



# THE DEFENDER NEWSLETTER

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## Chairman's Chat Rob Linebarger

### Sun Tzu's Blueprint for Winning Political Strategies

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, particularly the chapter on "Weak Points and Strong," offers timeless principles for political strategy by emphasizing the exploitation of opponents' vulnerabilities while safeguarding one's strengths.

Politically, this translates to identifying and targeting an opponent's weaknesses—such as unpopular policies, internal party divisions, or public missteps—while reinforcing one's own strengths, like a **unified message** or strong voter base.

Sun Tzu advises attacking where the enemy is unprepared, suggesting campaigns focus on issues where opponents lack credibility or public support.

Conversely, maintaining a strong, defensible position involves clear communication of core values and policy successes to solidify supporter loyalty.

Adaptability is key: parties must assess shifting public sentiments or rival strategies, striking at opportune moments, such as during scandals or economic downturns.

Sun Tzu's emphasis on deception can manifest as strategic messaging or framing to expose rival weaknesses while concealing one's own vulnerabilities.

By avoiding direct confrontation in areas of opponent strength and focusing on their weak points, political actors can maximize influence and electoral success while **maintaining unity and resilience within their own ranks**.



## LET'S FOCUS ON TEAMWORK

Representative Suzanne Schmidt

For a long time, Washington State Republicans have struggled with more than just tough elections and a larger number of Democrat voters—they've also been dealing with internal divisions. But heading into 2026, there's a noticeable shift happening: Republican Leaders across the state are asking fellow Republicans to focus less on fighting each other and more on working together to win seats.

As a Washington State Representative, I have been asked to join the House Republicans Organizational Committee otherwise known as HROC. As a newly appointed member of HROC's Executive Committee, I have pledged to HROC and WAGOP to dedicate my time and talents to get more Republicans elected so we have a louder voice in Olympia.

Republicans on the westside of the state are going to look different than those of the eastside. Candidates must be electable in their district. With that said, as a member of the Republican Caucus in Olympia, I can tell you we work as a team to uphold the Republican platform. Some might come into our caucus looking more purple than red but, once we are there we work together. We are asking folks throughout the state to do the same. Do not get caught up in battles between moderates and conservatives and focus on what unites the party.

Local GOP groups are teaming up on voter outreach, sharing resources, and rallying around common priorities like public safety, education, and the economy.

Sure, disagreements will still pop up—this is politics, after all. But more Republicans are realizing that constant infighting only helps Democrats stay in power. If we continue tearing each other down, we're not going to win anything.

We need to commit to backing whoever comes out of the primary based on the vote of the voters. Even if the winner isn't everyone's first choice. The idea is simple: unity after the primary election means better chances in November 2026.

With a more coordinated effort and a renewed focus on the issues voters care about, Republicans believe they can flip key seats and compete statewide. It's not about watering down beliefs—it's about being smart, strategic, and acting like a team.

And for a party looking to grow in a blue state, that mindset might just make all the difference.

*Editor's Note: Representative Suzanne Schmidt serves the citizens of Washington's 4th Legislative District and we appreciate her great leadership and for sharing this important message with us.*



## Defending Faith, Family & Freedom

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# COURSE CORRECTION

## SAVAGE FOR SPOKANE – CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

CHRISTOPHER  
**SAVAGE**  
FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL



### A Thriving Spokane Starts with Savage Leadership

Christopher Savage is a dedicated community advocate fighting to restore public safety, make housing affordable, and bring real accountability back to Spokane City Hall.

*“This city is my home, I’ve done every job from serving food to driving for Lyft. I’ve served on the board of Meals on Wheels, talked directly to those on fixed incomes, and listened to the lived experiences of the homeless.*

*I’ve seen crime explode in our streets - overdoses, break-ins, and violence. I will listen to you and be your voice because, just like you, I care about this city - **our home.***

*I will make public safety my top priority and eliminate policies that tie the hands of law enforcement officers.”*

### Christopher Savage - Courageous and Committed

#### Community First

Chris has served Spokane’s seniors, families, and small businesses for years because fighting for our city starts with the people.

#### Solutions over Politics

Chris will fight for real solutions that lower crime, increase housing affordability, and restore public trust in local government.

#### Accountability Matters

Chris has always stood up for Spokane and will fight for transparency, fiscal responsibility, and leadership that delivers results.

## Join Savage for Spokane!

Help Bring Common Sense Back to Our Community



VOLUNTEER



DONATE



ABOUT CHRIS



# LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

## ALL THINGS SOURDOUGH

### WHERE FAITH, FAMILY, AND FRESH BREAD COME TOGETHER



From classic loaves to sweet creations, each bake is crafted with love and care, using time-honored sourdough methods.

Weekly menus feature artisan flavors, sweet breads, and cookies; perfect for sharing around the table or gifting with joy.

Pick-up is easy on Fridays and Saturdays, and special orders are always welcome. More than bread, it's about community, light, and connection...one loaf at a time.

**Natalie Poulson-Simbe**

### Natalie's Inspiring Journey

All Things Sourdough began in a season when life felt heavy. In the quiet rhythm of baking, I found peace, prayer, and a way to bring healthy, homemade bread to my family. As I kneaded dough, I listened to scripture and worship, letting God remind me of what mattered most.

When challenges came, I turned to prayer and asked how I could glorify Him. The scripture impressed upon my heart was Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world..." I knew I was called to be that light first in my home, for my children, and then to let that light shine outward through the simple gift of fresh baked bread.

The greatest blessing has been sharing this love of sourdough with my daughter. Teaching her to create has given us the most precious mother-daughter time, turning flour and dough into moments of connection we'll carry forever.

"Baking is more than bread. It's a way to nurture my family, live out my faith, and create a legacy of love that I now feel blessed to share with others."



**Owner & Entrepreneur**

### Order Your Sourdough Today

Weekly menu includes 3 Artisan Sourdough flavors, a sweet bread and cookies; posted to Instagram or sent by text message.

Order by text or email or Instagram DM by Tuesday night for Friday pick up between 4:30-6pm or Saturday pick up between 8:30-10am. North side of Spokane near Francis and Maple. Location details given upon order.



**Scan to Order**



# PLATFORM PERSPECTIVES

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

*A well regulated militia being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms **Shall not be infringed***

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that guaranteed under the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1 Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution is **the right** of all lawful citizens - **free from government intervention** - **to bear arms** in defense of their lives, their property, and the nation, from enemies both foreign and domestic.

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### LIBERTY'S LASTING LEGACY

The Founding Fathers' strongest arguments for the Second Amendment focus on individual liberty, protection against tyranny, and collective security.

**First**, they saw the right to bear arms as a natural extension of personal freedom. The 1787 Pennsylvania Constitution linked arms ownership to self-defense and state security, affirming an inherent right to protect life and property.

**Second**, an armed populace was a safeguard against government overreach. In The Federalist No. 46, James Madison argued that a citizen militia could resist a tyrannical government, reflecting their experience rebelling against British rule.

**Third**, the Founders emphasized the militia's role in communal defense. The 1792 Militia Acts required citizens to own firearms, ensuring communities could protect themselves without relying on a standing army, which they distrusted.

These principles—liberty, resistance to tyranny, and collective defense—balanced individual rights with civic duty, later affirmed in the 2008 Heller decision.



### GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE - PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE by Sue Lani Madsen

Calls for gun control explode after any mass casualty incident involving firearms, as they have this week. The tragedy at *Annunciation Church in Minneapolis* will make rational conversation about appropriate regulation difficult for the next few months until the sharpest pain and anger fades.

"Appropriate" starts with being constitutional. The Supreme Court's 2008 Heller decision affirmed the meaning of the second amendment as establishing the individual right to keep and bear commonly used arms for self-defense. The Court also acknowledged there can be reasonable restrictions. And so the debate goes on.

Reasonable requires regulations written by people with firearms knowledge, practical to enforce with the least impact on the good guys, and most likely to have real effectiveness at intercepting and blocking the bad guys. There's room for a rational conversation, in due time.

High profile shootings, especially when directed at children, drive high emotion and leave rationality sounding uncaring and cold. But if all the guns in the US evaporated overnight, we would still be faced with violence. This century's high profile mass casualty incidents are coming increasingly not from ideologically driven left or right fanatics, but from nihilistic violent extremists with no ideology. Nihilism rejects "all religious, moral and social values, often accompanied by a belief that life is meaningless" according to Institute for Strategic Dialog, a non-political think tank.

If life is meaningless, killing is meaningless - unless it provides a path to meaning via notoriety. The Department of Justice and the FBI now call these perpetrators Nihilistic Violent Extremists, or NVE. And mass murder without ideology isn't a political problem or a gun problem. It's a religious, moral and social problem particularly affecting young people with disabling mental health conditions. Evil fills the vacuum in their lives.

Making all guns vanish overnight would not remove the threat. Evil will always find a way.

