



THE DEFENDER

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Chairman's Chat

Rob Linebarger

A Leader vs The Leader

To distinguish between "being a leader" and "being the leader" is to contrast influence with authority.

While "the leader" holds a formal title and designated power, "a leader" inspires action through character and vision, regardless of position. A person can be "the leader" by appointment but lack the skills to truly motivate their team, leading by command rather than by influence. Conversely, "a leader" may possess no organizational title yet command genuine respect and inspire confidence from their peers, acting as the de facto guide for the group.

A key difference lies in their approach. "The leader" often focuses on managing tasks and maintaining the status quo, using their authority to direct others. Their position grants them control, but it does not guarantee followership. "A leader," on the other hand, embraces change and fosters collaboration by inspiring and empowering others to achieve a shared vision. This form of leadership is a dynamic process demonstrated through action, not just a static role.

Ultimately, "being the leader" is about a formal position, while "being a leader" is about a demonstrated quality. True success is found when the person in the formal role also embodies the influential qualities of a true leader, guiding their team not because they have to, but because they want to.

God Bless,
Chair@SpokaneGOP.com

Focused on the Future



Congressman Baumgartner's Top 3 Priorities for 2026

My number one priority in 2026 is to continue to strongly support President Trump's work reshaping our federal government into a lean, efficient and effective organization that upholds our Constitutional values without infusing

all the departments with a "woke" agenda.

Next, I believe we need to face our fiscal problems honestly. The federal government spends one-third more than we bring in and have done so for decades, under both political parties. I will protect the promises we have made to seniors and veterans, but we cannot keep spending ourselves deeper into debt each year. That will be the challenge of 2026 and the next decade – to bring spending under control.

Finally, we know Eastern Washington is a very special place. Trust me – I meet daily with Members from all across this great country, and I've visited dozens and dozens of countries overseas – we have been blessed by a very beautiful, fertile, productive, area to live, with exceptional, hard-working neighbors. There's nowhere like it – and my top priority is to protect us from laws and regulations dreamed up in DC or Seattle or San Francisco that stomp on our lives here – whether its breaching the dams, outlawing firearms, raising taxes, restricting timber harvests, twisting college curriculum and sports, or strangling businesses with needless red tape – I'm going to fight these outside special interests with everything I've got.

I won't win every battle, and I'm only one of 435 Members of Congress, but I am working for you and for the things we believe in.

Congressman Michael Baumgartner

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Defending Faith, Family & Freedom

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SPECIAL FEATURE



Ericka Kirk's Forgiveness

by Pastor Brian Noble

Why would Erika choose to forgive? With the deep emotional pain and injustice of her husband's assassination, why or how could she forgive? Let's start by exploring what forgiveness truly means.

Forgiveness is not:

- Excusing or denying the wrongdoing.
- Downplaying the seriousness of the offense.
- Ignoring or condoning the sin.
- Driven by emotions or desires.

Forgiveness is:

- Recognizing and naming the injustice.
- Allowing that payment for the injustice has been made through Jesus.
- Entrusting judgment to a just and vengeful God.
- A spiritual act, completed at the cross.

Nobody naturally feels inclined to forgive; it isn't about feelings. As followers of Christ, we are called to forgive as God forgives us. Unforgiveness brings present torment and potentially eternal consequences (Hell) (Matthew 18:21-24): "'Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.'" (Matthew 18:32-35, NASB95)

How must Christ-followers forgive? "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32, NASB95). We receive forgiveness through Jesus by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, we forgive by trusting God and extending grace to others.

Forgiveness is stepping away from judgment—reminding ourselves that we are not God. "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:18-21, NASB95)

Bitterness and unforgiveness are poisoning the conservative movement. Let's learn from scripture and Erika's example about the power of forgiveness.



FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON

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DEFENDERS

ADVANCING BIBLICAL VALUES IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Public Safety

Homelessness Solutions

Effective Transportation

Biblical Marriage

For more in-depth discussion on this important topic, "Forgiveness," go to <https://fpiw.org/forgiveness-it-is-time/>



SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Compass Care, LLC Guiding You to the Right Care at the Right Time



Jessica Yaeger | Founder & Senior Services Advisor, Compasscarepro.com

Why I Do This Work

For more than two decades, I've walked alongside seniors and their families during some of life's most vulnerable moments. From memory care to hospice, I have seen both the heartbreak and the hope that comes with aging.

I founded Compass Care because no family should feel alone, overwhelmed, or lost when trying to make critical decisions about a loved one's care. Every person deserves dignity, safety, and peace in their later years — and every family deserves someone they can trust to guide them.

What Compass Care Provides

- Placement Services (Always Free): I help families find the right assisted living, memory care, adult family home, or independent living — tailored to health needs, lifestyle, and budget.
- Care Management & Advocacy: From coordinating doctor visits to navigating transitions from hospital to home, I ensure families don't fall through the cracks.
- End-of-Life Doula Services: Gentle, compassionate support for families preparing for the sacred journey of life's end.
- Home Safety Assessments: Practical evaluations and modifications to keep seniors safe in their own homes.
- Education & Resources: Helping families understand their options and connect with trustworthy providers.

The Compass Care Promise

- Personal Attention: No two seniors are alike — every care plan is designed around unique needs and values.
- Advocacy: I stand shoulder to shoulder with families, making sure seniors receive the care they deserve.
- Peace of Mind: My role is to simplify the process, reduce stress, and give families time back with their loved one.

Why it Matters to Our Community

Aging is something every family will face. Yet too often, people are forced to make decisions under stress, without clear guidance. Compass Care exists to change that. By combining practical knowledge with heartfelt compassion, I help families move from fear and uncertainty to confidence and relief.

Because at the end of the day, this work isn't just about finding a facility or coordinating services. It's about love, dignity, and ensuring our seniors are honored the way they deserve.

**Book Your Free Consultation Meeting Today at
Compasscarepro.com**



LIBERTY'S SENTINAL



“In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.” [Mark Twain]

Faith, Family, Freedom, and Fortitude

Remembering and Honoring Charlie Kirk

by Caleb Collier, host of the Church and State Podcast

I worked with Charlie Kirk at Turning Point Faith. He was deeply involved with his team, out front shaping events and stepping into difficult places to change hearts and minds. On September 10, when the news broke, I was stunned—on a call with friends who also knew Charlie, we often sat in shocked silence as the world watched and waited. Charlie was an intellectual force who welcomed difficult conversations by frequently placing himself at the front of the room where opposition gathered to challenge his ideas and faith in God.

Charlie's reach was profound, countless people credit him with waking them out of complacency and challenging prevailing campus orthodoxy. He didn't merely argue; he transformed minds with clarity and conviction. He also wore his faith openly; few leaders of his stature made Christianity so central to their public life. In the wake of his death, many have been drawn to church and to God, a testament to the spiritual witness he embodied.

September 10 delivered a national shock. We mourn Charlie Kirk, and mourning must compel clear choices: pursue truth without fueling violence, forge unity without sacrificing liberty, and resist trading freedom for the promise of security. Here's what we must do going forward to honor and preserve Charlie's legacy:

- **Peace over retaliation**

Calls for retribution multiply loss. Charlie preached liberty, not revenge. The right response is disciplined restraint: demand a full, transparent investigation while refusing vigilantism. Peace requires active moral work—reject incendiary rhetoric, refuse escalation, and in difficult times pray for strength, guidance and wisdom.

- **Protect liberty from the false promise of permanent security**

The greatest risk after a crisis is the rush to empower surveillance at the expense of personal privacy. Technologies like Palantir-style systems and AI-driven monitoring promise “predictive” safety but threaten enduring losses of privacy, speech, and due process. Benjamin Franklin's warning, written in a letter in 1755 stands: “Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.” History shows governments rarely relinquish powers once granted; emergency measures too often become permanent.

Each of us must demand truth, uphold peace, cultivate principled unity, and defend the liberties that allow a free republic to endure. This is how we honor Charlie Kirk—by living the convictions he championed.



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CANDIDATE'S CORNER



A Leader that Listens

Mike Kelly is a husband, grandfather, small business owner, and someone who believes deeply in the power of community.

After years of running businesses, raising a family, and serving in his church, Mike and his wife Kristi moved to Spokane Valley to be closer to their grandkids. It didn't take long before Mike started stepping in to help—first with his neighborhood association, then on local boards, and eventually as a Planning Commissioner for the city. Helping others isn't new for Mike. It's who he is.

Mike believes **people deserve leaders who listen first**, work hard, and do what they say they'll do. That's how he's lived his life—and that's the kind of leadership he wants to bring to Spokane Valley.

Mike has seen what happens when people feel like their voice doesn't matter. He's heard the frustration at the doorsteps of local families: rising taxes, runaway mandates, declining safety, and a growing sense of disconnection. Mike is stepping up because he believes local government should reflect the heart of the people who live here. That means protecting parental rights, supporting small businesses, keeping neighborhoods safe, and holding the line on taxes.

But more than anything, **Mike believes in listening well, working hard, and leading with integrity.**

Priorities and Solutions

My priorities are those that I've heard the citizens tell me when I'm knocking on doors in the community:

Public Safety: Follow through on our commitment to hire 10 additional police officers. I'd like to see us reach our goal of 12 patrol officers per shift and an additional school resource officer, as well as any needed support staff for those officers. Expand S.C.O.P.E. to put more eyes in the community for areas that have proven problematic.

Infrastructure Projects: Evaluate our Transportation Improvement Projects (TIPs) list so that the most needed work is prioritized and the ongoing maintenance costs are considered before approving spending our limited resources.

Transparency: Improve communication and access between the city and its citizens by increasing town halls and community nights where citizens can get answers to their questions.

Council Contention: Reduce the time and expense being wasted by the contention between Council members by facilitating more cooperation and rational dialogue.



To support Mike's campaign with a donation or as a volunteer visit MikeforWA.com





TORCHBEARERS

Young Republican Roundup



Enrique Rico, SCYR Chair

2025 has been a pivotal year for the Spokane County Young Republicans (SCYRs). As our membership has been growing, so has our presence at the grassroots level. We have been working vigorously with the SCRCC collecting signatures for initiative IL 26-126 to help secure Washington State elections. As the November election quickly approaches, we will continue our get out the vote efforts.

On September 23, members of the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) met with Governor Ferguson in Olympia. During this meeting we discussed issues that are dramatically impacting young Washingtonians; the high cost of living, the recent tax increase, housing in-affordability and home ownership. We pleaded our case for the need for lowering taxes, rolling back regulations for new home development, and allowing alternate construction techniques such as 3D printed housing for land owners who wish to pursue those options. During the 2026 legislative session, the GAC will continue to advocate for common sense legislation that would bring down the cost of living for all Washingtonians.



The Washington State Young Republicans 2025 Convention will be November 22, 2025 in Ellensburg. This will be the largest political youth gathering in the state and will truly be a legendary event.

This November, the SCYRs will begin hosting an 8 week Biblical Citizenship course with materials from Patriot Academy. We will take a journey together through the Bible and American history to rediscover the recipe that produces a prosperous society when Biblical principals are applied. More details will be available soon!



PLATFORM PERSPECTIVES

Individual Rights

*We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights,
that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness
We recognize the right to life from conception to natural death*

Scientific Foundations to Support Heartbeat Laws

Scientific consensus affirms that human life begins at conception. Fertilization creates a unique genetic code—distinct from both parents—marking the start of a new human life. The baby in the womb displays essential traits of life: metabolism, growth, response to stimuli, and cellular reproduction. Embryology consistently identifies fertilization as the beginning of human development.

By the third week, the baby's heart begins to beat—a measurable, physiological function signaling coordinated cardiovascular activity. This heartbeat, detectable via ultrasound, is not symbolic; it confirms the presence of life. Heartbeat laws, which restrict abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, are rooted in this biological reality.

While some argue personhood is philosophical or legal, science provides a consistent standard. In medical contexts—from trauma care to end-of-life decisions—a **heartbeat signifies life**. Applying this standard to all human life is logically, ethically, and morally sound.



Barry Goldwater - A True Champion of Individual Liberty



In his 1964 Republican National Convention acceptance speech at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Barry Goldwater positioned himself as a staunch conservative and rejected political moderation. The address is most famous for its defiant declaration: "**I would remind you that *extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.***"

The speech was a direct rebuke to liberal policies, which Goldwater argued had led to social decay, international weakness, and excessive government control. He painted a grim picture of America, citing street violence, corruption, and a populace adrift and despairing. To Goldwater, these problems stemmed from a "fundamentally and absolutely wrong view of man" held by those who sought to centralize power.

Goldwater pledged to reverse this course by **restoring freedom and individual responsibility**. He advocated for a limited constitutional government, a free market economy, and a "peace through strength" foreign policy to combat communism. He contrasted his vision with the "failures" of the current Democratic administration, mentioning events like the Bay of Pigs and the growing conflict in Vietnam.

While the speech energized his conservative base, its uncompromising tone alienated moderate Republicans and was seized upon by Democrats to portray Goldwater as a dangerous extremist. Though he lost the election, the address is considered a pivotal moment that helped solidify the modern conservative movement and shift the Republican Party to the right.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



Representative
SUZANNE SCHMIDT
SPOKANE VALLEY

TOWN HALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
TRENT ELEMENTARY AUDITORIUM
3303 N PINES RD SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206

SPECIAL GUEST
REP. TRAVIS COUTURE
Lead Republican on budget and tax issues.

Win-Win For Washington Act
★ Town Hall Meeting ★

Who: Rep. Rob Chase, Rep. Hunter Abell

What: Is your voice not being heard in Olympia? Creating a new state has stalled, but check out another option. Learn about the "Win-Win for Washington Act." (House Bill 2085)

Where: Shadle Park Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave., Spokane, WA 99205

When: Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 5:30 p.m.




Rep. Rob Chase Rep. Hunter Abell

YOU'RE INVITED



IDEAS TO IMPACT:
BUILDING FOR WASHINGTON'S FUTURE
WPC'S ANNUAL POLICY DINNER
FOR EASTERN WASHINGTON


Friday, October 10, 2025
Spokane Convention Center

How can Eastern Washington lead the way for our state?

By amplifying free-market principles to drive success:
accountability, innovation and measurable results.

Join Washington Policy Center for ideas, inspiration and policy solutions to some of the most pressing issues our state faces: taxes and the small business climate, homelessness and more. You'll hear from a trio of problem-solving experts, including respected global business executive Annie Young-Scrivner, renowned economist and commentator Stephen Moore, and nationwide homelessness expert Dr. Robert Marbut.





Stephen Moore Annie Young-Scrivner Dr. Robert Marbut

As Washington falls behind, other states are proving that freedom and reform still work. Join us for Ideas to Impact - WPC's roadmap to a brighter, freer future.

Scan to Register




Washington Policy Center is a nonpartisan policy research organization advocating for a thriving Washington state, where free-market principles create growth, innovation and opportunity for everyone.

VIP tickets and table sponsorships available online at wpcdinner.com


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DEBATES AND FORUMS

CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM	1 OCT 6-8PM	CATALDO HALL 502 E BOONE
HOMELESS COALITION	2 OCT 9:30-10:30AM	4620 N POST ST
ROTARY 21 DEBATE	2 OCT 12-1PM	1002 W RIVERSIDE AVE
New! FREE MEDIA OUTLETS	2 OCT 6-8PM	906 W MAIN AVE
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	7 OCT 5:30-7PM	500 S STONE ST
New! NORTH CENTRAL DEBATE	8 OCT 7-8PM	1600 N HOWARD ST



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