

Weekly Legislative Update: Local News and Democracy

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February 18, 2024

Bill Updates

*Bills in **green** are supported. Bills in **red** are opposed by the League. Bills in **black** the League is watching.*

No new action this week.

SB 5626 Expanding and Enhancing Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship in K-12: Has been moved to the X Files. As previously noted, Sen. Marko Liias has turned to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for an administrative approach to expanding media literacy and digital citizenship education. With revised Learning Standards now addressing media literacy and digital citizenship education more fully, OSPI officials will begin in March to convene in-person focus groups and create networking opportunities through the state's Educational Service Districts to review the updated standards. Public comment periods will begin in August, followed by professional development training beginning in January 2025.

An OPSI official said teachers will be expected to begin teaching under the new standards in mid-2026.

SB 5102 Concerning School Library and Technology Programs: Sen. Wellman's bill, which would have required each district to adopt a policy requiring a teacher-librarian to provide media literacy and digital citizenship education, failed to advance by the Feb. 13 cut-off and so it will not proceed this year. A new version may be introduced next year.

How You Can Be Involved

- Respond to Action Alerts that are posted in the legislative newsletter.
- Contact **Dee Anne Finken** for further information about the LWVWA's Local News and Democracy position and work the committee is planning related to additional future legislation. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month.