



Educate and inform the whole mass of the people, for they are the only sure reliance for the preservation of liberty. ~Thomas Jefferson

Important Upcoming Events:

WeThePeople Bi-Monthly Meeting - March 29th

Location Change this meeting only
Cascade Middle School 13900 NE 18th Street

Random Acts of Kindness - April 21, 2011

Local Government Committee:

Home Rule Charter Training Session - April 7th, 2011
Camas Library, Rooms A & B -- 625 NE Fourth Avenue

Emergency Preparedness Fair - Saturday, June 11, 2011

Fishers Landing Grange

Columbia River Crossing "Expert" Presentations

Cascade Middle School March 29th - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
13900 NE 18th Street, Vancouver, WA 98683

Our next speaker will be Joe Cortright with Impresa Consulting.

Joe Cortright is President and Principal Economist for Impresa, a consulting firm specializing in regional economic analysis, innovation and industry clusters. Joe is also a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and is the chief economic analyst for the Oregon Business Plan, a multi-year, private sector-led effort to develop the state economy.

Impresa is a Portland based consulting firm specializing in metropolitan economies and knowledge-based industries. Founded by noted economist Joe Cortright, Impresa's policy advice is built around a proven four-part framework for developing successful urban economies.

Mr. Cortright will be presenting analysis of the financial plan and traffic projections.

Video of the Expert Presentations and dialogue with the community are posted at www.WePeeps.org/LocalGovt.html



Speaker Presentation



Q&A Dialogue

Random Acts of Kindness

Events Committee - Debbie Schreiber

We have a wonderful opportunity to show our community that people still care about people by taking part in the "Flash Mob of Kindness Event" on April 21. Beginning this week, we are accepting donations of food and hygiene products. On Thursday, April 21, at 10:00 am, we will begin distributing bags of groceries to random people in need. We have yet to pick our location, but the idea is to go into a place where people have lost their jobs and hand them a bag of groceries, shake their hands, hug them and let them know they are not alone. No strings are attached, no lecturing, just human loving contact. This will show people in our community that people are good and care. This will be the first of several times of the year that we can do this humanitarian act, as we will also conduct food drives on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or whenever we think our community needs a little uplifting. With such craziness in the world, we must promote our values and share them. Come join us!



"Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy." Thomas Jefferson

Random acts of kindness in our community
We The People - SW Washington

www.Wepeeps.org

Other projects currently in the planning stages:

- Parade schedule for the year
- Fourth of July Events
- Joint Endeavors with the Education Committees
- 6/11 Emergency Preparedness / Passport to Survival
- Constitution Fair date (time and location to be determined)

Stay tuned! Contact us and become involved!

Clark County Home Rule Charter

Training and Q&A for interested Freeholders

To learn more about "Home Rule" charter, the Clark County Commissioners have asked their staff to provide training sessions at various locations across the county. County staff are doing a great job with the training. If you have not yet attended a training session, the following opportunities still exist.

- 4/7/11 Camas Library, Rooms A & B -- 625 NE Fourth Avenue
- 4/20/11 WSU, Admin Bldg, Rm 110 -- 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave
- 5/5/11 Camas Union High School -- 6201 N.W. Friberg-Strunk St

To evaluate interest in potential Home Rule Charter provisions, county staff issued 5 five paper votes for each attendee and collected them towards the end of the training. Below is the summary of the voting which occurred.

Feb 10th 36 Attendees 161 votes cast

- 21.2% Citizen's Initiative Process
- 19.9% Funding Mechanism in place before approval
- 15.5% Citizen's Referendum Process
 - 9.9% Electing Commissioners by District
 - 9.3% Term Limits
 - 7.5% Change partisan races to non-partisan
 - 6.8% Include Charter Review Process
 - 5.0% Increase commissioners from three to five

March 24th 21 Attendees 95 votes cast

- 21.1 % Funding Mechanism in place before approval
- 16.8% Citizen's Initiative
- 15.8% Electing Commissioners by District
- 15.8% Citizen's Referendum
- 11.6% Change partisan races to non-partisan
 - 7.4% Increase commissioners from three to five
 - 5.3% Term Limits
 - 5.3% Include Charter Review Process

Letter to the Editor - Submitted to Battleground Reflector

by Carrie Thatcher

On March 17, 2011, Mayor Tim Leavitt with accompanying guests, spoke to Clark County residents regarding the impending Columbia River Crossing. The townhall style meeting was hosted by We The People of Vancouver.

Mayor Leavitt, Thayer Rorabaugh and Dean Lookingbill, recounted the history of the project. The project investigation began in 1999. In 2001-2002 a task force of 26 members were appointed by the governor to develop recommendations for traffic and freight management in the 1-5 corridor. Over the next 8 years additional committees, task forces, and departments came together to study and create the present plan for the highway.

This detailed history, which also included cost break down from federal, state and local coffers, as well as future anticipated expenditures through public elections and transit maintenance irritated the audience. A major concern was the funding for this project. They felt too many taxpayer dollars had already been spent and the project really hadn't begun. The total project is slated to cost \$3.550 billion. The highway portion alone will cost \$2.700 billion. It will be funded from three sources \$400 million from the federal government, \$1.0 billion from the state, \$1.300 billion from regional/local funds.

The question quickly arose "What were regional funds?" The answer was tolls, or local taxes. The people were not pleased with that answer. From their point of view Federal dollars were once their dollars, but taxes took them. Same with state. Now they were asked to pay for the privilege to cross the bridge their taxes built.

When Mayor Leavitt explained that if Clark County didn't take the federal money someone else would get it, he received a resounding chorus of "Let it go." One participant asked Mayor Leavitt why he was supporting the project especially when local votes were strongly against it. He explained that he hears from others who support the bridge, especially for commerce and freight, but said he would be willing to discuss other opinions.

Though a meeting of this magnitude could have gotten out of hand, it did not. Though there were passions on the part of the citizens, they and Mayor Leavitt dialogued considerably well. Afterward Mayor Leavitt, Mr. Rorabaugh and Mr. Lookingbill remained to speak one on one with many people. Mayer Leavitt agreed to take their suggestions into consideration.



2 OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Lynn Costello

It's more than restoring the Constitution. It's about restoring ourselves. This President has been traveling down the road he chose in order to diminish or erase the prestige and exceptionalism that once defined America. Road blocks will not be erected until the American people, individually resolve that "I am better than that" and "my country is better than that." It is my belief that only God can stir the hearts of man causing him to desire morality, encouraging him to seek education, and lighting the fire fueling his commitment to preserve liberty for all. Until then...

Standing in the Gaps

Greg Noelck

Founder of George Wythe University Oliver DeMille recently blogged the following: "If our thoughts about our government are mostly negative, we need to change our attitude and get involved in making it a government we can be proud of. The United States really is a government of, by and for the people--but that means we have to do our part. We have to own it."

At a We the People meeting earlier this year, a significant amount of meeting attendees expressed the sentiment that much of the civic problems we face today (associated with progressivism) are a direct result from the lack of conservative leadership and civic participation over the decades.

Each of us stands or falls according to the set of beliefs we hold. If as DeMille pointed out we mainly host negative beliefs about the government then we will likely isolate ourselves from government and by extension abdicate our own personal ownership role. But if we hold that government can be a force for good as well as for evil, then we owe it to ourselves and each other to seek to make it so for the sake of good.

Between this year and next there are likely over 100 offices to be filled from local school boards to the U.S. president. We long for true conservative leadership in these positions but the difficulty is that few actually seek to rise up and stand in the gaps. While it may be said that great leaders are not to be found under every tree, there is really no reason why good leaders cannot be.

Conservatism upholds at its very essence the idea that freedom is born not because "somebody should" do something, but that "I am" doing something; it is the continual offering of our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to each other that actually yield the blessing of liberty now and for our posterity. Where else shall we find the conservative leadership that we long for if not from our very midst!

It is never too late to prepare and stand in the gaps.

We The People Vancouver is a Multi-partisan organization promoting the Founding Principles of a Democratic Constitutional Republic through education, outreach, and community events.

Our Vision: The great American experiment to this day has been a question of a peoples capacity to self govern, thus maintaining individual freedoms. When the balance of power between those governed and those given consent to govern becomes imbalanced, liberty and prosperity suffer. We desire that the essential balance of power, having been tipped to the side of those governing, would be restored to it's optimal condition.

Our Mission: In all of human history it is found that freedom is the exception, not the norm. The pillars of the American experiment and of the resultant liberty have been a civically moral, educated, and active people. Our mission is to encourage one another, our families, and our communities in these pursuits, thus reasserting civic ownership of our cities, state, and nation.

www.WeThePeople-Vancouver.org

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