

THE COST

By Juli Skinner

If you're anything like me, trying to understand the medical insurance conglomerate is enough to make your head explode. Frustration grows when the system slows down to a snail's pace as a family member experiences a major illness/injury. But isn't that the goal? Delay, Deny and Defend? While I watched my sister die last month, I couldn't help but think about all the backroom discussions that took place about her survival rate and how insurance played a part. It is fitting to share her story now because I personally find that "Playing God" doesn't seem to be an anomaly in this business.

You want to believe in a cure. I now understand that the rate of longevity for her cancer is five years – best case scenario. Were her doctors leveling with her or giving her false hope? I allowed my thoughts to go dark. Was keeping her alive more lucrative? In her post-surgery appointment, her doctor expressed confidence that all the cancer was removed. But for the next 2.5 years, she underwent chemo and radiation and a horde of medications were prescribed to relieve her symptoms, treating drug side effects in a "prescription cascade". She couldn't eat, had constant pain and put her body through the riggers with the belief that she could beat it. It was downward momentum and her quality of life was compromised. And for what? Her tumor markers spiked for the last time and she was told that she would live with a cancer that needed "maintenance". We knew what that meant. Indefinite treatments. I know she felt betrayed. So did I.

My sister was admitted to the hospital after Thanksgiving and moved to physical therapy after no mobility in one leg. Adding to her discomfort was the constant direction to medical staff in her own healthcare. She had a medical background so it was beyond frustrating to deal with people who couldn't speak fluent English. She was not improving and was moved back to the hospital. As time went by and they weren't releasing her, it became a sick reality to both of us that she may not leave.

From the start, I informed all staff that my sister was in the process of moving from Seattle to Spokane and that it remained her wish to move treatment as well. We waited so long on confirmation for a rehab center in Spokane that in the meantime, my sister had to be moved to palliative care. Our priorities shifted to hospice care facilities. My last-ditch effort was to make arrangements to transport her to Spokane via ambulance; mostly covered by her insurance; the rest covered by the hospital. Great! We were getting somewhere and the social worker seemed accommodating. Yeah, not so fast. The hospital cannot start a transfer request until a hospice facility has an opening.

It is not lost on me what that meant but I wanted my sister home with family in her last days. It seemed like an eternity. I had enough and began to call hospice facilities myself. I found one and forwarded the name to the social worker. Should it concern me that she said she didn't think to call that facility. WHAT? This is your job! All I could do was wait. My hands were tied. Insurance wouldn't cover hospital-to-hospital transfers; no "medical need". And transferring her to my home would delay hospice approval. I couldn't get her home sooner. Finally, hospice had room. I called my sister on Friday and told her she would be transferred on Wednesday! An hour later her doctor called to tell me a transfer was not recommended. Their "fear"? She would not make the trip. On Saturday, I was told that I needed to come to her. Five days later, she passed.

Guilt that resides within family members left to analyze it all is excruciating. She was not going to survive cancer. But I find myself on the dark side, wondering why the deliberate stalling; the hitting walls at every turn; the complicity of great doctors who simply get scooped up in the insurance net. Hospitals bill Medicare/Medicaid [for palliative care] so it seems, to the layman that I am, that hospitals and insurance companies separate themselves from humanity, making life or death (and timing) decisions on the behalf of our loved ones. Unfortunately in this case, I am not alone.

HB 1531 Preserving the ability of public officials to address communicable diseases.

Public health certainly should and already is (we all hope) "guided by the best available science on the safety and efficacy of evidence-based measures to control the spread of such diseases, including immunizations and vaccines." In 2019, this phrase would have raised no objections. Now it reinforces distrust in public health leadership, and that is the most debilitating long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic response. HB 1531 reinforces the distrust still lingering like a bad viral infection. Public health leadership does not need reinforcement of the "ability of public officials to address communicable diseases using scientifically proven measures."

Public health leadership needs to commit to providing transparency to the public, particularly in the case of novel communicable diseases where the best science will be in constant learning mode, safety trade-offs may not be clear, and efficacy based on evidence will be difficult to determine. A condescending mindset lacks the humility necessary to rebuild trust. We are still arguing over whether the scientific understanding on which decisions in response to COVID-19 were based was the best available at the time, on whether the measures recommended had evidence of efficacy, and whether in the end they were effective. This is the opposite of the humility recommended by Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director at the American Public Health Association:

"Someone has an observation, they do a study to test it, they learn something about it. And, as we learn more over time, we find out nuances," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director at the American Public Health Association. "With COVID-19, we didn't have a static physical or biological object. It has been changing rapidly and we are altering the research along with it. The facts of the science haven't changed, the experiments and the virus have."

"If we could go back, I think people would have given a lot more caution in their responses, Benjamin said. I think we would've seen officials say, 'This is what we know today, but it may be different later.' There would be a lot more humility and detailed explanations about why things change."; (Dr. Benjamin quoted from <https://www.politifact.com/article/2022/feb/24/fauci-lied-how-broad-misunderstanding-about-scienc/>)

Especially in the case of novel communicable diseases, learning from on the ground experience in a rapidly developing situation is essential. That means learning from all public health officials in all counties, and recognizing differences in risks and resources. HB 1531 will reinforce public distrust and weaken our ability to respond to communicable disease. Please vote No. Subscribe at <https://suelanimadsen.substack.com/> for news and commentary on a variety of topics.

Written testimony from freelance journalist Sue Lani Madsen as submitted to the Washington State legislature on January 31, 2025 opposing HB 1531. Reprinted with permission of the author, Sue Lani Madsen, freelance columnist. Follow at <https://suelanimadsen.substack.com/> Contact Sue Lani Madsen at rulingpen@gmail.com

Note: You can check the status of this bill at link below. As of 2/17 it had not advanced.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/?BillNumber=1531&Year=2025&Initiative=false>.

Consider becoming a PCO, Precinct Committee Officer.

Does your precinct have a PCO? You can find out on our [GOP website](#) under the **About Us** tab, then **Officers** which takes you to <https://spokanegop.com/leadership>; finally click on your **District** and find your **Precinct** to see if there is a PCO. PCOs listed on our website should be the PCOs elected in the 2024 Primary. If the position is vacant, please consider becoming a PCO. There are 451 precincts in Spokane County and about 272 have Republican PCOs. PCOs are an important connection between voters and the Republican Party. More PCO information can be found at: <https://spokanegop.com/become-a-pco>.

Don't know your PRECINCT? You can find it on the [GOP website](#), **Home** page. Scroll down to the link, **Find My Precinct** in the red box, then follow the directions. Or, at VoteWA.gov. Then, submit your name and birthday – click **Registration**.

Many PCOs and other Republicans work hard for our party. If you have someone in mind, please nominate that person as PCO or Republican of the Month. It is not difficult to nominate:

[REPUBLICANS/PCOs OF THE MONTH form](#)



Standing Committee Chair Appointments:

Lincoln Day – Lyle Dach
Budget – Jenelle Simpson
Candidates – Brenda Dutton
Credentials – Brian Boyer
Elections – Tim Kinley
Bylaws and Policies & Procedures -Tim Archer
Finance – TBA

Special Committee Chair Appointments:

Audit – Natalie Poulson
Budget – Jenelle Simpson
Legislative – Stephanie Brenden
Marketing – Colleen Simpson
Platform – John Scherling
Resolutions - John Scherling
Volunteers – Debbie Smith
Young Republicans – Enrique Rico
Events – TBA
Judiciary - TBA

Spokane County GOP supports Helping Captives. Cleaning out your closet, storage and garage and donating gently used clothing, household items and other items will help heal victims of trafficking.



HELPING CAPTIVES

Monday-Saturday 10-5 pm

East 14415 Sprague Ave.

Check out their coffee tool

SAVE THE DATE

GOP calendar

<https://www.spokanegop.com/calendar>

SCRCC Monthly Training:
Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6-7:30 pm.

Young Republicans:
Sunday, March 2, 1:00 pm

SCRCC Board meeting:
Tuesday, March 4, 6:00.

Spokane County Republican Party Lincoln Day Gala

May 2, 2025 at the Spokane Convention Center.

CONTACT US

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SUPPORT US

<https://spokanegop.com/?form=donate>

Stay Informed.

<https://spokanegop.com/newsletter>.

Ponderosa Republican Women: The program for the PRW meeting on February 11th was centered on honoring 30 years of Ponderosa Republican Women. Established in 1995, all past presidents that could be reached were invited and treated to lunch and spoke on highlights of their term(s) served as leaders of the organization. Each of them was given a long stem red rose as a thank you for their dedication to serving the club. They all have a stake in the success of what Ponderosa has grown to become over the years! Those who attended and were honored were: Emily Strode, Earl Moore, Nancy Mortlock, Debby Kurbitz, Gloria LeKander, Linda Casimir and current president, Jan Grayhek. We were pleased to visit with some that we had not seen for a while and enjoyed hearing what they remembered from their time as our president as well as their humorous and heartwarming stories.



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Ruby River Hotel. Our speaker will be Chris Cargill, President of Mountain States Policy Center, and the topic of his address will be "Renewed Push for Education Reform". Details for the March meeting are posted on the PRW website, where you will be able to make a reservation. Guests are most welcome to attend.

Jan Grayhek, PRW President <http://www.PonderosaRepublicanWomen.com>

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

Defend Faith, Family and Freedom by Taking Legislative Action! We are getting hammered in the legislature with the Senate members 30-19 and the House members 59-39. It is critical that we all stay involved. Legislature ends on 4/27/25.

The County GOP Legislative Action Committee, led by Chair Stephanie Brenden, has already started highlighting priority bills. You can sign up now for [What Up Olympia?](#) to receive periodic emails of proposed bills that especially need our attention. And, if interested, you can also sign up to be part of our Legislative Action Committee and help decide which bills should be highlighted. When you get one of the alerts, usually on Sundays, just click the links on each bill to register your position "PRO" or "CON" for the Legislative Record. You may also register to submit written testimony and/or testify remotely via Zoom during a public committee hearing.

Since our state is the only one in the nation that has become more "blue", it is especially critical that we pay attention to the bills being proposed and that we get involved in contacting our legislators when we support or oppose these bills. The Leg Committee will keep us informed on priority bills. Watch for these emails and check out information on our County and State GOP Facebook pages. WA GOP will also highlight important information on bills on the website; go to Olympia Watch, <https://waqop.org/olympia-watch/>. On Olympia Watch near the bottom of the page.

You can **Sign-Up for the Influencing Olympia Effectively Course** offered online.

Visit [Facebook.com/SpokaneGOP](https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneGOP). Like. Comment. Share.

The more you like & share, the more we circulate and reach people.

Interested in sharing your ideas, knowledge or time? Please consider volunteering for a GOP committee position. For Communications Committee or work submission, you **MUST** meet submission deadlines. Contact Terri at terrizalevits@gmail.com.