

ISSUE 48

JUNE
2025

SpokaneGOP

Chairman's Chat

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

This Issue: Equal Justice - All people have a right to equal treatment under the law. We support the enforcement of the original Bill of Rights as written and intended by the Founders.

Next Issue: Jobs, Economy and Currency - We support balanced budgets, reduced regulations, limited taxation and Free Market, allowing growth to the individual and to the economy as a whole.



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And remember to visit us on FACEBOOK. Facebook.com/SpokaneGOP

HAPPY WITH YOUR LATEST PROPERTY VALUE ASSESSMENT?

Spokane County homeowners received our 2026 "Official Property Value Change Notice" from our Republican County Assessor this week and once again, property values increased to drive tax bills higher which will be used to fund local and state government that continues to do less with more. Have you had enough of this yet? Let's look at the same situation that occurred in California during the 1970s that led to the **Proposition 13 Taxpayer Revolt**, maybe we can learn something from it.

California Proposition 13, passed on June 6, 1978, emerged from a perfect storm of economic, social, and political factors that fueled a Taxpayer Revolt. In the 1970s, California's economy boomed, driving real estate prices to unprecedented levels—home values nearly doubled between 1975 and 1979. Since property taxes were based on market value, homeowners faced skyrocketing tax bills, with some seeing annual increases of 20-50%. **This hit hardest for those on fixed incomes, like retirees, who risked losing their homes.**

Adding to the outrage, scandals exposed corrupt county assessors manipulating assessments to favor allies, eroding trust in the system. The state legislature, despite proposing 22 tax reform plans in 1977, failed to act decisively, leaving voters feeling ignored.

Enter Howard Jarvis and Paul Gann, who channeled this anger into Prop 13, the **"People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation."** The measure capped property taxes at 1% of assessed value, rolled back assessments to 1975-76 levels, limited annual increases to 2%, and mandated a two-thirds legislative vote for new taxes.

Jarvis, a tireless campaigner, framed it as a *"Defense of the American Dream"* against government overreach. Despite opposition from Governor Jerry Brown and public sector unions, who warned of service cuts, Prop 13 tapped into widespread frustration. **It passed with 65% voter support** reflecting fears of unaffordable taxes and distrust in local and state government.

The initiative slashed property tax revenue by over 50%, forcing reliance on state funds and reshaping California's fiscal structure. Prop 13's passage sparked a nationwide tax revolt, influencing policies in other states, and remains a defining legacy of California's populist pushback against government excess.

I propose rolling back values to pre-COVID 2019 assessments, limiting valuation increases to 0.25% the rate of inflation, capping taxes at 1% of assessed value for pre-retirement homeowners under the age of 65 and eliminating property taxes for post-retirement homeowners age 65 and older. Who is with me on this?

Remember, politicians serve We The People as stated in the United States and Washington State Constitutions.

Please email Chair@SpokaneGOP.com with your feedback and questions.

WAKE UP SPOKANE COUNTY. WAKE UP WASHINGTON STATE

Prop None

The people of Spokane voted for Prop 1. It was clear, decisive and deeply supported across our city. It asked one simple thing: That public spaces near schools, parks and daycares be kept safe and clear of encampments.

But now, the Mayor and Council majority have replaced your voice with something else entirely. They call them "HOME" ordinances. But it might as well be called "Prop None." NONE of what you voted for. NONE of what you're asking for now. And NONE of the policies that will make a difference in Spokane.

Let's break it down:

The "Sit and Lie" law that kept sidewalks open is gone. The 1,000-foot safety buffer around schools and parks is gone. People will now have an unofficial license to camp for up to seven days at a time. This isn't just bad policy, it's a clear betrayal of the will of the people of Spokane.

Ask yourself this:

Will this make Spokane safer?
Will this make our city cleaner?
Will this help those struggling on our streets actually get the help they need? I have a hard time seeing how it will.

Spokane is not beyond saving, but it does require leaders who listen to the people and hold the line on common sense. We need to speak up and speak clearly. Because if your vote can be erased with a sleight of hand, then it was never honored in the first place.

Let's be faithful to the will of the voters. Let's work for a city where safety, dignity and responsibility still matter.

Jonathan Bingle, Spokane City Council, District 2

"I KNOW MY RIGHTS"

By Juli Skinner

"I know my rights" is a standard response for individuals taken into custody who refuse to take accountability for their [alleged] criminal acts. The scary thing is, many of the career criminals actually do know their rights. Do you? Start with the Declaration of Rights in the Washington State Constitution; <https://leg.wa.gov/state-laws-and-rules/washington-state-constitution/>, ratified in 1889 by 43 Republicans, 29 Democrats and 3 Independents. <https://www2.sos.wa.gov/legacy/washington-1889/delegates.aspx>

WASHINGTON STATE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

(Sections are arbitrarily abbreviated - There are 32 articles in total. I encourage you to read in its entirety)

SECTION 1. POLITICAL POWER is inherent in the people...

SECTION 2. The U.S. Constitution is the **SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND**...

SECTION 3. No person shall be deprived of **PERSONAL RIGHTS**; life, liberty or property...

SECTION 4. RIGHT OF PETITION of the people to peaceably **ASSEMBLE**... to never be abridged...

SECTION 5. FREEDOM to speak, write and publish on all subjects carries abuse with that Freedom...

SECTION 6. MODE OF ADMINISTERING OATH...

SECTION 7. PRIVATE AFFAIRS or **HOME INVADED** shall not be disturbed without authority of law...

SECTION 8. No law will grant **IRREVOCABLE PRIVILEGE, FRANCHISE OR IMMUNITY**...

SECTION 9. No **ACCUSED PERSON** shall be compelled to testify against himself or tried twice for the same crime.

SECTION 10. JUSTICE in all cases shall be **ADMINISTERED** openly, without unnecessary delay...

SECTION 11. Absolute **FREEDOM** of conscience in all matters, **RELIGIOUS**, belief and worship...

SECTION 12. No **SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES** granted except municipal...

SECTION 13. Privilege of writ of **HABEAS CORPUS** shall not be suspended, unless...public safety.

SECTION 14. No **EXCESSIVE BAIL, EXCESSIVE FINES** imposed or cruel **PUNISHMENT** inflicted...

SECTION 15. No **CONVICTIONS, EFFECT OF** shall work corruption of blood, nor forfeiture of estate...

SECTION 16. EMINENT DOMAIN except for necessity, will not be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having been first made or paid into court for the owner...

SECTION 17. No **IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT**, except in cases of absconding debtors...

SECTION 18. LIMITATION OF MILITARY POWER be in strict subordination to the civil power...

SECTION 19. Equal and **FREE ELECTIONS**. No interference preventing exercise of right of suffrage...

SECTION 20. Persons shall be **BAILABLE** by sufficient sureties except for capital offenses when proof of presumptive evidence is great. Bail may be denied due to likelihood of life in prison or shows a propensity for violence creating substantial likelihood of danger to the community or persons...

SECTION 21. TRIAL BY JURY; jury of twelve or less in courts not of record, verdict by nine or more jurors in civil cases in any court of record, waive jury in civil cases with consent of interested parties.

SECTION 22. THE ACCUSED has the **RIGHT** to defend himself, to counsel, to demand nature/cause of accusation, have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county, right to appeal and...

SECTION 23. No **BILL OF ATTAINDER, EX POST FACTO LAW** or contract obligation impairment...

SECTION 24. RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired...

SECTION 25. Offenses may be **PROSECUTED BY INFORMATION** or indictment, prescribed by law...

SECTION 26. GRAND JURY shall be drawn only in county of superior judge...

SECTION 27. TREASON levies war against the state, adheres to its enemies and/or gives aid and comfort. Conviction: testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open court.

SECTION 28. No **HEREDITARY** emoluments, **PRIVILEGES** or powers, granted or conferred...

SECTION 29. The provisions of this **CONSTITUTION** are **MANDATORY** unless expressed otherwise.

SECTION 30. RESERVED RIGHTS enumerated in the Constitution shall not deny others...

SECTION 31. No **STANDING ARMY** shall be kept up by this state in time of peace...

SECTION 32. Frequent recurrence to **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES** is essential to the security of individual rights and the perpetuity of free government.

SECTION 33. ELECTIVE public **OFFICERS** except judges of courts of record, is subject to **RECALL**...

SECTION 34. Legislature shall pass the **SAME** necessary laws to carry out **SECTION 33**...

SECTION 35. A **VICTIM OF** a felony **CRIME** shall be afforded certain rights...

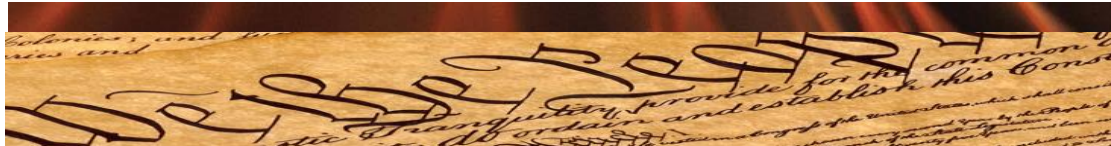
If you find any of Article 1 interesting, **GET INSPIRED** and continue reading **ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**. You don't have to be a cop, a criminal, a lawyer or judge to know and exercise YOUR rights. Be active. Be proactive. Be reactive. Please read **LEGISLATIVE WATCH** and **WAKE UP... SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

**What Up Olympia highlights priority bills. Sign up to receive emails and read past & upcoming bills.*

**Legislative Record. Click the links on each bill to register your position "PRO" or "CON".*

**Check our County and State GOP Facebook pages for information. The website WA GOP will highlight important information on bills. Go to Olympia Watch, <https://wagop.org/olympia-watch/>*

<https://spokanegop.com/>



The Constitutional Corner

By Lori Burns

Equal Justice

It is very interesting to contemplate the Left's use of the phrase, "No justice, no peace." They are actually right in saying that even though it's not what they really mean. You cannot in fact, have peace without justice. More importantly, you cannot have justice if you do not have law. The law must be followed by those who agreed upon it; unless those same people change the law. Conversely, if you do not have law, you have anarchy and chaos. Anarchy and chaos are driven by emotion which is arbitrary, fickle and ever-changing, to say the least. No country can function nor especially thrive if it is not based on law and the justice that results from following the law.

The emotional vomit we have been subjected to by the left this last week is telling. The Left is communicating to us, loud and clear, that the law means nothing to them. It is more important to them to protect illegal aliens than to protect their own citizens. Terrorists, thirsty for the blood of Jews, are more important to them than protecting Israel's right to exist peacefully in their homeland. Lawfare that is exercised by corrupt judges ruling on their political beliefs rather than Constitutional law are ripping this country apart and creating never-ending chaos.

Why, you may ask? Because the Left doesn't believe in either justice or peace. They want chaos and anarchy which they believe will lead to the undiluted power they desperately crave. They want to end free speech, the right to worship freely, blind justice and all other constraints placed upon them by a Constitution they find onerous and offensive. The form of "justice" they seek is based upon conformity, group-think and communist favoritism based upon who you know, who you bribe and who you hold power over. They have no qualms about continually using illegal immigrants as pawns in this ugly quest for power, all the while pretending to care about their suffering.

This is an ugly time in our nation which I do not enjoy. But it is well past time to enforce the law, as written, and demand the justice we must have in order to survive as a nation. President Trump is doing what must be done and I pray for the safety of law enforcement and ICE agents who are doing their job to enforce the law for the sake of justice and peace...equal justice based on the rule of law.

We need YOU to become a PCO! Spokane County has 451 precincts. Each precinct needs a Republican Precinct Committee Officer (PCO). Out of the 451 precincts, 293 have a Republican PCO. That means 158 more PCOs are needed. Wonder where you will be valued? HERE!

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. If the position is vacant, please consider becoming a PCO and contact your District Leader. If it is not vacant, still consider contacting your District Leader and volunteer to help your leader find more PCOs for your district. Your District Leader's name and contact information is on the page where you check to see if your precinct needed a PCO.

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.

**WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
LET'S DO IT!**

Officers Spokane County GOP

Chair - Rob Linebarger

Executive Assistant - Debbie Smith

Vice Chair - Carolyn Hall

State Committeeman – Dale Whitaker

State Committeewoman – Kellie Rizzi

Secretary - John Scherling

Treasurer - Richard Jones



Standing Committee Chair Appointments:

Lincoln Day – Rob Linebarger

Budget – Jenelle Simpson

Candidates – John Scherling

Credentials – Brian Boyer

Elections – Tim Kinley

Bylaws and Policies & Procedures – Cecily Wright

Finance – Mike Kelly

Special Committee Chair Appointments:

Audit – Natalie Poulson

Legislative – Stephanie Brenden

Marketing – TBA

Platform – John Scherling

Resolutions – John Scherling

Volunteers – Debbie Smith

Young Republicans – Enrique Rico

Events – TBA

Judiciary – TBA

Excerpt from a column published October 12, 2023 in The Spokesman Review on Spokane County Measure 1. This excerpt focuses on common ground from testimony at a public hearing because the problems still remain unresolved. For the complete column and additional commentary:

<https://suelanimadsen.substack.com/p/election-2023-spokane-county-measure>

At nearly 40 years old, the Spokane County Jail and the systems surrounding it are serving a changing population. Victims of crime and advocates for victims spoke to safety from crime.

People both pro and con pointed to the need for better addiction treatment and mental health care. Sheriff John Nowells cited increasing substance abuse, and needing a system designed to “make sure there is something waiting for them that is less attractive than treatment.”

County jails have to deal with both the “will nots” and the “cannots,” those who will not accept help to change their lives and those who cannot make that choice without support.

Former law enforcement officer Mark Howard said, it’s “amazing what people will talk to you about in the back seat of a patrol car.” He described the empathy gained from listening to his passenger describe how hard the transition out is when trying to change, and the need for different treatment for those who “cannot” and those who “will not” comply with society’s standards.

When brought up before a King County judge, a young man accused in a series of violent anti-Asian attacks was incredulous to learn he was not going to be immediately released. “I can’t get house arrest? You let people out who shoot at people,” said the teenager.

“Well, I’m not letting you out,” said the judge, on a video that went viral.

That young jail resident is a “will not.” Or at least not until reality smacks him upside the head.

Then there’s the “cannots,” the ones who because of drugs or mental health battles or immature stubbornness cannot change direction without significant intervention. For them, jail becomes a way to get sober and get their attention.

The most poignant question came from a fellow named Anton who gave no last name or address. “Why is mental health care under the police department?”

Mental health care reform is another tough issue. Meanwhile the criminal justice system is doing it and the system needs different facilities and programs to do the job better.

Reprinted with permission of the author, Sue Lani Madsen, freelance columnist. Follow at <https://suelanimadsen.substack.com/>

We Pray for Peace (Using Psalm 122)

By Carolyn Williams

We pray for peace of America!

May they prosper who love her.

Peace be within her borders and security within her towns.

America, built as a country firmly bound together,

In which the United States belongs.

For all the people’s sake peace be within her!

We praise your name O Mighty God, our Lord and Savior!

From the mountain tops and the valleys,

the rivers to the sea shores,

We pray for the peace of America!



Monday-Saturday
10-5 pm
East 14415 Sprague Ave.

SAVE THE DATE

GOP calendar

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

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OUR WEBSITE
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Ponderosa Republican Women

At our June luncheon, PRW welcomed Local 2025 Candidates, guests, and Chris Corry, Eastern Washington Director of Washington Policy Center (WPC), for an informative briefing on WPC happenings. Chris reported on the *Report Card for Washington's Future*. The [Report Card](#) gives the stats on WA environment, education, agriculture, small businesses, and transportation reports. Chris also shared the upcoming 2025 WPC Young Republicans [Annual Hike](#) and [Young Professionals Dinner](#). Chris took many questions regarding WA 2025 Legislation to include the justice system, new WA residential and business taxes, and addressing the out-of-control homeless and drug problems. The luncheon concluded with a 30-minute "Meet and Greet" for all city and judicial candidates in attendance with the members and guests of the June Luncheon. Our next event, **the 5th Annual Ponderosa Republican Women's Garden Party fundraiser**, is Tuesday July 15, 2025 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the very popular Chaps Restaurant. Tickets can be purchased on the PRW [website](#). Our keynote speaker is Stephanie Hamill, TV broadcast journalist & political commentator, <http://www.stephaniemhamill.net/about.html>.

We are thrilled to announce our website has begun [Online Bidding](#) for our *Big Ticket Auction Item: The 50-Yard Line 'Coaches Box' University of Oregon vs. Penn State Football Package for 4* on Saturday, September 27, 2025. The package includes: 4 tickets, a parking pass, a tailgate basket, and an overnight stay for 4 at Holiday Inn Express. This was a generous donation from Former U of O Athletic Director Bill and Kendra Moos, who are new members of *Ponderosa Republican Women*. The package is valued at \$4500.00, but really is priceless, as these tickets cannot be purchased anywhere else.

Our next monthly luncheon will be August 12 but we look forward to seeing you at the 5th Annual PRW Garden Party in the evening on July 15, 2025.

All the best, Jan Grayhek, PRW President

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

Defend Faith, Family and Freedom by Taking Legislative Action!

Almost **75% of Spokane City voters supported Prop 1 (2023)** making it illegal to set up encampments on public property within 1000' of schools, day cares, parks and play grounds.
OVERTURNED by the WA Supreme Court.

Ordinance C36679: Prohibitions on camping on public property. VOTE has been postponed until June 30th. There is time to comment! Spokane City Council majority proposed this version of the Ordinance and say it will be effective in replacing Prop 1. But it won't. Of course, Prop 1 didn't help much with street homeless concerns because it was not consistently and effectively enforced. Read Council Member Jonathan Bingle's article, **Prop None**, (on pg 2). Your input to Spokane City Council is important. The [Ordinance](https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/citycouncil/updated-draft-agendas/2025/06/city-council-updated-draft-agenda-2025-06-16.pdf) <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/citycouncil/updated-draft-agendas/2025/06/city-council-updated-draft-agenda-2025-06-16.pdf> in its current form can be found on the **June 16 Agenda** (pg 11 and pgs 859-868). Other ordinances and resolutions to be discussed June 16. Find on pgs 10-13. Two of those:

Ordinance C36691, H.O.M.E. initiative Starts Here Initiative, 869-881: First reading ordinance outlines the City of Spokane's comprehensive approach to improving housing affordability and access while implementing strategic priorities that prevent homelessness through a focus on four pillars: healthcare, outreach and navigation, multidisciplinary engagement, and economic security.

Ordinance C36694, (pg 905): First reading ordinance to recodify the existing prohibition on aggressive solicitation.

Republicans continue to be outvoted. WA legislature: Senate 30-19 and House 59-39. The legislature has adjourned for the year. Now the focus needs to be on local issues and city councils. In Spokane City check out each week's Council agenda at <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycouncil/meetings/>. You can see replays of each week's meetings and, if you are willing to testify, you can sign up online to either testify in person or remotely, beginning on Friday evening before Monday's meeting. Do you live in Spokane Valley? Information on those city council meetings can be found at <https://www.spokanevalleywa.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes-Videos>.

Keep checking Facebook pages for our [County](#) and [State](#) GOP and WFRW (Washington Federation of Republican Women) for information and important messages when action by us is needed.

Visit 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.