

Weekly Legislative Update: **Money in Politics**

Issue Team Chair: Cindy Madigan

Contact: cmadigan@lwvwa.org

January 9, 2022

Bills We Support

SSB 5170 Concerning Employment After Public Service in State Government. Establishes a one-year “cooling off” period before elected officials and high-level employees can work as a lobbyist influencing state public policy. Thirty-seven states, as well as the federal government, have cooling off period/revolving door laws. The disclosure required by this bill of post-employment income sources will strengthen transparency and confidence in the integrity of government.

TBD Public Disclosure Commission Request legislation (no bill number yet) Updates campaign reporting deadlines to ensure voters have weekly access to campaign financing information to match the longer period ballots are available for voting. Increases transparency of grassroots lobbying campaigns and funding spent to influence legislation. Clarifying for the voter when political ads are endorsing a candidate who is running in a different election or a race other than the current one, and ads that encourage votes for a person who is not a candidate as of the date the ad is run.

Supporting the Public Disclosure Commission

Each session the League strives to ensure that the agency has sufficient funding for operations, and the flexibility to fund technical improvements to information systems. Empower the PDC to meet emerging needs by giving it project-based spending authority for the Transparency Account that was created by the Legislature in 2018.

How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have democracy teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Cindy Madigan, Money In Politics Issue Chair, cmadigan@lwvwa.org.