



**Washington State Guide for  
Civic Observances:  
Law Day and Constitution Day**



**Board of Judicial Administration  
Public Trust and Confidence Committee**

2015

## Background

In January 2013, the Washington State Courts Public Trust and Confidence Committee formed a subcommittee to research participation in Law Day and Constitution Day in Washington State. The Law and Constitution Days Subcommittee compiled the following information as a guide providing access to resources and ideas for those wishing to celebrate Law Day and Constitution Day. This guide primarily references other organizations and government agencies who do work with these two federal observances.

After the surveys were completed, the Subcommittee added two related observances to this guide: Washington State’s Temperance and Good Citizenship Day and the federal Bill of Rights Day.

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## For more information

Please see the Public Trust and Confidence Committee website:  
[https://www.courts.wa.gov/programs/orgs/pos\\_bja/?fa=pos\\_bja.ptc](https://www.courts.wa.gov/programs/orgs/pos_bja/?fa=pos_bja.ptc)  
or contact the Administrative Office of the Courts (360) 753-3365.

Thanks to Subcommittee members:

Justice Mary Fairhurst

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Sharon Vance.

And a big thank you to Cindy Phillips and Mara Machulsky for editing and formatting.



## Survey Description and Results

The Law and Constitution Day Subcommittee distributed a survey to the federal, state, local, county, and specialty bar associations around Washington State. The goal of the survey was to learn about the participation of these groups in Constitution Day and/or Law Day. The following tables reflect the responses received by the Subcommittee.

The first table reflects the initial round of survey responses. The initial survey was sent close to Constitution Day, so the Subcommittee felt it was important to follow up with a second survey on the Law Day information that was received. The second survey was sent to respondents that indicated they do participate in Law Day to ask more specifically about their celebration, and if the information had changed since the last survey. The second table reflects this second follow-up survey that the Subcommittee distributed.

The Subcommittee realizes that much more may be occurring in Washington State for these observances than was reported. However, it is hoped that these results may inspire groups to take an active role in bringing civic education to students throughout the State.



## Law Day and Constitution Day Survey Responses

Organization	Do you hold any events for Law Day or Constitution Day?	If yes, what type of event / celebration are you having this year (2013)?	Do you know of other events? If yes, what are they?
Adams County Bar Ass'n	No	N/A	N/A
American Immigration Lawyers Ass'n	No , but we have done an amazing amount of pro bono work this year, in conjunction with various nonprofits. Our clinics on behalf of undocumented youth have had over 5,000 attendees, and between 200-300 attorney volunteers. We've held several naturalization clinics, and have four clinics scheduled for April 27 in Moses Lake, Vancouver, Tacoma, and Mount Vernon.	Nothing planned as an organization. We do have many members who participate in local clinics as volunteers, organized by local bar associations. We frequently do this for the Skagit Bar Association, though will not be this year, due to other commitments.	Skagit County Bar Ass'n has a clinic, lunch and providing award; Whatcom County Bar/ Law Advocates does something similar; and I presume King and Snohomish are also having activities.
Benton/Franklin County Bar Ass'n	Yes, Law Day	We are presenting to 17 local service clubs.	N/A
Chelan/Douglas County Bar Ass'n	Yes, Law Day	On May 3, Justice Fairhurst is speaking. We will be giving pro bono and professionalism awards to local attys and non attys and offer CLE credits.	N/A
Federal Bar Ass'n	Yes, Law Day Yes, Constitution Day	The Federal Bar Ass'n is hosting a Youth Law Day at USDC for the fall, geared toward underprivileged high school students For Constitution Day, there will be events at USDC on Sept. 17 for Seattle and Sept. 18 for Tacoma intended for elementary children. Both programs include tours, visits with Marshals, lock ups, and mock trials.	N/A
GLBT Bar Ass'n of Washington	No	N/A	N/A



Organization	Do you hold any events for Law Day or Constitution Day?	If yes, what type of event / celebration are you having this year (2013)?	Do you know of other events? If yes, what are they?
King County Bar Ass'n	No	N/A	There is an annual event by trial lawyers. American Bar Ass'n tries to generate interest by local bars with promotional materials.
Latino/a Bar Ass'n of Washington	No	N/A	N/A
Spokane County Public Defenders	No	N/A	Yes, Spokane County Bar has city-wide project including sending speakers to local schools and ceremony for new U.S. citizens.
Spokane Municipal Court	Yes, Law Day	We have an essay contest for school age children (K-12) on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I had a dream" speech and host an open house.	N/A
Stevens County Bar Ass'n	No, I don't believe there are any official activities for either of those events by the Stevens County Bar Ass'n. However, a contingency of our county bar association often meets informally on various holidays or days of recognition such as this at a local restaurant. The next scheduled gathering of the Stevens County Bar Association is May 9 for a CLE presentation.	N/A	N/A
Thurston County Bar Ass'n	Yes Law Day	We host an annual Law Day Speech Scholarship Contest with West Olympia Rotary. This year's (2013) speech topic will center on the issue of "Gun Violence in America" and the best legal, social and/or moral response to this issue. A law day scholarship is awarded to the top speeches.	N/A



Organization	Do you hold any events for Law Day or Constitution Day?	If yes, what type of event / celebration are you having this year (2013)?	Do you know of other events? If yes, what are they?
Thurston County Public Defenders	No, but we are planning on collaborating with ACLU-WA to host a showing of a new documentary on Public Defenders called Gideon's Army in August or September. If the efforts are successful, I will be approaching the Supreme Court for participation in a pre or post showing community discussion of public defense.	N/A	Yes, Thurston County Bar Ass'n Law Day Speech Scholarship Competition.
Whatcom County Bar Ass'n	Yes, Law Day	We are teaming up with local Volunteer Legal Project, Law Advocates. The Whatcom County Bar usually does something to commemorate Law Day, but not Constitution Day. This year we are teaming up with the local VLP, LAW Advocates, to offer separate programs at WWU and Whatcom Community College directed to student loan debt. At each location we will show the video <i>Default, The Student Loan Documentary</i> , a panel consisting of one creditor-debtor attorney and one tax attorney will make a short presentation and answer questions and then the attorneys will be available for brief individual-clinic like conferences for those who may have interest.	N/A
Washington Women Lawyers	No	N/A	N/A
Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	No	N/A	N/A



## Law Day Follow Up Survey

### Responses Update 12/18/13

Organization	Contact	Update The responses address the following questions: 1. Is the previous description of your Law Day celebration still an accurate representation? If not, please send a revised version. 2. Do we have permission to publicly share information about your event? 3. Do you have any supporting materials for the event such as photos, pamphlets, etc. that you would be willing to share?
Benton/Franklin County	Jeff Sperline	This remains an accurate description of what we are doing for 2014. We do have a new presentation focusing on the jury system/ importance of juries that will have a new PowerPoint; currently in development. We would be happy to share upon completion.
Federal Bar Ass'n of Western District of Washington	Jennifer Wellman	Due to sequestration, Youth Law Day was postponed. It is now scheduled for March 7, 2014.
Kitsap County Bar Ass'n	Matt Clucas	Our information is the same. I don't have any materials from last year. I will make sure to keep some from the 2014 celebration.
Stevens County Bar Ass'n	Mathew J.ENZLER	The information below is largely accurate, however, regarding our future meetings: our Bar Association has quarterly business meetings (March, June, September, December), with CLE luncheons in the nonbusiness meeting months. We did have two special/additional meetings this year for various special events, however Law Day was not one of them.



# Law Day Reference Sheet

Law Day is a federal observance that occurs every year on May 1. Law Day was first designated in a proclamation by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed February 3, 1958. Each year, the current President issues a proclamation declaring May 1 as Law Day, and today the American Bar Association sets a national theme and promotes use of this theme through supporting educational materials and lessons.

## Resources from organizations and agencies

American Bar Association—[www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/initiatives awards/law day.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/law_day.html)

Center for Civic Education—[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

Civic Renewal Network—[www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org](http://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org)

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago—[www.crfc.org](http://www.crfc.org)

Constitutional Rights Foundation Los Angeles—[www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

iCivics—[www.iCivics.org](http://www.iCivics.org)

Library of Congress—[www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/law-day.php?loclr=bloglaw](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/law-day.php?loclr=bloglaw)

Street Law—[www.streetlaw.org](http://www.streetlaw.org)

United States Courts—[www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-inspired/annual-observances/law-day.aspx](http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-inspired/annual-observances/law-day.aspx)

University of Cornell Law Information Institute—[www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/36/113](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/36/113)



# Constitution Day Reference Sheet

Constitution Day is a federal observance that occurs every year on September 17. It commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

## Legal requirements

The Federal Register mandates that “educational institutions receiving Federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year.” 70 FR 29727-01.

## Sources for pocket Constitutions

Copies of the pocket constitution are available through the Government Printing Office bookstore for \$1.50 each, \$112.50 for 100 copies (includes shipping).

## Resources from organizations and agencies

Center for Civic Education—<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>

Civic Renewal Network—[www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org](http://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org)

Colorado Law Constitution Day Project—[www.colorado.edu/law/sites/default/files/Presenter%20Packet%20for%20longer%20classes.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/law/sites/default/files/Presenter%20Packet%20for%20longer%20classes.pdf)

Constitution Day games—<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/constitution-day-resources/>

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago—[www.crfc.org](http://www.crfc.org)

Constitutional Rights Foundation Los Angeles—[www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

iCivics—[www.iCivics.org](http://www.iCivics.org)

Library of Congress—[www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/law-day.php?loclr=bloglaw](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/law-day.php?loclr=bloglaw)

National Constitution Center—<http://constitutioncenter.org/constitution-day/>

State of Texas State Bar Association—Law-Related Education Department - [www.texaslre.org/lessonplans/lessonplans.php](http://www.texaslre.org/lessonplans/lessonplans.php)

Street Law—[www.streetlaw.org](http://www.streetlaw.org)

WSU Library guide—<http://libguides.wsulibs.wsu.edu/constitutionday>



## Related Civic Observances

Though not originally part of the charge of the Law and Constitution Day Subcommittee, the group discovered other civic observances that align with the civic mission of Law Day and Constitution Day.

### **Temperance and Good Citizenship Day**

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day is a civic observance, established by the Washington State Legislature in 1923. The Revised Code of Washington 28A.230.150 states: "On January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when January 16th falls on a nonschool day, there shall be observed within each public school Temperance and Good Citizenship Day."

In 1969 the original legislation was amended, allowing schools to emphasize the rights and duties of citizenship rather than focusing on temperance. The new wording included the following directive: "Annually the state superintendent of public instruction shall duly prepare and publish for circulation among the teachers of the state a program for use on such day embodying topics pertinent thereto and may from year to year designate particular laws for special observance."

In 2013 the Washington State Legislature passed a budget bill (3ESSB-5034) with a proviso directing the superintendent of public instruction to update the Temperance and Good Citizenship Day program. The proviso stipulated that public schools must provide all eligible students with the opportunity to register to vote. A link to the budget bill and proviso can be found at:

<http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/lbns/1315Omni5034-S.SL.pdf>

### **Bill of Rights Day**

Bill of Rights Day is celebrated on December 15, and throughout the month. The organizations listed under Constitution Day and Law Day, as well as the federal courts offer new resources every year that are ready for immediate courtroom and classroom use by judges, teachers, and students. They are meant to inform, involve, and inspire citizens to appreciate and exercise the Bill of Rights in their lives.



# Appendix

## Law Day Materials

Law Day codified as 36 U.S.C. § 113 by Public Law 87-20 on April 7, 1961. The original proclamation from President Eisenhower can be found in Volume 72, Part 2, of the United States Congressional Session Laws.

Excerpt from the 2014 Law Day Planning Guide from the American Bar Association. This is based on the 2014 ABA theme “Why Every Vote Matters.”

## Constitution Day Materials

36 U.S.C. § 106 regarding Constitution Day.

Annual presidential proclamation regarding observances of Constitution Day.

An OSPI memorandum that was put out shortly before the 2011 Washington State Senate. The memo also cites the 2005 Federal Register notice.



In clause (1), the words “the 2d Monday in October” are substituted for “October 12” in the Act of April 30, 1934 (ch. 184, 48 Stat. 657), because of section 1(b) of the Act of June 28, 1968 (Public Law 90-363, 82 Stat. 250).

**§ 108. Constitution Week**

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation—

- (1) designating September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week; and
- (2) inviting the people of the United States to observe Constitution Week, in schools, churches, and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1256.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
108 .....	36:159.	Aug. 2, 1956, ch. 875, 70 Stat. 932.

**§ 109. Father’s Day**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The third Sunday in June is Father’s Day.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue a proclamation—

- (1) calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Father’s Day;
- (2) inviting State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe Father’s Day with appropriate ceremonies; and
- (3) urging the people of the United States to offer public and private expressions of Father’s Day to the abiding love and gratitude they have for their fathers.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1256.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
109(a) .....	36:142a (1st sentence).	Apr. 24, 1972, Pub. L. 92-278, 86 Stat. 124.
109(b) .....	36:142a (last sentence).	

In subsection (b)(1), the word “appropriate” is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(2), the words “State and local governments” are substituted for “the governments of the States and communities” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

**§ 110. Flag Day**

(a) DESIGNATION.—June 14 is Flag Day.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation—

- (1) calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Flag Day; and
- (2) urging the people of the United States to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1256.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
110(a) .....	36:157 (words before 1st comma).	Aug. 3, 1949, ch. 385, 63 Stat. 492.
110(b) .....	36:157 (words after 1st comma).	

**§ 111. Gold Star Mother’s Day**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The last Sunday in September is Gold Star Mother’s Day.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings, and the people of the United States to display the flag and hold appropriate meetings at homes, churches, or other suitable places, on Gold Star Mother’s Day as a public expression of the love, sorrow, and reverence of the people for Gold Star Mothers.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1256.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
111(a) .....	36:148 (words before comma).	June 23, 1936, ch. 736, 49 Stat. 1895.
111(b) .....	36:147. 36:148 (words after comma).	

In subsection (b), the text of 36:148 (words after comma) is omitted as unnecessary. The words “Gold Star Mother’s Day” are substituted for “the last Sunday in September” in 36:147 for clarity. The word “American” is omitted as unnecessary.

**§ 112. Honor America Days**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The 21 days from Flag Day through Independence Day is a period to honor America.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION.—Congress declares that there be public gatherings and activities during that period at which the people of the United States can celebrate and honor their country in an appropriate way.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1257.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
112(a) .....	36:157b (words before comma).	June 13, 1975, Pub. L. 94-33, 89 Stat. 211.
112(b) .....	36:157b (words after comma).	

**§ 113. Law Day, U.S.A.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—May 1 is Law Day, U.S.A.

(b) PURPOSE.—Law Day, U.S.A., is a special day of celebration by the people of the United States—

- (1) in appreciation of their liberties and the reaffirmation of their loyalty to the United States and of their rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under law in their relations with each other and with other countries; and
- (2) for the cultivation of the respect for law that is so vital to the democratic way of life.

(c) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue a proclamation—

(1) calling on all public officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Law Day, U.S.A.; and

(2) inviting the people of the United States to observe Law Day, U.S.A., with appropriate ceremonies and in other appropriate ways, through public entities and private organizations and in schools and other suitable places.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1257.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
113(a) .....	36:164 (1st par. 1st sentence).	Apr. 7, 1961, Pub. L. 87–20, 75 Stat. 43.
113(b) .....	36:164 (1st par. last sentence).	
113(c) .....	36:164 (last par.).	

In subsection (b)(1), the word “countries” is substituted for “nations” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In subsection (c)(2), the word “entities” is substituted for “bodies” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code.

#### § 114. Leif Erikson Day

The President may issue each year a proclamation designating October 9 as Leif Erikson Day.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1257.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
114 .....	36:169c.	Sept. 2, 1964, Pub. L. 88–566, 78 Stat. 849.

#### § 115. Loyalty Day

(a) DESIGNATION.—May 1 is Loyalty Day.

(b) PURPOSE.—Loyalty Day is a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.

(c) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue a proclamation—

(1) calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Loyalty Day; and

(2) inviting the people of the United States to observe Loyalty Day with appropriate ceremonies in schools and other suitable places.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1257.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
115(a) .....	36:162 (1st–13th words).	July 18, 1958, Pub. L. 85–529, 72 Stat. 369.
115(b) .....	36:162 (14th word–semicolon).	
115(c) .....	36:162 (words after semicolon).	

#### § 116. Memorial Day

(a) DESIGNATION.—The last Monday in May is Memorial Day.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation—

(1) calling on the people of the United States to observe Memorial Day by praying, according to their individual religious faith, for permanent peace;

(2) designating a period of time on Memorial Day during which the people may unite in prayer for a permanent peace;

(3) calling on the people of the United States to unite in prayer at that time; and

(4) calling on the media to join in observing Memorial Day and the period of prayer.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1257.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
116 .....	36:169g.	May 11, 1950, ch. 182, 64 Stat. 158.

In subsection (a), the designation is added, and the words “last Monday in May” are substituted for “May 30” in the Act of May 11, 1950 (ch. 182, 64 Stat. 158), because of section 1(b) of the Act of June 28, 1968 (Public Law 90–363, 82 Stat. 250).

In subsection (b)(4), the word “media” is substituted for “newspapers, radio stations, and all other mediums of information” to eliminate unnecessary words.

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

Pub. L. 106–579, Dec. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 3078, as amended by Pub. L. 110–161, div. H, title I, § 1502(e), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2250, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘National Moment of Remembrance Act’.

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds that—

“(1) it is essential to remember and renew the legacy of Memorial Day, which was established in 1868 to pay tribute to individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States and their families;

“(2) greater strides must be made to demonstrate appreciation for those loyal people of the United States whose values, represented by their sacrifices, are critical to the future of the United States;

“(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for the national heritage, and to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which those heroes of the United States died;

“(4) the relevance of Memorial Day must be made more apparent to present and future generations of people of the United States through local and national observances and ongoing activities;

“(5) in House Concurrent Resolution 302, agreed to May 25, 2000, Congress called on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Moment of Remembrance to honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

“(6) in Presidential Proclamation No. 7315 of May 26, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 34907), the President proclaimed Memorial Day, May 29, 2000, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and designated 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as the time to join in prayer and to observe the National Moment of Remembrance; and

“(7) a National Moment of Remembrance and other commemorative events are needed to reclaim Memorial Day as the sacred and noble event that that day is intended to be.

“SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY  
AND THE  
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# WHY EVERY **VOTE** MATTERS LAW DAY 2014

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## PLANNING GUIDE

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The graphic features the text "AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW" in blue, stacked vertically on the left. To its right, "WHY EVERY" is in blue above "VOTE" in a large, bold blue font. Below "VOTE" is "MATTERS" in a large, bold blue font. On the far right, "LAW DAY 2014" is written vertically in red. A large red checkmark is positioned behind the word "VOTE".

AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY  
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WHY EVERY  
VOTE  
MATTERS

LAW DAY 2014

One of our most cherished national ideals, expressed eloquently by Abraham Lincoln, is “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” It is a principle enshrined in our nation’s founding documents, from the Declaration of Independence’s assurance that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, to the opening three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, “We the People.”

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen’s right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history. Much of the struggle for voting rights began decades ago, but the work is far from complete, and a citizen’s right to cast a ballot remains at risk today.

As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme, **American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters**, calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen’s right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

# ABOUT LAW DAY

## What is Law Day?

A national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service to maintaining the integrity of the courts.



## How did Law Day begin?

In 1957, American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. In 1961, Congress, by joint resolution, designated May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

## When is Law Day celebrated?

May 1 is the official date, but many celebrations take place either before or after that date. Some bar associations celebrate Law Week.

## How Is Law Day celebrated?

Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how the law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country. In addition, every year since 1958 the president of the United States has issued a Law Day proclamation recognizing the importance of this day.

## Why is a theme selected?

A theme is chosen to provide an opportunity to spotlight a particular aspect of the rule of law or legal process and how it affects our daily lives. Many of the Law Day programs held around the country are specifically tailored to showcase the theme.

## Who conducts Law Day programs?

Law Day programs are conducted by bar groups, courts, schools, youth groups, and community organizations, just to name a few. Anyone or any group that wants to spread the important message of the crucial role of the rule of law and the legal process in protecting freedom has the potential to put on a program.

## Are additional Law Day resources available?

Yes. In addition to the information that you find in this guide, lots of helpful resources are available on the Law Day website, [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org)

## Whom Can I Contact With Law Day Questions?

Chandra Fitzpatrick, outreach manager for the ABA Division for Public Education, will be happy to assist you with any additional Law Day questions you may have. Chandra can be reached at (312) 988-5720, [chandra.fitzpatrick@americanbar.org](mailto:chandra.fitzpatrick@americanbar.org)

## C

**Effective: December 8, 2004**

United States Code Annotated [Currentness](#)

Title 36. Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations ([Refs & Annos](#))

Subtitle I. Patriotic and National Observances and Ceremonies

▣ [Part A](#). Observances and Ceremonies

▣ [Chapter 1](#). Patriotic and National Observances ([Refs & Annos](#))

→→ **§ 106. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day**

**(a) Designation.**--September 17 is designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

**(b) Purpose.**--Constitution Day and Citizenship Day commemorate the formation and signing on September 17, 1787, of the Constitution and recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens.

**(c) Proclamation.**--The President may issue each year a proclamation calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and inviting the people of the United States to observe Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.

**(d) State and local observances.**--The civil and educational authorities of States, counties, cities, and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the State and locality in which they reside.

CREDIT(S)

(Added [Pub.L. 105-225](#), § 1, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1255; amended [Pub.L. 108-447](#), Div. J, Title I, § 111(c)(1), Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3344.)

## HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

### Revision Notes and Legislative Reports

1998 Acts

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
106(a)	36:153 (1st par. 1st 13th words).	Feb. 29, 1952, ch. 49, § 1, 66 Stat. 9.

106(b)	36:153 (1st par. 14th word words before “and the President”).
106(c)	36:153 (1st par. words after “of citizenship”).
106(d)	36:153 (2d, last pars.).

In subsection (d), the text of 36:153 (last par.) is omitted as obsolete.

[House Report No. 105-326](#), see 1998 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News, p. 368.

2004 Acts. [House Conference Report No. 108-792](#), see 2004 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News, p. 2577.

Statement by President, see 2004 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News, p. S46.

#### Amendments

2004 Amendments. Heading. Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, § 111(c)(1)(A), inserted “Constitution Day and” before “Citizenship Day”.

Subsec. (a). Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, § 111(c)(1)(B), struck out “is Citizenship Day.” and inserted “is designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.”

Subsec. (b). Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, § 111(c)(1)(C), inserted “Constitution Day and” before “Citizenship Day”, substituted “commemorate” for “commemorates”, and substituted “recognize” for “recognizes”.

Subsec. (c). Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, § 111(c)(1)(D), inserted “Constitution Day and” before “Citizenship Day” in two places.

Subsec. (d). Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, § 111(c)(1)(E), inserted “Constitution Day and” before “Citizenship Day”.

United States Constitution--Educational and Training Materials for Federal Agency and Department Employees; Programs for Students

Pub.L. 108-447, Div. J, Title I, § 111, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3344, provided that:

“(a) The head of each Federal agency or department shall--

“(1) provide each new employee of the agency or department with educational and training materials concerning the United States Constitution as part of the orientation materials provided to the new employee; and

“(2) provide educational and training materials concerning the United States Constitution to each employee of the agency or department on September 17 of each year.

“(b) Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.”

(c) [Omitted. Amends this section]

“(d) This section [this note] shall be without fiscal year limitation.”

#### LIBRARY REFERENCES

American Digest System

[Holidays](#)  1.

Key Number System Topic No. 201.

36 U.S.C.A. § 106, 36 USCA § 106

Current through P.L. 113-31 approved 8-9-13

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## Proclamation 8862

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, Constitution Week, 2012

September 13, 2012

**\*57983** By the President of the United States of America

## A Proclamation

Today, we celebrate our heritage as a country bound together by fidelity to a set of ideas and a system of governance first laid out in America's Constitution. The product of fierce debate and enduring compromise, our Nation's Constitution has guided our progress from 13 to 50 United States that stretch from sea to shining sea. It has watched over our growth from a fragile experiment in democracy to a beacon of freedom that lights the world. It has vested in each of us the power to appeal to principles that could broaden democracy's reach.

As we mark this 225th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution, we also recognize the candidates for citizenship who will commemorate this day by joining our American family. For more than two centuries, our country has drawn enterprising men and women from around the world—individuals who have sought to build a life as good as their talents and their hard work would allow. Generations have crossed land and ocean because of the belief that, in America, all things are possible. As a new group of citizens takes an oath to support and defend our country's oldest principles, we affirm another truth: that our American journey and our success would never have been possible without the hope, the drive, and the irrepressible optimism that every generation of immigrants has brought to our shores. Across our country, Americans are working side-by-side with our Nation's newest citizens to build strong, welcoming communities that embrace the talents and contributions of all their members.

This week, we reflect on the basic rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the founding documents from which they were drawn, and the extraordinary legacy of progress they have enabled. Let us forever uphold the ideals the Framers enshrined in our Constitution, and let us never cease in our pursuit of the more perfect Union they imagined so many years ago.

In remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 ([36 U.S.C. 106](#)), designated September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 ([36 U.S.C. 108](#)), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2012, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and September 17 through September 23, 2012, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that bring together community members to reflect on the importance of active citizenship, recognize the enduring strength of our Constitution, and reaffirm our commitment to the rights and obligations of citizenship in this great Nation.

The President

**\*57984** IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

77 FR 57983, Pres. Proc. No. 8862, 2012 WL 4061337 (Pres.Proclamation)

END OF DOCUMENT



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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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**Randy I. Dorn** Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

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September 8, 2010

( ) Action Requested  
(X) Informational

## MEMORANDUM NO. 054-10M TEACHING AND LEARNING

**TO:** Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School Building Principals  
Curriculum Directors  
K-12 Teachers and Librarians

**FROM:** Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** 2010-11 Observances of Constitution and Citizenship Day, Veteran's Day, Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**CONTACT:** Kelly Martin, Social Studies/International Education  
(360) 725-6351, [Kelly.Martin@k12.wa.us](mailto:Kelly.Martin@k12.wa.us), TTY (360) 664-3631

### INTRODUCTION:

This notice is to provide K-12 teachers and administrators in the state of Washington with suggested resources for observing Constitution and Citizenship Day, Veterans Day, Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Per state law, public schools are required to observe Constitution and Citizenship Day, Veterans Day, and Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

### OBSERVANCES:

1. Constitution and Citizenship Day shall be observed on September 17, 2010.
2. Veterans Day shall be recognized by public schools the week proceeding the federal holiday of November 11, 2010.
3. Temperance and Good Citizenship Day shall be observed on Friday, January 14, 2011.
4. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on Monday, January 17, 2011.

### SUMMARY OF RELEVANT STATE LAWS & RESOLUTIONS:

- **Constitution and Citizenship Day** - [RCW 28A.230.170](#) requires the study of the state and federal Constitution. "The study of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Washington shall be a condition prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high schools of this state. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide by rule for the implementation of this section."

By federal law enacted in December 2004, "...Each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution..." to commemorate the signing of the United States Constitution on

September 8, 2010

September 17, 1787. The federal law is included in Section 111 of Pub. L. 108-447 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

The U.S. Department of Education has published additional information about the law at [www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html).

For further information on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/constitutionday08.html> or contact Alex Stein, U.S. Department of Education, at (202) 205-9085 or [constitutionday@ed.gov](mailto:constitutionday@ed.gov).

- **Veterans Day** - [RCW 28A.230.160](#) requires that “during the school week preceding the 11th day of November of each year, there shall be presented in each common school as defined in [RCW 28A.150.020](#) educational activities suitable to the observance of Veterans’ Day. The responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the activities approximating at least 60 minutes total throughout the week shall be with the principal or head teacher of each school building and such program shall embrace topics tending to instill a loyalty and devotion to the institutions and laws of this state and nation. The superintendent of public instruction and each educational service district superintendent, by advice and suggestion, shall aid in the preparation of these activities if such aid be solicited.”
- **Temperance and Good Citizenship Day** - [RCW 28A.230.150](#) states that “on January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when January 16 falls on a non-school day, there shall be observed within each public school ‘Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.’” In addition, the law requires OSPI to develop and share resources each year that may help public schools observe this day.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - In January 2004, the Washington State House of Representatives passed [House Resolution 4676](#), recognizing “the importance of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the civil society and freedoms of the United States of America and of the state of Washington. The House of Representatives calls on the people of the state of Washington to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King’s life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people” and urges “all the citizens of our state to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a day of service -- a day on, not a day off.” There is no state law or specific regulation that requires school districts to observe this day in any particular way.

#### **SUGGESTED RESOURCES:**

Many excellent resources are available to assist teachers and administrators with the implementation of these observances. Among these are:

- The **OSPI Developed Social Studies Assessments** provide an opportunity for schools to observe the aforementioned observances in a standards-based way. Assessments such as *You Decide* and *Whose Rules* at the elementary level and *Constitutional Issues* and *Checks and Balances* at the middle and high school levels have been developed in alignment with the state’s social studies learning standards and ask students to engage in tasks or projects authentic to responsible citizenship. (<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/CBAs/default.aspx>)
- The **Bill of Rights Institute** has lesson plans related to the citizenship for middle school and high school students. ([www.billofrightsinstitute.org](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org))

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- The **Center for Civic Education** has posted lessons related to citizenship and the Constitution on its website. The Center also sponsors the *We the People* and *Project Citizen* programs. ([www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org))
- **Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF)** has online resources to help educators design their own Constitution Day program. ([www.crf-usa.org/constitution\\_day/constitution\\_day\\_home.htm](http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.htm))
- The **Council on Public Legal Education** includes links to classroom resources on topics related to citizenship, law, and civics. ([www.lawforwa.org](http://www.lawforwa.org))
- The **National Archives** has a web site with a scan of the U.S. Constitution available online at: [www.archives.gov/national\\_archives\\_experience/charters/constitution.html](http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/constitution.html).
- The **National Constitution Center** has lists of other resources related to the Constitution. ([www.constitutionday.us](http://www.constitutionday.us))
- **United States Department of Veterans Affairs** website provides information, links, and teacher resources for the recognition of Veterans Day. (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>)
- The **Yale Law School**, Lillian Goldman Law Library houses the Avalon Project which contains links to primary documents, including the Constitution, which illustrates the historical relationship between tribal governments and the United States. ([http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/namenu.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/namenu.asp))

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum or need further information, please contact Kelly Martin, Social Studies/International Education Program Supervisor, at (360) 725-6351 or [Kelly.Martin@k12.wa.us](mailto:Kelly.Martin@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is (360) 664-3631.

#### K-12 EDUCATION

Alan Burke, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent

#### TEACHING AND LEARNING

Jessica Vavrus  
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RD:KM:mms